



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

October 2016

That which does not kill us makes us stronger
Friedrich Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols, 1889

As far as I know, every member of the small but mighty team who produced the 2016 Abell Community Street Fair is still standing. There is evidence that at least some may feel stronger for being part of “all the passion and prep” as one organizer aptly put it. She reported being “left with that ebullient feeling of being a part of something special and bigger than our small neighborhood.” All who worked on the Fair are unanimous in their admiration and gratitude for the sterling leadership of the men who co-chaired the team – **Jackson Gilman Forlini** and **Drew Northrup**. Everyone is also buoyed by the financial outcome. While we don’t have a complete and final tally of income minus expenses, we know, as Jackson notes on p. 2, that we achieved our fiscal goals.

However, Jackson has also stressed that “more important than the money is the good will and community strength that we built together.” In the weeks and months ahead we will find out the extent of that good will and whether all the dedication, labor and love that went into the 2016 Fair really has made the Abell community stronger. Realistically, the flip side of energetic commitment is burn-out. Right behind the impulse to engage more in community projects swarm all the demands of day to day life. However generous spirited and well meaning we are as a community, the only guarantee that AIA and its various projects will endure is that enough of us will continue to eke out the time and energy to keep them going. As we go forward, then, here are the questions facing us in the immediate future:

- Will more neighbors volunteer to help with the **Chili Cook-Off On October 16?** (see p. 6)
- What kind of showing will this neighborhood make in the **Mayor’s Clean-up on October 22?** Will we get more of our environment tidied up and in **compliance with the City Code?** (see p. 5)
- Will our **Neighborhood Walkers** continue to grow in number and unity? (see p. 4)
- Will Abell residents be well represented when the **Abell and Harwood communities break bread** together on **November 7?** (see p. 6)
- When nominations are open for **AIA officers and committee chairs for 2017** will new faces and voices appear to energize the organization and help set the direction for the new year?
- When the time for planning comes next spring how much collective steam will we have for a 2017 Abell Community Street Fair?

With the deepest appreciation for the 17 team members who created a magical day on September 18, and with warmest thanks to all the volunteers without whose help that day could not have succeeded, I look forward to your company and that of all our neighbors as we continue the work of insuring that Abell will always be a wonderful place to live.

Jo Ann O. Robinson, President
Abell Improvement Association

www.abellimprovement.org

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Dear Residents of Abell,

If you made it to the 2016 Abell Community Street Fair, I think you'll agree that the day was a rousing success and a good time was had by all! In addition to giving the neighborhood a chance to relax and have fun, everyone came together for a day of place making, community building, and the preservation of a temporal landmark. On behalf of the Street Fair Committee, thank you for sharing in this wonderful grassroots experience.

The committee is pleased to report that the fair met its annual fundraising goal during the fair. Therefore, AIA will be able to continue to operate for another year and provide programming such as the newsletter, the summer film series, maintenance of the Open Space, and award grants to community based programs such as Barclay Elementary Middle School and summer camps at the 29th Street Community Center. If you wish to get more involved in planning the street fair and other events like it, make sure to attend our upcoming membership meetings and please reach out to any of the AIA officers at any time.

Many, many, dedicated people made the fair possible. Thank you for being such kind and generous friends and neighbors. Despite the committee's best efforts to record everyone's name, the following list of volunteers and contributors is partial. To anyone excluded from this list by oversight, the committee wishes to extend a sincere apology.

Sincerely,

Jackson Gilman-Forlini
Andrew Northrup
Street Fair Committee Co-Chairs

Committee Members

Bonnie Bessor - Membership
Carol Serksnis – Children's Activities
Courtney McManus - Treasurer
Eddie O'Keefe – Libations
Jenny Harbold – Silent Auction
Jo Ann Robinson – President of AIA
Joel Urbanowicz – Online Media
Jonathan Birkholz - Music
Katie Flickinger - Membership
Michael Klima – Logistics
Patrick McMahon – Food Vendors
Sahar Damghani – Crab Feast
Sindbad Fennimore – Stoop Sales
Summer Claypoole – Volunteer
Coordination
Susanne Riveles - Bake Sale
Suzanna Roettger – Vendor Coordination

