

Central Northside Neighborhood Council

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CNNC

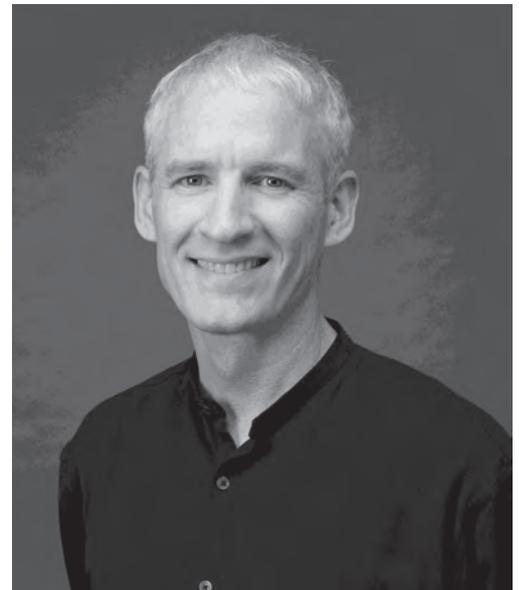
N e w s l e t t e r

May 2009

Activist Minister named 'Northsider of the Year'

The Reverend David McFarland, pastor of the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC) has been voted "Northsider of the Year" by the CNNC Board of Directors and will be honored by the North Side Leadership Conference at their annual banquet on June 11th. The banquet will be held at The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. The CNNC Board chose Reverend McFarland, in part, because of his activism in the organization's Community Plan and because of the many services that he and his congregation provide to the larger neighborhood.

Rev. McFarland earned his Master's of Divinity degree from the Divinity School at Harvard University in 1996. He then served an AIDS ministry in Provincetown, Massachusetts, working with men and women living with HIV/AIDS. In 1999, after a year of service ministering to a congregation in Hayward, California, he was chosen to serve a new congregation in northern Utah where he spent three years before moving with his partner Tim to Germany in 2002. David and Tim were married there in January of 2003. The couple moved to the Central Northside in 2005 when "Rev Dave" as his congregants call him, was called to serve as minister here at the Unitarian Church on the corner of Resaca Place and North Avenue.



"While I felt called by the clear social justice mission of the church, the neighborhood, with its striking and wide-ranging diversity was key in our choice to live here," McFarland to us, adding, "This was a neighborhood that I thought had figured it out but after living here I realized that this was a neighborhood that was in the process of *working* it out. My ministry in the neighborhood is about being part of working it out."

Given his challenging schedule, Rev. Dave is not afraid of hard work—especially when it comes to helping the neighborhood "work it out." Along with his duties at the church and raising two toddlers, Rev. Dave has been a very active and engaged member of the Community Planning Steering Committee of the CNNC, aiding the committee's efforts at community outreach and inclusion.

Currently, David McFarland lives on North Taylor Avenue with his partner, Tim Nuttle, where they are raising their two sons Jaden and Tiger. They can often be seen in the neighborhood walking with their children and their yellow Labrador Retriever "Woody."

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Executive Director

Kilola Luckett

Rich in Diversity. Rich in Promise.



President's Message

As our fiscal year comes to an end, I believe we can look back at the past 12 months and be proud of what we've accomplished, together. Of CNNC's many accomplishments, I am personally most proud of what is happening on Federal North. This block is the front door to our community and the blight that currently exists there has weighed on us for far too long.

I recently came across the text of my speech from board elections last May. In that speech I said "I personally believe our biggest opportunity to make positive change in our community is revitalizing our commercial corridors of Federal Street and North Avenue. Federal and North will not be easy projects; they involve considerable risk. To be successful they will need a visionary developer or developers, creative financing solutions, city and state support and (most importantly) a local community-based organization that has the skills and expertise to coordinate all these moving parts and at the same time ensure the final product will embody the collective needs and desires of the entire community."

