



Abell Improvement Association Newsletter

February 2019

The organization, after a shaky but successful start, is now ready, willing and “ABELL” to plan a better future for our community.

Frances J. Michael, first president of AIA, writing to The New Democratic Club, November 21, 1973

Frances Michael represents Chapter I of the story of the Abell Improvement Association. Spurred by various crime and grime problems as well as anxiety over a developer’s push to construct a high rise on the Waverly parking lot (site of today’s Farmers Market), she and like-minded neighbors formed this organization, elected officers, selected the name, composed by-laws and filed for incorporation (received in 1974).

Counting from the founders’ first meetings in 1972, Caroline Jelavich, who presided over AIA throughout 2018, represents Chapter 46 of this history, along with an executive committee (EC) of 8 other officers augmented by the chairs/co-chairs of 9 standing committees. As Frances Michael and a small team of pioneers pressed for better city services and faced down the high rise developer, Caroline and her team were challenged by numerous issues, the most stressful being a lead abatement crisis at our cherished Open Space and the controversial push from Johns Hopkins University for a “sworn [armed] police unit” to be added to its existing security force. Neither of these developments has been resolved. We await an official “all-clear” from the City on the Open Space while closely following responses in the Maryland Legislature to the Hopkins police proposal.

The thoughtful discussion of the police issue at AIA’s membership meeting January 28, 2019, reflects the high degree of mutual respect that characterizes our community. While the discussion ended in a strong majority vote against a private police force at JHU, voices in support of the university’s position were valued. The tone of the meeting reflects the deliberative and measured leadership shown by Caroline throughout her term. We thank her very much. Thanks, also, for the conscientious work of all the EC members who supported her.

The history of AIA is an unbroken narrative of individuals coming forward every year, carving time out of lives full of family responsibilities, workplace demands and other pressures to practice community stewardship. Chapter 47 has now begun. Newly elected officers and committee chairs will be meeting monthly to “foster the general welfare of all residents of our community” (see statement of purpose at www.abellimprovement.org/about-us). They will consult directly with the membership at quarterly meetings and communicate regularly via the website, newsletter and facebook page. I hope all readers will thank and support them.

Jo Ann O. Robinson
AIA Archivist

www.abellimprovement.org

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New Neighbors

From Becky Hersher:

Sam Novey and I just moved into 2911 Guilford Avenue in early November. We're new to the neighborhood, but not to Baltimore: Sam grew up here, and we both moved back to the city in 2015. Sam owns a business that works on increasing overall voter turnout in elections, and I'm a science journalist. We've already found Abell to be a welcoming place, and we're excited to get involved in Abell community events.

Welcome Becky and Sam!

Cats of Abell Calendar

You may have seen a request on social media this summer for photos of cats in the Abell community. The request garnered enough entries for young Naftali Beller to create a beautiful calendar filled with the **Cats of Abell**. The calendar was printed in time for holiday gift-giving. Thank you, Naftali, for compiling these entertaining portraits of our furry friends!



Here is Naftali Beller, the creator of the calendar, holding his own copy.

Edward Holl, Activist and Onetime Abell Resident

Edward "Eddie" J. Holl, Jr., a founding member of the Baltimore Gay Alliance and its successor organization, the Gay Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland, died on November 28 following a struggle with bladder cancer. He was a lifelong resident of Baltimore City who turned 72 on Election Day.

Eddie moved to Charles Village in the early 1970s. After living on Abell Avenue for 13 years, he moved to Calvert Court, a cooperative apartment building, in 1990. In 1975 Eddie was one of a small group of gay activists who founded the Baltimore Gay Alliance. Eddie also served on other BGA and Community Center committees and participated in many of their functions. At a time when gay people experienced a total lack of visibility, he was one of the first volunteers for the Gay Switchboard, which forwarded calls to his home phone in Abell ranging from information requests to appeals for comfort and advice. He was one of the original \$1,000 donors to the Community Center, an important contribution at a time when donations to gay organizations were few and far between.

A celebration of Eddie's life took place on January 12 at the Charles Village Pub. Scott McCloud, who lived with Eddie on Abell Avenue for a time, recalled "his genuine simplicity as a human being; he was unpretentious and generous to a fault."

For more about Eddie's life, see this article by Jim Becker from Baltimore OUTloud - <http://baltimoreoutloud.com/wp/early-gay-activist-eddie-holl-dies-at-age-72/>

Get Shredded for Some Fun Shopping

Neighborhood vintage hot-spot **Get Shredded** has been up and running for over six months now. The shop is just off St. Paul Street on 31st, in the space formerly occupied by Just Cut It. Sara Autrey, owner and neighborhood resident, says, "I can't believe it - every day I get to live my dream! I meet new people in my community, stock amazing local artists, musicians, and makers, and have a great time selling eco-conscious, unique clothes to incredible individuals who make this city one-of-a-kind. I couldn't be luckier!" Sara's vision is that through her shop, people can explore their means of self-expression while having access to local music, art, and goods. Supporting local makers and buying vintage clothing and home goods "helps the local economy get stronger and is eco-friendly."