Event Sponsors

Peabody Heights Brewery
Johns Hopkins University
MedStar Union Memorial Hospital

Volunteers

Adam Campbell
Alexa Del Piano
Allyson
Ana-Maria Economou
Andrew Delclos
Andy Scott
Anita Rubarth-Lay
Annette Fallon
Arlene Ogurick
Barry Newman
Caroline Jelavich
Cassie Wicken

Chris Klinger
Christianne Marguerite
Danielle Corcoran
Doug Kingston
Elissa Gould
Emil Volcheck
Eric Cox
Gil French
Gretchen Gettes
Hannah Walsh
Jan French
Jason Mathias
Jeff Finch
Jennifer D'Urso
Jerry Druch
Jim Anthony
Jim Rubarth-Lay
Joey Li
Joules Fallier
Kathleen Hruska
Keo Houmhuane
La Tonia Rush
Laura Scott
Linda Forlifer
Lisa Scotti
Liz Prince
Matthias Ringkamp
Maureen Daly
Meg Stolfuss
Melissa Robinson
Michele Golden
Miruna Petrascanu
Nick Colten
Pat McClory
Raegan Hensley
Renee Zeppetello

Rob Ticzon
Russell Wattenberg
Ryan Oliver
Shelley Treadway
Shervon White
Sophie B
Teresa Pfaff
Tony Pan
Zora Salisbury

Business Donors

Peabody Heights Brewery
Wine Source
Stone Mill Bakery
One Straw Farm

Children's Activities

Baltimore City Fire Department
Baltimore Museum of Art
Evergreen House/Homewood
Johns Hopkins Cares Public Health
National Museum of Dentistry
Pets-On-Wheels
Star Spangled Banner Museum
Tattered Hatters
The Contemporary
Walters Art Museum
Waverly Library
YMCA

Honorable Mentions

The Book Thing for providing free books to all
The students of Johns Hopkins University who graciously volunteered
Phil Davis for providing his original art

Thanks to our Silent Auction Donors

John Pallo, III
 Jackson Gilman-Forlini
 Jim Anthony
 JoAnn Robinson
 Linda Forlifer
 Robert McClintock
 Margaret Martin
 Les Maynard
 Patrick McMahon
 Heidi Good
 Pat Alexiou
 Jenny Harbold

Businesses

The Charles Theatre
 Normal's
 Fluid Movement
 Gertrude's
 Eddie's Market
 The Charmery
 Bazaar Gifts & Oddities
 Eddie's Liquors
 Thai Restaurant
 Pete's Grill
 Rocket to Venus
 Linder Automotive
 Hopkins Symphony Orchestra
 Baltimore Whiskey Company
 Baltimore Paper Cuts
 Greenmount Loan & Jewelry
 Michele's Granola
 Mend Community Acupuncture
 Falkenhan's Hardware
 Lynn Bricks/Brick Bodies
 Center Stage
 The Dizz
 Joe Squared
 Greenfield Nursery
 Waverly Ace Hardware
 Carma's Cafe
 Walk the Dog
 Local Color Flowers

Govanstowne Farmer's Market
 • \$20 in tokens • Market t-shirt •
 Market magnet • Market bag
32nd Street Farmer's Market
 • Little Paris • Neopol
 • Free Falafel Gift Certificate
 • Zeke's Coffee • Michele's
 Granola • Aimitri Olive Oil
 Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke
 Delegate Mary Washington

Thank you Abell Kids!

Thank you to the kids' committee who selected a great theme for the street fair and built a spectacular parade around it:

Mikayla	Naftali	Rebekah
Ben	Elazar	Katie
Avery	Akiva	Noah
Claire	Benjamin	Amayo,
Ana	Charlotte	Kwame
Safi	ZaZa	Sadie
Idris	Ellia	Gabriel
Emily	Eve	
Lucy	Vivian	

Special thanks to our Hopkins Volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega and artist Paul, Carlene, Jules, and Arlene

Scenes from the 2016 Abell Community Street Fair



Photos: Bob Glock, Joe Liberto

Strong City Baltimore and the
29th Street Community Center
present
the 3rd Annual

OKTOBERFEST

@ Peabody Heights Brewery

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016 / 6PM-9PM

featuring craft beer, German
cuisine, brewery tours and a
silent auction.

