



# Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

December 2016

*If men living in democratic countries...never acquired the habit of forming associations in ordinary life, civilization itself would be endangered.*

Alexis De Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1840.

The French observer of Antebellum America distinguished between political clubs and parties on the one hand, and “public associations in civic life” on the other. He reserved highest praise for the latter. To be sure, he had in mind much larger organizations than the Abell Improvement Association. Still, despite its modest numerical strength and limited geographical reach AIA, from its 1970s beginnings, has had a civilizing effect on ordinary life.

The Waverly Farmer’s Market would not be located at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Barclay if the founders of AIA had not put up a fight against the 8-story hotel that was almost constructed there. Instead of the Abell Open Space, we would have had an apartment building on 32<sup>nd</sup> between Abell and Guilford were it not for the due diligence of those same founders and Abell’s long-time ally, Council Woman Mary Pat Clarke. When – with now veteran Councilwoman Clarke backing us – the current executive committee of AIA campaigned successfully to replace the dysfunctional traffic circle at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Guilford with a 4-way stop and install speed humps we were keeping alive a tradition of stewardship and activism. Caring and compassion are also part of the AIA tradition which the EC called on when fire ravaged the Book Thing. The association-sponsored fundraiser, mounted at the Peabody Heights Brewery within a week’s time, will remain one of the most moving and impressive undertakings in neighborhood history.

**As 2016 comes to an end the question is before us of who will assume responsibility for guiding the Abell Improvement Association through next year. At a time when the direction of city and nation cannot be predicted, working together for harmony and stability as a neighborhood has never been more important.**

AIA By-Laws call for election of officers in January. Officers who have served only one year may run for a second term. Those who have served two consecutive years (yours truly is among these) must relinquish their present position; they can run for another office. Every member of AIA is eligible to run for any office and to nominate others. Details on nominations and election procedures are summarized on p. 3 of this newsletter.

In addition to officers, the AIA executive committee includes the chairs of all standing committees. Those chairs are appointed by the new President who relies on having a pool of volunteers willing to serve in those positions. Job descriptions for officers and committee chairs may be found on the website [www.abellimprovement.org](http://www.abellimprovement.org).

As I wind up this second term – and this last letter – as president, I urge every neighbor to find the level of involvement with AIA that will harmonize with work obligations, family routines and other demands. Run for an office, volunteer to chair a committee, sign on as a committee member, and if none of these is possible resolve to take part in more association meetings and social events than you have this year. I promise you that the extra effort will be rewarded with new and deepening friendships, a sense of accomplishment and the satisfaction of having done one’s part in preserving and improving this unique community.

With affection and gratitude to the 2015 and 2016 EC members with whom I have greatly enjoyed working, and with warm Holiday Wishes to All,

Jo Ann Robinson

President, Abell Improvement Association

[Jooiman64@gmail.com](mailto:Jooiman64@gmail.com); 3012 Abell Avenue.

## Inside:

Holiday Events  
in Abell

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Security  
Services

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2017 Officers  
Election

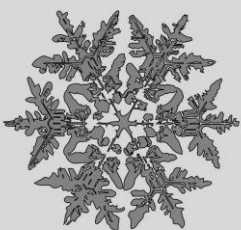
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More Trees in  
Abell

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New Arrivals

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## New Trees for Abell and the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center

On Saturday, November 19, a team of dedicated volunteers headed by Kirsch Jones planted 16 trees in Charles Village, including five in the Abell neighborhood. These new trees are located in the tree wells in front of 3037, 3116, 3118 and 3132 Abell Avenue. (On December 5, the city relocated 3 of these trees, and added 3 yellowwoods.) Several residents have agreed to water these plants for the first year or two in order for them to become established, but please feel free to contribute if you see that any of them are in need. Thanks to Kirsch, Gary Letteron, Peter Duvall, Denese Gaughan, Sabina Pade and Joel Baker for these welcome additions.

On Saturday, November 26, Abell neighbor Beverly Fink joined Gary Letteron in planting a magnolia at the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center, yet another reason for celebration and thanks.

*Andy Scott*



*New trees on the 3100 block of Abell*



*Gary Letteron places the magnolia in its spot on the campus of the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center, north of 29<sup>th</sup> Street; the newly planted tree is mulched and ready for winter.*

## Abell Arrivals

Congratulation to **Casey and Erin Dore Miller** of the 3000 block of Guilford on the arrival of their baby! "Our daughter, Margaret Lucille "Maggie Lu" Miller arrived on 9/16 and we couldn't be happier."

More congratulations on the 3000 block of Guilford go to grandparents **Ralph and Dana Moore**. Ralph reports, "Xander was born prematurely on July 3rd weighing 1 pound and 12 ounces. His mother, Zahra Moore, gave birth to him at Mercy Hospital. He now weighs 9 lbs. or so.

The delightful baby boy is loved by so many after being prayed for by nuns, a rabbi, an imam and lots of Facebook friends.

Mom is Zahra, dad is Dwight Brown, grandma is Dana Moore and pop-pop is Ralph E. Moore, Jr. First Cousin is Sylena Christian."

## Contractor Recommendation

From Tyler Lane of the 3000 block of Abell: "Phil Di Bello Family Roofing put a new rubber roof on our house, as well as a skylight, two gutters and a down spout. They did a great job, were timely and even brought in a plasterer to touch up the interior after the job was finished. Highly recommended and a great experience overall." Contact: info@dibelloroofting.com, or call 410-752-7663 (ROOFING).