At the time I had no idea how prescient this statement was. Fast forwarding twelve months, here's a brief list of our accomplishments to date: **[A]** Negotiated an agreement with the Urban Redevelopment Authority to give the community control of the most historically significant buildings in the block, including the Garden Theater, Masonic Hall and Bradbury building. **[B]** Formed a joint venture with the Northside Leadership Conference to create a community vision for the block, raising \$125,000 for the project and hiring a team of consultants to prepare a master plan and market study. **[C]** Supported Lawrenceville developer Bill Barron's plans to acquire and renovate the property on the northeastern corner of Federal and North and lease it to local café operator, Crazy Mocha. Additionally, we worked with Mr. Barron to replace the arched windows on the Federal Street side of the building. **[D]** Collaborated with Aiello Development to bring a \$5,000,000 mixed-use building to the corner of Federal North opposite of Crazy Mocha, which will be anchored by a bank, two restaurants and 14 apartments on 3 stories. **[E]** Advocated for and awarded \$2,000,000 of funding from the Governor to kick start the physical redevelopment of the Garden Theater block, including ensuring the Aiello Development project comes to fruition, restoration of the historic facades, and streetscape improvements. **[F]** Spearheaded an effort to bring metered parking to Federal Street so patrons of the local businesses are able to park on the street in front of their stores.

Still, much more work must be done to bring this corridor back to life. With hard work and a little bit of luck, perhaps our children will never know Federal North as it is today. Here's to hoping they will only know it as the place they go to eat, shop, bank, work, volunteer, hang out with friends and maybe even watch a movie, see a concert or check out the latest art exhibit.

"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope."

Teilhard De Chardin

CALL FOR ARTISTS: [Re] Envisioning Our Neighborhood

Recently, the CNNC Board of Directors endorsed the Communication



Committee's request to move forward with a logo/branding contest for the organization.

The Committee is looking for local artists to craft a unique visual representation of our organization's slogan, "Rich in Diversity, Rich in Promise."

Before changing the current logo, both the Board and the General Membership would have a chance to vote on the competing designs (or, alternately, to keep the current logo.) Once adopted, the design would become part of all of our organization's official correspondence and would appear in the masthead of the newsletter.

At this early point, we are asking any interested artists to contact us directly at info@cnn-cpg.org (please

put "CNNC logo" in the subject line) or contact us via the offices at Arch Court. You should also contact us if you know of ways to reach local artists who might be interested.

Please keep in mind that competing logos should all be able to reproduce well in color, black and white and grayscale.

The anticipated deadline for accepting entries is **July 1st, 2009**.



Volunteers Help Green Up Brighton Road

On April 4th 2009, the Allegheny Market House Co-op (AMHC) partnered with TreeVitalize Pittsburgh to plant 10 large trees along the Central Northside portion of Brighton Road. Many of you may know the Allegheny Market House Co-Op for their Saturday Twilight Markets during the summer at Mechanics Retreat Park at the corner of Jacksonia and Buena Vista in the Mexican War Streets. According

to AMHC President Brad Spencer, "This tree planting along with other Brighton corridor and Brighton Place initiatives primary aim is to promote investment and bring attention to our budding business corridor."

Some 19 volunteers dedicated their Saturday to plant these ten street trees along Brighton Road. Becky Coger, the AMHC VP and a long time

Northside resident spearheaded the project with TreeVitalize, a non-profit organization that partners with community groups and other non-profits to "restore tree cover in the Pittsburgh region."

Voting Procedures for May 2009 Election

Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Members eligible to vote will sign next to their name on an alphabetical list available at corresponding tables, these members will receive a paper ballot. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and each candidate will be allowed 3 minutes to address the membership. The election will begin at 7:30 pm. The closed ballot box will be centrally located in the room and Elections will continue until 7:45 pm or until all who wish to vote have done so. Ballots will be counted in a secured area by members of the Board of Directors not seeking re-election. Results will be announced before the close of the meeting.

