



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

June 2016

Strong people don't need strong leaders.

Ella Baker (1903- 1986)

Labor and civil rights organizer, Ella Baker, rejected “great man” and “great woman” approaches to leadership. A democrat to the core, she believed in the capacity of ordinary people to participate in the decisions that shape our lives. For her, *community* was the vehicle of such participation. At a time of local turmoil and national tumult, Miss Baker’s insistence on tending to the community roots of our democracy seems particularly relevant. While she labored with the most brutalized and disenfranchised residents in the U.S., her agenda of *organization, education* and broad based *participation* applies to everyone, including us, the residents of Abell.

It’s certainly possible to live here without attending neighborhood meetings, joining in larger public activities or otherwise engaging with issues and institutions. But to do so is to miss opportunities and challenges for growing stronger as individuals and as a community. When together we connect with elected officials, communicate with city agencies, monitor government services, support school and community center programs, share activities with neighboring communities and keep each other informed about the problems and possibilities we see around us, we forge valuable relationships, grow in understanding and strengthen the viability of our community.

Every issue of the AIA Newsletter recaps projects and events undertaken by neighborhood residents and invites readers to join in upcoming endeavors. The current issue is no exception. On page 2 you will find a brief history of the **Traffic Circle** at 32nd and Guilford – a project imposed without sufficient community in-put and now scheduled to be “deposed” thanks to persistent community efforts. Among the events noted in this newsletter is the traditional AIA **Memorial Weekend Picnic** on May 29 at the Abell Open Space at 5 p.m., which perhaps has already happened, depending on when you receive this. It is/was a perfect opportunity to enjoy the company of neighbors, as well as thank and get to know guests from two critically important institutions: The Northern District Police and the Charles Village Community Benefits District.

Northern District and CVCBD also support and have a regular presence at the **Neighborhood Walk**, the last Tuesday of each month. They will also be part of the June 8th **Unity March** that will bring together residents of five neighborhoods to walk Greenmount Avenue, from 35th Street to 25th Street in a spirit of unity and peace. I hope many of us will take part, demonstrating that our desire for harmony, health and safety does not stop at the borders of Abell. See page 2 and for details on the march and page 4 for the walks.

Also highlighted here on page 3 is the Peace Camp, described by its co-director and Abell resident Ralph Moore. Since last April a lot of lip-service has been paid to the importance of guidance, mentoring and services for city youth. Peace Camp provides all of this at no cost to the youngsters who attend. For three of its seven weeks the camp will operate at the 29th Street Community Center, serving the youth of our immediate area. The Executive Committee of AIA has donated \$675 of association funds, raised through dues and the Street Fair and earmarked for contributions. This will pay for one child. In a community of some 600 households, should we not be able to match that amount with individual contributions? I urge you to answer yes and to send your personal donation to the camp, as indicated at the end of Ralph’s article.

Jo Ann O. Robinson
President, Abell Improvement Association

www.abellimprovement.org

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Going Full Circle With the Traffic Circle At 32nd and Guilford

Installed in 2011, the traffic circle at 32nd and Guilford Avenue was part of the plan to create a Bike Boulevard on Guilford Avenue. Residents were informed of, but given scant opportunity for input into its development in the summer of 2010. Between then and January 2016, the intersection at Guilford Avenue and 32nd Street was a topic of discussion at seven AIA membership meetings and the occasion for two AIA-sponsored on-site gatherings of residents, in the company of Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke. In the same period the Executive Committee of AIA met several times about the traffic circle with representatives of the city Department of Transportation and the Bikemore organization. In the larger community, leaders of the Charles Village Civic Association were also expressing concerns to DOT.

Every meeting covered the same concerns: the small intersection does not accommodate a traffic circle; the circle encourages speeding; children playing in the Abell Open Space are at risk; bike-friendly speed humps are needed; drivers do not heed signage; the circle does not work for cyclists or pedestrians; it is unsightly. Beginning with a toilet in March 2012, and including several iterations of a much admired statue, a series of guerilla



Photo by Katie Flickinger

installations appeared in the circle expressing neighbors' disaffection.

On December 9, 2015, residents, including cyclists, gathered at the circle with Councilwoman Clarke to present letters, oral testimony and photos of the installations to DOT Director William Johnson and his staff. The majority called for stop signs and bike-friendly speed humps. Two months later the DOT responded that the intersection would "revert" to the previous "All Way Stop." AIA and Councilwoman Clarke continued to lobby for bike-friendly speed humps. On April 13, 2016, Robert E. Ferguson, DOT Superintendent, announced that the traffic circle would "be removed and replaced with All Way Stop control and speed humps....to be completed by June 1, 2016." As this newsletter goes to press, we welcome newly installed (but, alas, not bike-friendly) speed humps on the 32nd Street approaches and are awaiting removal of the circle.

