

# Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

March 2009

Volume 24, Number 03

## Blockbuster March Meeting

The March General Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 17 with special guest speaker Mayor Sheila Dixon. The MVBA will also be giving a special welcome to one of its newest residents, the BSO's Maestra Marin Alsop, who will be with us on March 17 as well. Don't miss this meeting!

## Restaurants are Tops in Mount Vernon

It's always a good time for romance, especially when it is a good value, too. MVBA members FEAST@4East (at the Inn at Four East Madison Street), Indigma, The Helmand, Tusk Lounge (at the Brass Elephant) and Eden's Lounge won accolades from *Sun* food critic Elizabeth Large for being great romantic restaurants for those of us watching our dinner expenditures.

Meanwhile, at *Baltimore* magazine, it is no surprise that Mount Vernon eateries made a strong showing in the Top Restaurants list. Congratulations to: The Prime Rib, Sotto Sopra, The Helmand, and The Brass Elephant.

And, with a boost from our own members, Minato and Brewer's Art won places on the *Baltimore's* readers' favorites list. Minato for Best Asian and Brewer's Art for Best Bar Food.

Remember that we have many restaurants in Mount Vernon that may not be fine dining, but are terrific locations for an inexpensive meal and good neighborhood camaraderie. Please support these establishments, too.

## Mount Vernon Historic District Sign Project

There is still time to make your contribution to Mount Vernon's initiative to mark every corner of our historic district with high quality signage. We have not matched all of the grant money provided for this project by the Baltimore City Heritage Area Authority. We need about \$1,000 more to fully match this grant. Every \$100 donated now buys two signs to mark our historic district. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.** Make your check out to Midtown Community Fund and mail to MVBA, 1221 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore MD 21202.

Thank you to these Mount Vernon residents and businesses who have joined our list of contributors to the sign project:

JR Owens - JR Owens Corp.  
Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore  
Paul and Martha Dougherty  
Jeffrey Scott Howard & Scott Goergens  
Sara & Issac C. Lycett  
Patricia Lavenstein

## The Ultimate Mount Vernon Door Contest



## SUBSCRIBE!

If you are getting this newsletter in the mail, you are probably missing out on important email newscasts, neighborhood alerts and early electronic delivery of this newsletter itself. Help save a tree and convert to email delivery by sending an email to [membership@mbva.org](mailto:membership@mbva.org) with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and your full name in the body. Non-members can sign up for email communications at [www.mvba.org](http://www.mvba.org).

Doors of Ireland. Doors of Netherlands. It's time for the fabulous doors of Mount Vernon!

The doors are the focal point of every house every built – and that is especially true in Mount Vernon. To encourage members – both businesses and residents – to put the very best face on all of our properties with beautiful doors, MVBA is pleased to announce the Mount Vernon Door Contest.

Rules for to enter:

1. Complete the work between January 1, 2009 and September 1, 2009 in either paint or a natural finish.
2. Work must be reviewed and approved in advance by the MVBA's Architectural Review Committee (arc@mvba.org)
3. Submit a before photo and an approved notice to proceed on or before September 1, 2009.
4. Send entry to MVBA, 1221 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore MD 21202 Attn: ARC

There will be winners in both a business category and a residential category and hundreds of dollars in cash prizes will be at stake. We wish to thank Lou and Maureen Van Dyck for sponsoring this event. Winners will be announced at the 2009 MVBA Holiday Party.

NOTE: To accomplish the old world look we have all admired through color or refinishing, you can call Fine Paints of Europe at 1-800-332-1556 ask for Emmett and identify yourself as an MVBA member in Baltimore. They carry the formulas of all paint companies for alkyd or acrylic paint and they will deliver your order to your front door.

### Mount Vernon in the News

The announcement of the city's new Fallsway homeless shelter was made by Mayor Sheila Dixon in early March with MVBA leaders present. The Mayor noted the partnership of the MVBA in planning for the shelter. Among the requirements for MVBA support of the shelter are adequate funding to provide comprehensive services for the anticipated population (if funding falls, the population will be reduced accordingly), an emphasis on moving the homeless to permanent housing as quickly as possible, and over one million dollars in capital investment by the city in Mount Vernon.

Joe Pitta and Neal Foore, owners of Neals Salon and Day Spa on Park Avenue, were featured in the lead story on Fox News 45 on March 11. Joe and Neal, longtime MVBA members, were profiled as part of a story on gay marriage coming again before the Maryland legislature. Closing the story was the fol-

lowing quote from Neal, "If you are against gay marriage, then just don't have one." That humor – and the great music they play-- is why customers seen leaving this shop always have a smile.