In accordance with the amended by-laws approved on April 20, 2009, each member shall be entitled to one vote, provided he/she is **[A]** present at the meeting, **[B]** has attended at least one other regular membership or special membership meeting as a dues paid member within the last twelve months, **[C]** is a member listed in the membership list on the record date as established under Article III, Section I of these By-Laws and **[D]** is current with dues.

Also in accordance with the amended by-laws, a member is now defined as any person, at least eighteen years old, who is current with membership dues and resides in the Central Northside Neighborhood. An individual member is eligible to cast one and only one vote or ballot per CNNC decision or election. Group members are not eligible to vote in council business, including the Board of Directors elections.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote or the procedures outlined in this article, please contact CNNC office at 412.231.7742 or by email at info@cnncc-pgh.org

Council Candidates Clash Over Issues and Experience

On Monday evening, April 20th, the CNNC hosted a candidate's forum for the three major candidates in the race for the District 6 seat on Pittsburgh City Council. Addressing the crowd of about 60 of CNNC members and guests were incumbent Councilwoman Tonya Payne and her two challengers, Daniel Lavelle and Mark Brentley, Sr.

While the candidates had areas of clear agreement in terms of issues like crime prevention and the need to foster a stable tax base in the city, they also clashed on issues such as the level and type of experience needed for the job and the rate of progress on development projects throughout the district.

The forum lasted for just under 90 minutes and the candidates answered questions from the moderator, CNNC VP Greg Spicer, and later questions submitted from the audience. The questions posed to the candidates covered a variety of issues facing our community including economic development, labor, preservation,

homelessness, crime prevention, youth services, housing policy and the possible merger of city and county governments.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

"The scarcest resource is not oil, metals, clean air, capital, labor, or technology. It is our willingness to listen to each other and learn from each other and to seek the truth, rather than seek to be right."

Donella Meadows



"All great changes begin with conversation."

Juanita Brown

Avis Ellis Late arrival: edited for word count only. See page 6.

Joe Mansfield I moved from Chicago to the MWS in February 2003. With partners, I started the Monterey Pub at 1227 Monterey where I lived until moving with Tokuko Yoneya, a 25 year resident of the war streets, in 2006. Since selling my interest in the pub in 2006 I've worked in the pre-engineered steel building business as an estimator and project manager for large projects throughout the nation. I received my BA in Business Administration from St. Leo University in 1980 and my JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1984. Since moving to Pittsburgh I have only lived on the Central Northside. In addition to my membership in CNNC I am also a member of the Mexican War Streets Society. I am currently the Co-Chair of the CNNC Safety Committee and have contributed my time to other committees as well. I truly enjoy living in the War Streets and since growing up as a child in Jersey City, have never had closer neighbors and friends. I want to participate in the ongoing movement to make the Central Northside a better place. My platform for running for the board is simple. I will strive to promote a safe, diverse and enjoyable place to live, work and attend school.

Jan Meyers It was an amazing moment when I rediscovered Pittsburgh three years ago. "Why Pittsburgh my family and friends?" ask still, and I never tire of explaining what a great decision I made to choose the Northside of Pittsburgh in which to retire from 20 years of teaching in Europe. In my speech, US Government, and English classes I trained young adults to become positively participating members of the American society and, now, it is my turn. My husband and I love our "historic" home and neighborhood. Putting expertise and passion together to contribute to the positive development of our neighborhood seems to be a perfect match. Serving on the By-laws Committee has allowed me to meet many devoted people also serving this neighborhood and provided me with valuable information with which to make decision for the future of the CNNC. I am excited to be a part of a community revitalization program that serves our diverse population.

