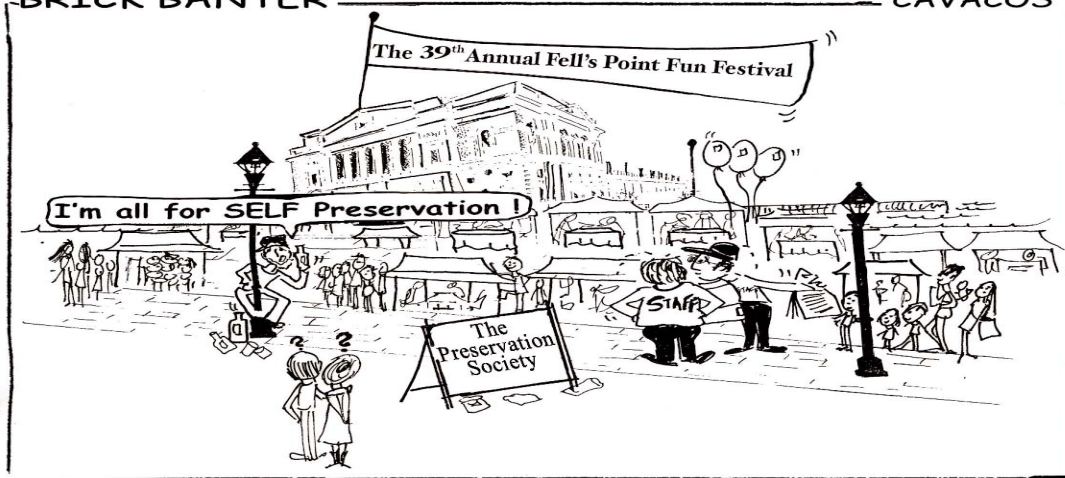


BRICK BANTER

CAVACOS



FPCOP, and The Pointer, Add to Urgency of Call For More Participation

By Michael Arida

President of FPCOP

The Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol is looking for volunteers to help shape the future of the organization. Please contact us, by means found in the lower right corner of Page 2. We have heard suggestions—but not yet from potential leaders—for reviving evening patrols, or taking a block-watcher approach to security issues. If FPCOP is to be more than a newsletter, or even to continue as only that, it needs new voices. Remember, too, that we are always on the lookout for local stories, events or items of interest, should you care to contribute to the newsletter.

We are grateful for the various communities' financial support of The Fell's Pointer, and we thank Sommer Gentry and Marilyn Miller and Ed Pitts for their donations last month. For long-term viability, we are considering a request that members of the business community consider underwriting the monthly publication expenses, about \$100, in exchange for an acknowledgment in that issue—along the lines of that for Crabby Dick in his long-standing partial sponsorship. We welcome readers' thoughts on this proposal.

Finally, the Southeastern District Police Department will be holding its second Civilian Police Academy starting Wednesday Oct. 26, and continuing for six weeks from 7 to 9PM. These classes will have instruction/dis-

cussion on effective usage of the 311/911 system, emergency preparedness, personal/vehicle/home safety, vice, laws of arrest, narcotics (and how to effectively and confidentially report activity), and a K-9 demonstration. They will be held at the Southeastern District headquarters, 5710 Eastern Ave., and are open to all. For further information contact Officer Kevin Brown at 410.637.8848 or <kevin.brown@baltimorepolice.org>

Major Kundrat Addresses Task Force—Southeastern Police Commander Michael Kundrat provided last week's meeting of the Fell's Point Task Force of community organization leaders with statistics to contend that crime is down sharply in all categories this year. He noted that a recent break-in/armed robbery in the 1500 block of Aliceanna St., perpetrated by four females, was still under investigation—and he cited efforts to prevent illegal passage of through truckers along the neighborhood streets. Similarly, he said officers were responding to recurrent complaints about noisy motorcycles parking on sidewalks by issuing tickets.

Residents agreed that the trucks problem had diminished but not the speed of the early-hour violators, especially along Aliceanna. Kundrat also mentioned efforts to address night-time security at a Caroline St. parking garage used by neighbors. The most positive responses were to Kundrat's announcement of an additional bike patroller, bringing their total to two, and his vow of police vigilance over Halloween. Last year's was his first, said the major, and it was an eye opener.

'Point's Prime Characters-II

Dantini's Ultimate Ruse: Postmortem in Spotlight

By Mark Walker

Marketing Analyst, Puppeteer, Conjuror

Dantini, the beloved Fell's Point conjuror, started showing up in movies in the 1960s. His greatest, "Dantini the Magnificent," was made by Baltimoreans Chris Buchman and Rex Schneider and filmed in Fell's Point. The 27-minute biography gives us a day in the life of Dantini—a thoughtful, poetic portrayal—the rattle of a simple man.