### Cultural Happenings Right Outside Your Front Door

The Contemporary Museum has not one, but two new shows opening in March. *The Reverse Ark: In the Wake*, an exhibition that is part art installation, part community project, part learning platform developed around the concept of an "ark" as a site for preserving, exploring, and learning. Opening March 26 until August 2009. Many special events are being held March 22 – 28. Check out contemporary.org for more details.

And, known for evocative works that reflect a passion for the earth's natural resources, Baltimore-based artist Soledad Salamé presents *Where Do You Live?*, a dramatic 16-foot-long map of the Maryland coastline. Created using a composite of images from Google Earth, Salamé's map is layered with elements of her extensive research on the population, pollution, and water levels along the nearly 4,000 miles of Maryland's coast. March 26 – May 10.

The BSO presents three blockbusters in coming weeks: Dvorak's Symphony No 7 March 19, 20, 22, Brahms' Violin Concerto March 27 and 28, and Mahler's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony on April 13, 14 and 15. And remember that non-reserved tickets are available for only \$20!

The Maryland Historical Society is featuring *Maryland Through the Artist's Eye*. More than 60 objects—ranging from Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte's jewelry, to 19th-century silver by Samuel Kirk and Sons and dress patterns designed by 20th-century Maryland fashion de-

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signer Claire McCardell- complement the more than 130 paintings in the exhibition.

John Ford's *Tis a Pity She's a Whore* is a tale of forbidden love, a meddling nurse, a complicit friar, and a tragic and bloody ending. At Center Stage until April 5.

Spotlighter's Theater is home to Stephen Sondheim's musical thriller *Sweeny Todd* from March 20 until April 19.

*The Mechanical* arrives at The Theatre Project from March 26 - April 5, 2009. The Mechanical transplants the outcast creature from Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein" into the true story of a sensational chessplaying robot built in the late 18th century, a novelty that amazed royalty, foreshadowed computers, and duped the public by its clever mechanisms and concealed human assistant.

Music for the World: Stop by to enjoy these concerts at our own Peabody Institute: March 27 Latin Jazz Ensemble, March 28 and 29 Spring Dance Showcase. Free concerts are featured Thursdays at noon.

**Chamber Music at First Unitarian Church** (last of the series) – April 3, 8:00 p.m. Peabody Director of Chamber Music, Michael Kannen, brings faculty and top students for a unique faculty/student collaboration, playing masterworks from the chamber music literature. The program will include Mozart's brilliant Flute Quartet in D major, brass music by Eric Ewazen performed by an up-and-coming student group, the Brass Roots Quintet, and the sublime and thrilling Sextet in G major by Johannes Brahms, one of the most beloved string pieces in the chamber music repertoire. The concert takes place in the sanctuary of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore at Franklin and Charles Streets. The concert is free and open to the public. Contributions will benefit the Historic Niemann Organ Restoration Fund. For more information: <http://www.firstunitarian.net/calendar.asp>, 410-685-2330 or [office@firstunitarian.net](mailto:office@firstunitarian.net).

**Tyson's Place Liquor License Transfer** took place recently after a series of successful negotiations with residents who live in the immediate vicinity. The restrictions accepted by the applicant, Mr. Ron Singer, will remain on the license.

Live entertainment of any kind is to be limited to the Tyson Place location at 227 West Chase Street, and will not occur at Leon's, 870 Park Avenue.

Both Tyson Place and/or Leon's shall not install or maintain a permanent dance floor.

Both Tyson Place and/or Leons shall not utilize or host in any way "promoter-based entertainment".

The provision for live entertainment, as part of the liquor license, shall cease to exist upon the sale or transfer of the BD7 liquor license to another person, regardless of the location. However, if the transfer is made to an immediate family member of Mr. Ron Singer to the existing location at 227 West Chase Street, the permission for live entertainment may continue exist with all of the restrictions stated above to

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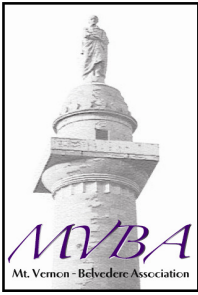
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remain in effect. "Immediate family member" is defined as his spouse or children.

The MVBA and the community wish Mr. Singer great success and appreciates his willingness to work with the community to develop reasonable restrictions so that Tyson's place will not be a potential burden to the community.



# Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

1221 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Md 21202

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



To contact members by phone, call MVBA's main number 410-528-1919 and select the desired extension from the menu.

### Officers

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