Dennis McAndrew The strength of our community is a forecast of our future. Whether we become a community with a high quality of life depends on our fundamental commitment to each other and our active involvement in enhancing our neighborhood's future. My experience and qualifications make me enthusiastic about the positive things I would bring to CNNC to build a better future for Central Northside. I commend all those who have served on the Board through the years for bringing us to this point of renewal. As a Board member, I would encourage this renewal and development. The skills I would utilize were honed in 30+ years in the nonprofit sector. Before my recent retirement, I was the CEO of drug/alcohol, health care and senior service organizations. I have a record of success in managing complex, community-based initiatives and achieving real results. I am driven by a vision of what we can achieve together. I ask you to choose me to continue the creativity, collaboration and community development as we plan for our future.



David McMunn This candidate did not submit a bio.

Neil Parham Neil Parham has been in the Central Northside since May 2008 and was elected to the board during the Fall special election. Neil works at PricewaterhouseCoopers where he is a member of the Human Resources team focusing on recruiting for the Lake Erie Market that consists of Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Rochester NY,

and Cleveland OH. He also assists with special projects related to diversity, retention, and performance. He was appointed to the City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations in 2007 by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and was nominated for Pittsburgh's 40 under 40 award in 2006 and 2008. In his free time, Neil volunteers with a handful of other

non-profit and professional organizations but also finds the time to relax, connect with family and friends, and play dodgeball. Neil hopes to continue working with the CNNC as a board member to ensure that each and every voice that the CNNC represents is heard and considered throughout the decision making process.

Julie Peterson I have now served on the Board since October 2008 and I am looking to continue onto a 2 year term. I currently work on the Communication Committee, sending announcements, working on our website and making sure the neighborhood is kept up to date with what's happening at the CNNC, which also includes mailing the Newsletter to the

entire neighborhood, not just our membership list. I also served on the Recruitment Committee that hired our new ED and Chair the Youth Committee. Who said serving on a Board was boring! The CNNC have definitely kept me busy and I've learned a lot, I've learned that you cannot please all of the people all of the time! But I also learned that you've got to be engaged and willing to step outside

your own comfort zone to get things done. I'm a very active and hands on member of this Board, there are very few things that I don't feel comfortable tackling and through the continued support of my husband Jason, my friends and neighbors I hope to continue to make positive changes for all in this great neighborhood. Thank You for your support.

*"Respect
is the center
of the circle
of community."*

Manitonquat

David Shlapak I was raised in a steel town west of Cleveland. The first one in my family to graduate from college, I've worked for 26 years at RAND, a non-profit "think tank", where I focus on national security issues. After living all across the country, Belinda and I seized an opportunity to trade DC's suburban sprawl for city life, coming to Pittsburgh and the

Central Northside eight years ago. We remain happy with our choice; this beautiful, welcoming, dynamic, and diverse neighborhood suits us. We all know the problems we face: Not enough jobs, and too many guns, too many drugs. Bored, restless kids looking for trouble, and too often finding it. Derelict buildings and litter-filled empty lots. The list, sadly, goes on. The CNNC can't fix these problems

by itself. But, as we've seen recently, capable leaders and enthusiastic members make it a powerful catalyst for progress. We must build on that success and try even harder to make the Central Northside a community where all of our neighbors can proudly live with dignity and in safety. There's work to be done, and I want to help; that's why I asking for your support.

Thanks for your consideration.

Candidates continue page 6



Meet the Candidates

[cont'd from page 4-5]

Barbara Talerico

"I've lived in

Central Northside since 1997. An IT manager for The Bank of New York Mellon, I'm married to Glenn Olcerst, an attorney and artist who has lived in the War Streets since 1976. I fell in love with this place immediately and tried to help where I could: I served on the Allegheny Commons Steering Committee, developing a master plan and selecting a landscape architect

for the park. As president of the Mexican War Streets Society, I improved its financial situation; worked with the Mayor and URA to bring businesses and artists to our area; had the newsletter professionally produced and mailed to every resident; and established the website. I chaired the fundraising committee for Manchester Craftsmen's Guild / Bidwell Training Center and served on a marketing committee for Pittsburgh

History and Landmarks Foundation. Last year, on behalf of the CNNC, I coordinated the painting of the colorful mural on the Garden Theater block, and served on the Federal/North Committee. I'm running for the CNNC Board because this dynamic organization is making great strides for the neighborhood I love and I have the experience and ability to help it achieve its goals."