Saturday, October 15, 2016
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Peabody Heights Brewery
401 East 30th Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Tickets available at
<https://www.strongcitybaltimore.org/oktoberfest/>

Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door and include 4 Peabody Heights beer tastings and a buffet of authentic German-style sausages, salads, and desserts, including vegetarian choices from the Old World Delicatessen & Bakery.

All proceeds benefit youth, adults and families by increasing access to high-quality, low-cost, daily programming offered by the 29th Street Community Center.

Any questions, please contact Caitlin Nisos at cnisos@strongcitybaltimore.org or 410-261-3507.

We look forward to seeing you!

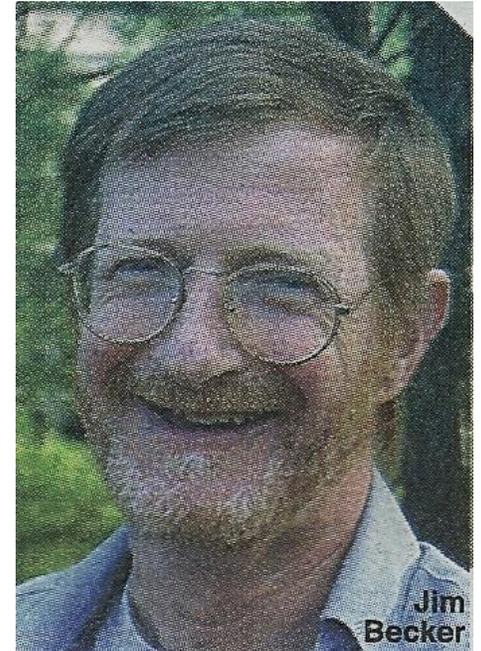


Jim Becker and the Roots of LGBTQ Activism in the Abell Community

When Jim Becker was named a Grand Marshal of this year's Pride celebrations in Baltimore, long overdue recognition was paid for the enormous contributions he has made to the LGBTQ community, many of which he helped launch from his Abell Avenue home. A resident of the 3000 block since the 1970's, Jim lives with his spouse of 25 years, Jeffrey Clagett, and their Jack Russell Terrier, Sara Lee. A lawyer for 38 years for Baltimore City Social Services, Jim was a founding member of the Baltimore Gay Alliance in 1975. When a Center switchboard was set up to give members of the community a way to know that they were not alone, it operated from Jim's house in the early years. He was also present at the creation of *The Gay Paper* (which evolved into *Gay Life* and has recently merged with *Outloud Baltimore*). Harboring a flair for journalism, he has regularly contributed pieces to these publications. In the history of The Gay Clinic (now called Chase Brexton) Jim is also a significant figure. Ever self-effacing, Jim told Outloud, "In 1975...I was just one

of an amazing group of people that happened to come together and create a synergy of activism that has endured to the present..." We congratulate and salute Jim and wish him many more years of history-making advocacy.

[Source: "Jim Becker: A Lifetime of Gay Activism" by Mary Taylor, Outloud Baltimore, July 22, 2016.]



Abell Neighborhood Walks

When: Last Tuesday of every month

Where: Leave from the Abell Open Space, 32nd Street between Abell and Guilford

Who: Neighbors, Benefits District Security and Baltimore Northern District Police

Why: For a pro-active, safe, informed community

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Porch party follows the walks - location announced at the walk

Thursday Trivia Nights

Don't forget to see how you stack up against your neighbors in *Thursday Night Trivia*, hosted by Abell residents Andrew Northrup and Courtney McManus:

October 13 - 7:00 p.m.

November 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Peabody Heights Brewing

★ It's still fun! ★

Like [Thursday Night Trivia](#) on facebook to get reminders

Peace & Quiet Guidelines

Residents of the Abell Community are proud of their sense of neighborliness. The Abell Improvement Association (AIA) urges residents to abide by general community standards of peace and quiet. Certain actions are considered, by much discussion as well as by general consensus, to be “unacceptable behavior” in our neighborhood.

What constitutes unacceptable behavior? Here are some examples:

- Loud, boisterous voices or music that disturbs neighbors. This may be associated with a large gathering of people, a “keg party,” or a parked car.
- Drivers using car horns to get someone’s attention.
- Dogs that bark loudly and excessively.
- Any behavior that negatively affects the safety of residents, children, pets, or visitors.

