



The Bolton Hill Bulletin

April 2014

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The next meeting of the MRIA Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, April 1, at 8 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall of Memorial Episcopal Church on the corner of Bolton and Lafayette. Enter through the double doors on Lafayette. All neighborhood residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

News from MRIA

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate for officers and board members at the April meeting. The slate will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 6. All residents are eligible to vote on the nominees.

Nominees:

1st vice president, Kendra Rice Parlock
2nd vice president, Elizabeth Kennedy
Secretary, Linda Rittelmann
Treasurer, Barry Blumberg
General Counsel, Richard Rosenthal.

Nominees for Board of Directors, Class of 2017:

Robert Ford, 1603 Park
Lisa Scott, 143 W. Lanvale
David Nyweide, 1833 Bolton
Kathleen Cahill, 224 W. Lanvale
Lorrie Caudle, 1304 Linden Green
Nirina Randrianarivelo, 1309 John St.
Michael Marcus, 214 Lanvale
Christopher Lyon, 1309 Bolton
Sandra Hinz, 1427 Park
Charles Phillips, 1739 Eutaw.

To fill a vacancy in the class of 2015:
Greg Baranoski, 12 E. Mt. Vernon Place.

To fill a vacancy in the class of 2016:
Jack McFadden, 1423 Park.

Police Report: Officer Righter noted at the March MRIA meeting that while most crimes had decreased, robberies had gone up. He said that smart phones were frequent targets and encouraged residents not to walk while talking on their phones.

Farewell and thanks, Fred Lazarus Residents of Bolton Hill can thank MICA's Fred Lazarus, retiring in May after 36 years as president of our art school neighbor, for the look, vibe, and ambiance of Bolton Hill today. When Lazarus became president of MICA in 1978, wearing his bow-tie and sporting a head of brown curls, the campus consisted of the Main Building, on the corner of Mt. Royal and Lafayette; the Mt. Royal Train Station and shed; the Dolphin Building at 100 W. Dolphin; and the recently purchased, dilapidated, badly-in-need-of-renovation Cannon Building, a former shoe factory across Mt. Royal from the Main Building--an eyesore at the entrance to Bolton Hill.

Soon, the unsightly shoe factory, renamed the Fox Building, was renovated into much needed studio space, making a more pleasing corner entry for BH. In fact, after the conversion MRIA awarded MICA an Award of Merit for its contribution to the improvement of the area. But MICA recruiters learned that to attract the best students, the college needed still more dorm space and a "campus" feel. So, in 1989/1990, working closely with BH residents and MRIA, and on the recommendation of the neighborhood, MICA settled on the 5.5 acre vacant lot left from an earlier unfinished urban renewal project--the last open space in BH--at the north end of Bolton Hill. Knowing that the dormitory complex would be a part of the neighborhood, not on the edges, MICA

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engaged residents in many design decisions for The Commons, as the complex is known: how it would look, parking, landscaping, security, entries and exits. But MICA also wanted the students to have privacy and a sense of being on a residential campus. Both goals were met in the new complex that opened in 1992. The Commons has since expanded, with Leakee Hall, another residential facility added, again with input from residents and MICA; the complex is now called Founders' Green and is the college home for 500 students.

MICA undertook two big projects in the 2000s: one changed the look of the campus and the entry to the neighborhood dramatically: the Brown Center, located across Mt. Royal from the Main Building, is an architecturally significant modern, transparent structure, with a prow jutting toward the older building. When the lights are on inside at night, the building seems to glow. The Brown Center has classroom studios and spaces for community events, and a state-of-the-art auditorium, available for neighborhood and community events.

About the same time as the modern Brown Center was being built, MICA was able to purchase the former Hospital for Women of Maryland, an almost derelict former hospital and nursing home on Lafayette and John St. and turn it into Meyerhoff Hall, an apartment-style residence for upperclassmen. This transformation, from a building full of feral cats in the middle of residential BH, has changed the character of the streets and alleys around it, making the area safer and livelier. The Meyerhoff is a welcome addition, say the residents.

And, equally significant to Bolton Hill, Lazarus was one of prime movers for Artscape, the largest, free art festival in the US, held in the Mt. Royal Cultural area around MICA. For a complete history of MICA and Fred Lazarus' tenure there, includ-

ing wonderful photos, see Douglas Frost's beautiful, well-written book, *Making History/Making Art*. This book also acknowledges Lazarus' local and national leadership in arts, culture, and education. We see Lazarus' vision for MICA in Bolton Hill. Thank you, Fred.

Upcoming Events

The Bolton Hill Garden Club's Plant Sale

Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fitzgerald Park (1600 block of Bolton Street)

A large variety of annuals & herbs will be available! Email us with questions or your order for large quantities at GardenClub@boltonhill.org All proceeds benefit community greening projects in Bolton Hill!

Greening Grants available

It's that time of year again...the Bolton Hill Garden Club will accept greening grant applications until May 1.

The purpose of the Bolton Hill Garden Club Green Space Grants Program is to help fund public space greening projects within Bolton Hill! Applications will be accepted via email or paper. Don't forget to include a "before" picture of your project. You may access the application and additional information by visiting boltonhillgardenclub.org Questions may be sent to GardenClub-Grants@boltonhill.org Application Information: boltonhillgardenclub.org/grant-request

Re-imagining West North Avenue

What would a West North Avenue look like that was pedestrian friendly? bicycle friendly? inviting? connected to the communities along North Avenue in positive ways?

Rick Gwynallen and the Reservoir Hill Improvement Council are involved in a re-imagining process for North Avenue that's part of a larger Department of Transportation project. A community vision-

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ing session for the Charles to McCulloh section of North Avenue is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. at John Eager Howard School.

Concert at Eutaw Place closes season On May 3, Eutaw Place will be closing its season with a concert featuring Peter Bradley Adams, co-sponsored by RHIC. Local songstress Ruut will open for him. Adams will also perform on Friday afternoon before the concert for the kids at John Eager Howard Elementary as our way of giving to the community. Eutaw Place is located in the basement of Beth Am Synagogue and offers good music at affordable prices in a relaxed atmosphere.

Neighbors in the News

BH loses a long-time resident Jane Benesch, who moved to 1425 Park in the mid-1940s, and lived there until 2005, died at age 95 in mid-February. She was active in the neighborhood and city cultural projects, including the Walters Museum. After graduating from Smith College, Jane worked with promi-

nent antiques dealers in New York where she met and married Isaac Benesch, a Yale-educated set designer. In the 1940s, they moved to Bolton Hill, and Isaac worked in the family furniture business. They had two daughters, Kathy and Barbara Jane, who grew up on Park Ave. Jane and Isaac were active in local theater and entertained many of the actors who performed at local theaters, including Deborah Kerr, at their home on Park Ave. Jane worked at The London Shop, now the office of Joe Palumbo, CPA. as a specialist in Oriental export china. Besides these activities, she was an excellent tennis player and played at a high level of skill until her 70s.

Barry Blumberg honored by SBLC Our own Barry Blumberg, treasurer of MRJA and organizer of the crab feast, was honored recently by the South Baltimore Learning Center for his 14 years of volunteer service to the organization as a board member and a fundraiser. The SBLC aims to "improve the educational and economic self-sufficiency of disadvantaged adults." Barry, you are a mensch.

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