If there is a moral to this story it may be to "resist the beginnings" when there are as many questions about a project as there always were about this one. Even so, our voices were heeded, thanks in no small part to the guidance and unwavering support of Councilwoman Clarke.

Street Fair Plans are Moving Forward

Dear Neighbors,

Don't forget to put the Abell Community Street Fair on your calendars. This year, the Fair is on Sunday, September 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Annual traditions of the fair will continue, including the Children's Parade, bake sale, silent auction, t-shirts, music, and crab feast. As always, plentiful food and drink will be available.

If you want to volunteer, we could use a few organized people to assist with planning. The major work is underway, but some of the jobs are big enough that a helper would be great. And of course, on the day of the Fair, we'll need volunteers. If you would like to help in any capacity, please contact Jackson Gilman-Forlini (jgilmanforlini@gmail.com).

The next AIA newsletter will feature a lot more information about the Fair, including the entertainment line-up, details for pre-ordering crabs, pressing volunteer needs, etc. We are really looking forward to a great day in Abell.

AIA Street Fair Committee

Unity March on Greenmount Avenue

5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday June 8, 2016 ♦ Rain or Shine
Outside Peabody Heights Brewery at the corner of Barclay and E. 30th St.

Join 14th District City Councilperson Mary Pat Clarke, Northern District Commander Major Richard Gibson, Strong City Baltimore, JHU, Charles Village Community Benefits District, Waverly Main Street, Northern District Community Council, Northern Police District, local business owners, churches and faith based groups, institutions, residents and stakeholders in a march along Greenmount Avenue promoting positive efforts to improve quality of life for all, peace, safety and strength through partnership and unity.

We will march along Greenmount Avenue blocks connecting Harwood, Abell, Charles Village, Better Waverly, Oakenshawe and Waverly with brief ceremonies at the beginning and end.

For more information please contact Joe Stewart at JoeStewart31947@comcast.net

Farewells

Two long-time Abell residents have said their goodbyes recently. As the following notes of farewell show, they will both be greatly missed – **Denise Carolan**, not only by many two-legged Abell dwellers but also by the many on four legs for whom she cared; and **Patricia Owens** (Treasurer of AIA in the early 21st century!) by all who enjoyed the pleasures of her company. We wish them both well in their new homes.

Denise lived at 3122 Abell for 22 years. She lovingly shared her dogs Humphrey and Hayley and three cats, Wally, Cally and Casper with the neighborhood. Wally, especially, was one of the “mayors of Abell Avenue.” Denise was also active in animal rescue and she fostered pets in need of temporary TLC. Her support meant a great deal to neighbor Vonnie Gowe and her “Nest for the Night” endeavors.

Elizabeth DuVerlie and Vonnie Gowe

Ten Happy Years of Peace Camp

Since 2007, Nawal Rajeh and I have conducted a Peace Camp for inner city children of Baltimore. It has been hard work but it has been a delightful ten years of turning out peacemakers. Over the years, we’ve been joined by Julia Rodricks, Oluwa Rotimi Lademo and Jessica Hutchinson among others. The creative, dedicated staff has evolved over the years.

Nawal is our camp director. She develops the curriculum, hires staff and plans and supervises the staff for the seven weeks of activities with the children ages 5-12. There is morning classroom work including writing, reading and learning about each week’s peace heroes. Over the years, Harriet Tubman, Mother Theresa, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Ang San Suu Kyi and many others have been studied. When possible, we have provided companion field trips for the campers to see Harriet Tubman’s home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, to visit a convent in East Baltimore where the religious women of Mother Theresa’s order live, and we’ve taken the campers to the spot at the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King delivered his famous “I have a dream” speech.

Peace Camp is learning and is summer fun: swimming, snacks, art and dancing, field trips and T-shirts. We provide a nutritious breakfast and lunch for each child. We offer all of the campers a quality summer camp experience and we are proud that children are not charged anything to participate in Peace Camp.

There are two sites: one campsite is at the 29th Street Community Center in Harwood-Barclay and the other is in Johnston Square at the St. Frances Academy Community Center. Peace Camp begins the week of June 23rd and continues for up to seven weeks: three at 29th Street and four weeks at SFA. We hire Summer Youth Workers from the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development as Junior Counselors.

We very much appreciate last year’s support of the Abell Improvement Association and we look forward to your continued support.