His fourth and final film, "Our Baltimore," was a documentary, and a debacle. It featured City Councilman Mimi DiPietro, Mayor William Donald Schaefer, and the famous strip tease artist, Blaze Starr. Dantini rented the Baltimore Civic Center, now called The Arena, for its 1978 premier. The Civic Center seats 13,500 people and approximately 60 attended. Dantini lost \$5,000 that night. his every penny.

By then, Dantini was 73. On March 14, 1979, he collapsed after his Friday night magician show at the Peabody Book Shop, where he performed the sleights of hand that were his passion. The next day, the front-page



"Overwhelmingly human" Dantini of Thames St.

headline of the Baltimore News-American read, "Magician Dantini dies." For an entire week, pictures of him showed up in columns, editorials, and articles in the Sunpapers and the News-American. I know of no other magician—or other Baltimorean—whose death garnered

Continued on page 2.....

Happenings

Hopkins Offers Seminars For Women on Nov. 12

Johns Hopkins Medicine will present a day-long women's health conference, with 32 seminars, on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 8:15AM to 4:15PM at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel. Participants can attend a plenary session, lunch with a speaker and four seminars of their choosing. A continental breakfast, lunch and two coffee breaks are included in the \$85 fee.

The plenary speaker will be Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, professor of pediatrics and first female editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association. For more details, and to register:

www.hopkinsmedicine.org/awoman-journey or call 410.955.8660.

Pointers at Charter School

The start-up Patterson Park Public Charter School has a student body of more than 300 in grades K to 4 and several of them are from Fell's Point. Stephanie Simms, the driving force behind creation of the school, said it has turned out to have city-wide representation, although the original target was just neighborhoods next to the park. Three of the 52 founding parents are from Fell's Point: Amy McGroarty, Amy Linwander and Claudia Towles. The elementary, in a former Catholic school building at Baltimore St. and Lakewood Ave., is to add a grade level in each of the next four years. Sims said 88 slots remain for kindergarten next fall. Website: www.info@pppcs.org

The Anonymous Grant: Cx

The article in the September Fell's Pointer listing beneficiaries of an anonymous \$10,000 grant could suggest that Maria Cavacos was a recipient. She was not, but was a facilitator—having suggested the Corner Theater educational program as a recipient.

Preservation Society Lectures

The Preservation Society continues to train tour guides, with instruction by Town Crier Jack Trautwein. The public is invited to attend free any or all of six 90-minute lectures in the program, at 7:30PM in the Visitor Center, 808 S. Ann St. The lecture dates and topics include: Oct. 10—1730-76, Fell's Point Early Years; Oct. 17—1776-1800, Revolution Privateering, Joshua Barney; Oct. 24—Turbulent Waters, 1812; Nov. 1—1812-14, War of 1812; Nov. 7—1815-60, Between the Wars; Nov. 8—1860-Now, Fall and Rise of the Point. See Barbara Cromwell at the Center, bcromwell@preservationsociety.com or 410.675.6750, Ext. 12.



Photo by Richard Lippenholz

Dominick Ekstein and Fran Wilde take up clean-up of park.

Volunteer Day Accomplishes Greening of Thames St. Park

About 40 volunteers from Greenspace Action Partnership and other civic groups joined employees of Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse and The Enterprise Foundation to celebrate James Rouse Day on Sept. 10 by doing a major overhaul of Thames Street Park. By sundown, sod was laid and watered, broken benches were repaired and painted, and the sandbox that had become a dogs' latrine was removed—replaced by two spring-loaded whales for the kiddie lot.

Each year the Struever company honors the memory of Rouse, the urban visionary of Baltimore, by facilitating improvement of city amenities such as the park. This year the weather was fine, the response ample and the outcome apparently pleasing for all. The recently formed GAP plans to hold a community meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10, seeking residents' views of what long-term improvements are needed for the park. In recent years it has become, by default, the province of the homeless and dog walkers. GAP hopes to cooperate with the Department of Recreation and Parks along with the Parks and People Foundation to make the space—the only traditional park in the neighborhood—more appealing to a wider constituency. Struever officials have volunteered their building at the Honeywell site in west Fell's Point for the charette and offered further help with the broad park makeover.

The Promenader

Fall Quickens Gait on Harbor Walks, Underlines Pitfalls

Cooler weather gave me the chance to get out and take a fresh look at the neighborhood. After noticing that the only sports T-shirts to be seen promoted the Red Sox, I decided to jot down some other observations for The Fell's Pointer.

As new buildings are constructed on our waterfront, the gaps in the Promenade that rims the harbor are supposed to be filled in. The walk to the new North Point condominiums on Boston Street is obstructed by a fence at the property line with Captain James outdoor dining area. A foot bridge there would add to the pleasure of walkers.