What should we expect from our neighbors?

- If you are expecting someone to pick you up, wait outside or ask them to call or to come to your door when they arrive. Explain in advance that they should not use their car horn to announce themselves.
- Street or porch conversations should be held at a low, private level, especially in good weather when windows are open. At one in the morning, a conversation on a back balcony can sound like it's inside the next-door bedroom.
- General quiet should prevail during the nighttime hours. Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. weeknights and midnight to 7 a.m. on weekends.

Baltimore's Neighborhood Nuisance Law

The Neighborhood Nuisance Law (Baltimore City Code, Article 19, Subtitle 43B) provides that, if police are called to a site in violation of the law, they can immediately write a civil citation similar to a speeding ticket. They can cite property owners, property managers, occupants, and/or tenants, and - if the responsible person is under 18 - that person and his/her parents - for a “loud and unruly party,” which is defined as two or more people on private property disturbing the peace through excessive noise, obstruction of public rights-of-way, physical violence, vandalism, littering, or public drunkenness. The law also covers under-age drinking and providing alcohol to individuals under 21.

The penalty for a first offense is \$500; for each subsequent offense within 12 months, the penalty is \$1000. Property owners or operators can defend against the fine if they can prove that they did not authorize, know about, or participate in the event and that they regained possession of the property or have filed court proceedings to regain possession. When tenants have been cited for violating the law, landlords can give 14 days written notice for tenants to vacate the premises.

The Law on Weeds

Record breaking rainfall in June and a pattern of rainfall above the long term average in July and August may explain the especially tall and abundant weeds that sprung up along curbs, in tree wells and in a number of front yards this summer. An impromptu weeding effort before the Street Fair cleared away some of this unwanted foliage, but much still remains. Hence this friendly reminder from the City Code: “Owners are responsible for ensuring that all lots and exterior premises including abutting sidewalks, gutters and alleys are maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition – unless the areas are exclusively controlled by a tenant, such as in a single-family dwelling. Occupants [of such a dwelling] are responsible for keeping the premises that they occupy in clean and sanitary condition...Keep grass, weeds or plant growth below eight inches and remove all noxious weeds....”

For more information on Baltimore City property regulations, see the [Housing Code Enforcement Handbook](#).

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

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**Trash & Recycling
Schedule**

**TRASH
EVERY TUESDAY**



**RECYCLING
EVERY THURSDAY**

Trash may be put out after
6 p.m. the night before, by
6 a.m. the day of pick-up.

DUMPSTER DATES:

**October 8
October 22**

E. 31st Street and Abell Avenue
Arrives approx. 8 a.m.

**AIA Quarterly
Membership
Meeting**

**Monday, November 7
6:30 p.m.**

**29th Street Community
Center
300 East 29th Street**

**Pot Luck Dinner with the
Harwood Community
Association**

Look for details on the
sandwich boards, kiosk and
website.

*If you have a discussion topic to
add, please contact Jo Ann
Robinson at
jooiman64@gmail.com.*

**New Member
Social and Chili
Cook-off**



**Sunday, October 16
5:00 p.m.**

**Abell Open Space at
32nd St. between Abell &
Guilford**

**All residents of Abell are
welcome**

*Come meet your new
neighbors and enjoy a bowl of
hearty chili with all the fixin's*



**Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's
Fall Cleanup**

Saturday, October 22

Contact Sindbad Fennimore for info - ssf8@georgetown.edu

**Volunteers are needed in the Open Space on 32nd Street between 10 a.m. and
noon to help transplant a butterfly bush, remulch the play area, put up a bird
house and spruce up our Open Space.**

**Contact Ben Howard if you can volunteer -
benjaminsingerhoward@gmail.com**

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Shelley Treadway,
3026 Abell Avenue, or email to sbtreadway@aol.com.

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| ◆ November 17 | Holiday Issue |
| ◆ January 17 | Winter Issue |
| ◆ March 17 | Spring Issue |

*Volunteer newsletter delivery persons are needed for several blocks
in Abell. If you can spare 30 minutes of your time, six times each
years, and would like a little stair-stepping exercise, please contact
sbtreadway@aol.com.*