Any trip to **Get Shredded** guarantees an interesting vintage find, a fully stocked sale rack, new local art discoveries, and a fun conversation. It's highly likely that Sara will show you pictures of her dog Harley and the clothing she makes him "far too often." Stay tuned for events at **Get Shredded** - the pop-up parties have snacks, drinks, music, AND local makers! To find upcoming events, follow @getshreddedbmore on Instagram, or pop in to the shop to see what's coming up on the calendar!

Get Shredded
3101 St. Paul Street, rear store
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/GetShreddedVintage>

Thank You Newsletter Volunteers

Thank you to all AIA Newsletter delivery persons for your timely work bringing Abell news to the community in the past year:

Jim Anthony
Jane Berg
Judy Berlin
Allison Campbell
Danielle Corcoran
Maureen Daly
Jerry Druch
Rosalie Eck
Annette Fallon
John Fink
Judith Geller
Michele Golden
Peter Gottlieb
Ed Hargadon
Audrey Huang
Janet Kahoe
Michael Klima
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Paul & Carlene Moscott
Arlene Ogurick
Didon Pachner
Susanne Riveles
Jo Ann Robinson
Andy Scott
Bill Surine
Julie Neale Taylor
Michael Treadway
Jonathan Wetmiller

The next AIA
Quarterly
Membership Meeting
will be held in April.
Please look for exact
date, time and
location on
community message
boards and media
notices next month.

Beyond Video Brings Video Back to Baltimore

The video rental store experience has returned to Baltimore at last! **Beyond Video**, a non-profit, collectively-run video store with an expansive, lovingly curated collection of DVDs, Blu-rays and VHS opened at 2545 N. Howard Street in December. It is currently open Friday-Sunday, 3-7 p.m., with expanded hours coming in February.

The store is cashless; members will establish a recurring monthly donation to join, and thereafter there are no rental costs or late fees. They have two affordable membership plans to choose from: a \$12/month individual plan offering unlimited rentals with 3 movies checked out at a time or a \$20/ month joint plan for two people offering unlimited rentals with 6 movies checked out at a time.

Beyond Video's collection of about 10,000 unique titles is entirely crowd-sourced. It only gets more comprehensive and awesome with each donation.

Here's their WISH
LIST: <http://bit.ly/2pycBgF>

For more about Beyond Video go to <https://beyondvideo.org/> or follow them on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/BeyondVideoBmore>

<https://www.instagram.com/beyondvideobmore/>

<https://twitter.com/beyondvideo?lang=en>

Winter Storm Reminders

The city reminds all property owners or occupants of property that:

- All snow and ice, which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk, must be removed within 3 hours after the end of a snow or ice event unless the snow fall stops between 3 p.m. and 6 a.m., in which case snow must be removed by 11 a.m.
- Please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.
- If any property owner has a concern regarding sidewalk snow removal within 24-48 hours after the end of an accumulation, they should call 311. Residents may also call 311 to report locations that may be in violation of the city snow removal ordinance.

Shiatsu in Abell

Dear neighbors,

Your neighbor Rhea Nödel is now offering traditional Shiatsu treatments at her house on Abell Avenue by appointment. Shiatsu is a form of Japanese acupressure massage that involves stretching in addition to pressure. Like Thai massage, it is practiced on a mat at floor level, with the client wearing loose comfortable clothing. You can phone or text for an appointment or any questions you might have at 347-512-0648. My website is CharlesVillageAcupuncture.com

Many thanks and may all be well with you,

Rhea Nödel

- Bulletin Board -

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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.

*Retrieve bins promptly after
pick-up.*

FRIENDS OF BARCLAY COMING EVENTS:

- **February 4: Donald Manekin** (Seawall Developer, former interim COO for City Schools, school board member, passionate city schools advocate) will host a dinner meeting and discussion for current parents/caretakers of students at, or considering, City Schools. The meeting will take place from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Miller's Court (2601 N. Howard St., corner of Howard and 26th). Discussion will be used to obtain input to be shared with Dr. Santelises.
- **February 14: Mr. Cork – Mother Goose on the Loose Story Time**
Thursday at 10:50 in Barclay EMS auditorium
TBA date in March for makeup December date
- **February 28: FOB will sponsor an event at Peabody Heights Brewery: Barclay's Parents and Future Parents Mixer** (invitation extended to pre-k and K teachers of Barclay), Thursday 2/28 from 6-8 p.m. We will have pizza and beer!

*For more information, contact info@friendsofbarclay.org
Sign up to receive FOB's monthly E-Newsletter on their
Website - <https://www.friendsofbarclay.org/>*

Thursday Night Trivia

The most unique trivia in town

Hosted by Abell resident Andrew Northrup and a mystery guest host

February 7 - 7 p.m.

Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th Street

https://www.facebook.com/thursdaypeabodytrivia/?tn-str=k*F

Please send **newsletter contributions** to Becky Hersher,
rhersher@gmail.com

Deadlines for newsletter submissions:

March 17

Spring Issue

May 17

Film Series Issue

July 17

Street Fair Issue

*Volunteer newsletter delivery persons are needed. If you can spare 30
minutes of your time, six times each year, please contact
sbreadway@aol.com.*