Which leads to the question, why are so many new buildings being allowed to extend out over our waterfront on pilings? Looks like it won't be long before we can stroll across to the Domino Sugar plant.

New Englanders, who take recycling seriously, are quick to say, "The closer you get to Washington, DC, the less recycling you will see." Unfortunately it is true. On Mondays and Fridays, recycle piles are few and far between. No wonder the City's recycling program frequently threatens to close—and space for the nation's trash is a growing problem. If you don't recycle, please give it a try; the schedule and simple rules are regularly printed in this newsletter.

I won't be surprised to learn one day that someone has been injured by a bicycle on the Promenade. Biking

Un-danted Dantini

Continued from page 1

such coverage. Mayor Schaefer attended Dantini's funeral. I was honored when my magic wand was broken over his coffin during the traditional conjurer's salute.

You might think that was the curtain. But Dantini plays on. The next time you're on the square near Bertha's, note the small plaque in the magician's honor from his friends at Tugboat Annie's. Then there was the day in 1986 when I spotted Dantini on a 16' x 40' billboard at Howard and 23rd Streets. He was one of the chosen entries in a Beautiful Billboards for Baltimore competition.

In 1998, fellow magician McCarl Roberts gave a Dantini lecture in New England before 200 conjurers and esteemed magic historians, many from around the world.

The lecture brought the house down, and it returned for an encore in 2000 at the 31st annual Magic Collectors' Weekend. Usually that convention is held in Chicago, but this time it came to Baltimore. Schaefer was guest of honor and he sat in the front row next to me. He enjoyed the lecture immensely and thanked us for inviting him into our secret world to hear about his old friend.

As word spread about the lecture, MAGIC Magazine—the largest independent magic magazine in the world—reprinted McCarl's lecture on the Polish-descended wizard. Thus in the fall of 2000, over 10,000 subscribing magicians thus took up Dantini. And this summer, Dantini was back on Thames Street, his birthplace. In August, Arcadia published Jacquie Greff's "Fell's Point," which includes photos and stories that conjure the magician.

Dantini sacrificed everything, including a steady job, for his magic. Buchman, the filmmaker, called him "a fascinating man, overwhelmingly tragic and overwhelmingly human." He never gave up. Despite his age, he refused to quit. The magician always said, "You could call me anything you want—they're all true." I always called him Dantini the Magnificent.

there looks delightful, but the frequently posted rules prohibit it for good reason. Bikes are quiet and fast and often surprise pedestrians they are overtaking. Warning bells are apparently passe.

The Black-Eyed Susan is a bit too cute for my taste; it doesn't have the appeal of the Moran tug boats nor serve the community like the Water Taxis. But it is well maintained and adds to our tourist attractions. I disagree with those who don't want her to dock here but hope the more appropriate Pride of Baltimore will join her. Nearby benches were recently painted, further sprucing up that area.

Fell's Point attracted us because it offers a mix of frequently used stores and tourist businesses which our house guests enjoy. With so many dwellings being constructed, we were surprised to see two drug stores, library branch, and jewelry store close. We're always delighted to see new businesses serving the people who live and/or work here, most recently the exercise room "Aura" on Aliceanna.

Finally, pet peeves: There seems to be more dog poop around than usual, maybe because there's been no rain to wash it away. I cannot understand why some people are thoughtful enough to put their dog's poop in plastic bags but then throw the bags and contents into our storm sewers so that both will pollute our river and the Bay.

Schedules

Trash

Place trash outside in cans or, after 6AM on collection day, in plastic bags. Mondays and Thursdays but no holidays. Monday, October 10 is a holiday, so do not put trash out until Thursday, October 13.

Recycling

Place outside by 7AM on collection day. Glass, metal and plastic in blue plastic bags. Mondays, Oct 24, Nov 14

Paper and cardboard in paper bags, cardboard boxes or tied with string. Fridays, October 14, 20 and November 11th

Neighborhood Meetings

Douglas Place: Third Wednesday of every other month at the Polish National Alliance, 1637 Eastern Avenue, 410.563.1297.

Fell's Point Antique Dealers' Association: Call 410.675.4776.

Fell's Point Community Organization: Second Mondays, 7PM, Fell's Point Visitor Center, 410.276.5471.

Fell's Point Development Corp.: 9AM every Tuesday, Max's on Broadway. Open to all. 410.675.8900.

Fell's Point Homeowners' Association: First Wednesdays, 7PM, Bertha's 2nd Floor.

Greenspace Action Partnership: Second Tuesdays, 6PM, Visitor Center, 410.675.6750 ext 10.

Society for the Preservation of Fell's Point and Federal Hill: Call 410.675.6750.

The *Fell's Pointer* is published monthly by volunteers of Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol, Inc. Questions, input and participation in patrols and this newsletter are welcome.

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