Peace, of course,

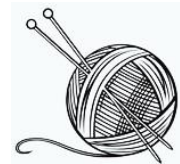
Ralph E. Moore, Jr.
Co-Founder and Chief Fundraiser
By Peaceful Means

Checks should be written to “By Peaceful Means”, with “Peace Camp 2016” on the memo line, and mailed to Strong City Baltimore, 3503 N. Charles St., Baltimore MD 21218.

A "Yarn" of Patricia Owens at Knit Night

Just sitting around at Jan French's Knit Night has begun
Click Clack Patricia Owens is moving
Click Clack We are all so sad
Memories rushing in
36 years at 3011 Guilford Avenue
All the neighbors she's met
Click...with gardening
Clack...with entertaining
Click...with openness and always with a smile click clack
For Patricia life is an adventure
Red Emma's for tea, Locust Point for the 4th of July
Everyman Theater, BMA, The Walters, Christmas in Mexico
Click Clack Click Clack
The Village Learning Place - a major beneficiary of Patricia's time
Click Second Wednesday Program Committee
Clack The Garden Committee....
85 years old and helping to move a ton of earth for a patio at the VLP
87 years old and heading off to work
Click Clack Click Clack
Helpful is Patricia's middle name
Click...dropping folks off at the hospital
Clack...welcoming neighbor's visitors to her home
Click...sheltering neighbors after a fire
Clack...maintaining tree wells
Most of all Patricia is all of ours friend!
Click Clack
We'll miss you!

By Beverly Fink with input from Jan French



THEME:

Positive Community
Engagement
Through the Arts

MONDAY

June 20 2016

7:00 PM

GERTRUDE S. WILLIAMS LECTURE SERIES

with

ADAM JACKSON

CEO, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle



29th St.
Community
Center

300 E. 29th Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

RSVP REQUIRED BY JUNE 17
[STRONGCITYBALTIMORE.ORG/EVENT/
ADAMJACKSON/](http://STRONGCITYBALTIMORE.ORG/EVENT/ADAMJACKSON/)
443-213-0394



29TH STREET COMMUNITY CENTER'S



3rd Birthday Celebration



SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH
2-5PM

ICE CREAM

BAKED GOODS

GAMES

ART ACTIVITY





*Waverly
Main Street*

Baseball and Brews

Peabody Heights Brewery

401 E. 30th Street, Baltimore, MD

\$25 advance ticket

\$30 at the door

\$10 BBQ

Buffet

**Come watch the O's take on the
Blue Jays and enjoy an open tap of
20 Craft Beers!**

Raven Beer - Old Oriole Park Beer - Baltimore Brewing Company
Monument City - Full Tilt - Fin City - Antietam Brewery

Tickets at

www.WAVERLYMAINSTREET.org

12

June

**12pm -
4:30pm**

- Bulletin Board -

Officers Contact List

Jo Ann Robinson, President
3012 Abell Avenue
410-338-1552
jooiman64@gmail.com

Jackson Gilman-Forlini,
Vice President
331 East 30th Street
jgilmanforlini@gmail.com

Courtney McManus, Treasurer
3114 Abell Avenue
mcmanus.cc@gmail.com

Linda Forlifer,
Recording Secretary
315 E. 33rd Street
410-243-1287
LForlifer@gmail.com

Jim Anthony,
Corresponding Secretary
3212 Abell Avenue
443-622-4922
janthony@towson.edu

Members-at-Large:
Michael Klima
3025 Abell
mtklima@gmail.com

Gabriel Pickus
3136 Abell
Pickus.gabriel@gmail.com

**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.
*Residents may be fined for
trash disposal violations.*

Abell Summer Film Series

July 22	Zootopia	9:00 p.m.
July 29	Short Circuit	9:00 p.m.
August 5	The Searchers	8:30 p.m.
August 12	Guardians of the Galaxy	8:30 p.m.
August 19	Shaun the Sheep: The Movie	8:30 p.m.
August 26	Hairspray	8:00 p.m.
September 2	Top Gun	8:00 p.m.

Films are shown in the Abell Open Space on 32nd Street
between Abell & Guilford on Friday nights (rain date is the
following Saturday) and are free to the public. *Show times are
approximate.*

Abell Neighborhood Walks

When: Last Tuesday of every month
Where: Leave from the Abell Open Space
Who: Neighbors, Benefits District Security and Baltimore
Northern District Police
Why: For a pro-active, safe, informed community
Time: 7:30 p.m.

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

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- ♦ July 17 Street Fair Issue
- ♦ September 17 Fall Issue
- ♦ November 17 Holiday Issue

*Volunteer newsletter delivery persons are needed for several blocks in
Abell. If you can spare 30 minutes of your time, six times each year, please
contact sbtreadway@aol.com.*