Also from Tyler: "The Chimney Doctor did a good job putting in a new flue and repointing the chimney stickup." Contact 410-529-2749 (529-ASHY), [thechimneydoctorllc@gmail.com](mailto:thechimneydoctorllc@gmail.com)

For more contractor recommendations, please visit the Community Resources section of the AIA website – <http://www.abellimprovement.org/community-resources>

## 29<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center News

**Good Bye to Assistant Program Manager Rob Drowos.** Rob's tenure was relatively brief but highly valued. Reliable, caring, hard-working, he was universally loved at the Center. We will miss him and wish him all the best.

**Welcome to Assistant Program Manager Minju Zukowski.** Minju is a graduate of Towson University. He brings experiences from a variety of youth-related positions. As an intern with the Department of Housing and Community Development he studied and evaluated juvenile services. He was the Communications Coordinator for a D.C. nonprofit, Bread for the World, and the founder of 50/50, a nonprofit working with youth. During a City Year in the nation's capital, he worked in the D.C. school system and most recently spent a year with the Global Health Corps in Malawi. He is excited to be joining the Center staff and will be reaching out to get to know community residents.

**January 16, 2017, Gertrude S. Williams Speakers Series Event.** The GSW Speakers Series continues with the 2016 theme of Positive Community Engagement. Falling on Martin Luther King Day, the next event will highlight Engagement Through Social Action and Advocacy with a panel of three speakers: **Natasha Murphy** from **Black Girls Vote**; **Ava Pipitone**, Director of **Baltimore Transgender Alliance**; and **William Tipper Thomas** of the **Traumatic Inpatient Parent Provider Emergency Reserve Foundation**. We look forward to a challenging and probing discussion of the implications for social movements of our own time of the Beloved Community which Dr. King advocated. The event will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. RSVP to [www.strongcitybaltimore.org/event](http://www.strongcitybaltimore.org/event) or 443-213-0394.

## AIA Elections

WHEN AND WHERE?	Saturday, January 28, 2017, 10:30 a.m. Normal's Books and Records, 425 E. 31st Street
OFFICES TO BE FILLED?	President; Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer; 2 Members at Large, 2 CVCBD Representatives
TERMS OF OFFICE?	One year, beginning at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Officers serving two consecutive years in the same office may not serve in the same office the following year.
NOMINATION PROCESS?	Nominating Committee appointed by the President
NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017?	Jo Ann Robinson <a href="mailto:jooiman64@gmail.com">jooiman64@gmail.com</a> Linda Forlifer <a href="mailto:LForlifer@gmail.com">LForlifer@gmail.com</a> Jackson Gilman-Forlini <a href="mailto:jgilmanforlini@gmail.com">jgilmanforlini@gmail.com</a> Teresa Pfaff <a href="mailto:pfaffter@gmail.com">pfaffter@gmail.com</a>

All AIA members: You are urged to contact any of the above committee members with nominations, and are welcome to nominate yourself. Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting and Elections on January 21. Not ready to hold office? Consider joining and perhaps chairing a committee (Housing, Communications, Sanitation, Parking, Membership/Welcoming, Safety, Street Fair, Open Space, Nominating Committee).

## Beloved Pets

Condolences to **Arlene Ogurick** of 30<sup>th</sup> Street for the death of her dog Goldie, who was 16 years old.

Best wishes for a full recovery for **Connie Whiting's** dog Mosie, who has a serious leg wound.

And welcome to Larry who has joined the household of **Bonnie Bessor, Les Maynard**, their dog Iggy and their cat Rosie.

*Bonnie with newcomer Larry*



## - 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  
mcmamus.cc@gmail.com

Linda Forlifer,  
Recording Secretary  
315 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

## AIA Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

Saturday, January 28, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Normal's Books and Records  
425 E. 31st Street

*Light refreshments will be served.*

**Anyone who is interested in running for any AIA office  
may submit their name for nomination to:**

Jo Ann Robinson ([jooiman64@gmail.com](mailto:jooiman64@gmail.com)),  
Linda Forlifer ([LForlifer@gmail.com](mailto:LForlifer@gmail.com)),  
Jackson Gilman-Forlini ([jgilmanforlini@gmail.com](mailto:jgilmanforlini@gmail.com)), or  
Teresa Pfaff ([pfaffter@gmail.com](mailto:pfaffter@gmail.com))

If you have a discussion topic to add, please contact  
Jo Ann Robinson ([jooiman64@gmail.com](mailto:jooiman64@gmail.com))

## ABELL HOLIDAY EVENTS

SEE FLYER IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS

### *Holiday Caroling*

Sunday, December 18 ♦ 5:30 p.m. ♦ Meet at 3212 Abell Avenue

Contact host Jim Anthony with questions:  
[janthony@towson.edu](mailto:janthony@towson.edu) ♦ 410-243-2269

### *New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner*

Celebrate New Year's Eve at four homes from 7 p.m. to next year  
with your Abell neighbors. Sign up at <http://url.ca/g61oz>

Contact Shelley Treadway if you can host a course:  
[sbtreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com) ♦ 410-458-4138

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Shelley Treadway,  
3026 Abell Avenue, or email to [sbtreadway@aol.com](mailto:sbtreadway@aol.com)

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

- ♦ January 17 - Winter Issue
- ♦ March 17 - Spring Issue