Avis Ellis

As a resident and as a current member of this board I am quite qualified

to assist in the successful achievement of the major concerns of the people of this neighborhood, as stated in the mission statement of the CNNC. My qualifications include more than 30 years of service on state and country wide, community, political, academic

and philanthropic boards. My qualifications also include the life long personal and professional interaction with a diverse population especially on the basis of interaction, understanding and communication. As an African American female with a phd in psychology who has a nation wide experiential background my time that has already been given to the board

convinces me that these are absolutely necessary qualifications to support my continuing as a member of this board. I am of diversity re: gender and of being a person of color and am nationally experimentally qualified. You and I will be well represented by my continued service on the Board of Directors of the CNNC.

Rich in Diversity
Rich in Promise

Allegheny Commons Garden Society

Do you like to dig in the dirt? Would you like to learn more about gardening from experts, without having to maintain a big yard or garden yourself? The Allegheny Commons Garden Society needs you! As part of the ongoing renovation of Allegheny Commons Park, we are organizing the ACGS to manage the planting and maintenance of the garden beds in the park.

We have identified "captains" who are responsible for organizing the work needed for each garden bed. We are now looking for volunteers to assist with weeding, planting, mulching, trimming, and other maintenance activities with the coordination of the captains. The time commitment and expertise required can be as little or as much as you have to offer. But if

you are a frequent user of the park, or simply enjoy it from afar, we need you!

For further information on the Allegheny Commons Garden Society please contact Laurie Charlton, 412.586.7658



May 2009 General Membership Meeting

DATEMay 18, 2009

TIME 8:00 pm

LOCATION..... Allegheny Traditional Academy

May Meeting Agenda

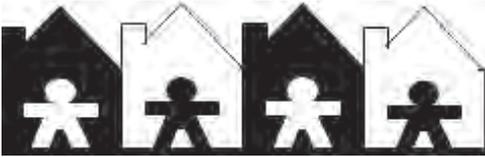
- **Board of Directors Candidate Introduction**
- **Board of Directors Election**
- **Bill Barron will present updated plans for Crazy Mocha**
- **CNNC Financial Review**

Upcoming Events

- May 18 (Monday) ~ General Membership Meeting ~ 7:00 pm ~ Allegheny Traditional Academy
- June 14 (Saturday) ~ Liberation Spirit ~ 9:30 am ~ AUUC
- WATCH for the Upcoming Community Planning Meetings

Announcements

- Kayak Pittsburgh ~ Lake Elizabeth ~ OPENS May 23 (Saturday) Hours: Monday-Friday 4:00 pm to dusk and Saturday-Sunday 11:00 am to dusk. Rates: \$5.00 per person (solo and tandem kayaks only)
- STONEWALL ~ The Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church is holding a series of events dubbed, "Liberation Spirit" on Saturday, June 14, 2009 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The church is planning a 9:30 am worship service followed by bus transport at 10:30 am to the annual Gay Pride Parade downtown. All are welcomed to attend.
- Currently we have one remaining CNNC camera left to install, we can control the positioning. As per the Mayor's commitment, installation of the CCTV Cameras that will be connected to Zone 1, will hopefully begin mid to late May. We will communicate with the Police as to the positioning of these cameras and if anyone would like to nominate a location for a camera, please contact us with your suggestions. In light of the recent vandalism and car break-in's on Monterey there seems no better time for these cameras to arrive.
CNNC Safety Committee info@cnc-pgh.org



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1310 Arch Street
Pittsburgh PA 15212

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Rich in Diversity. Rich in Promise.

Dear CNNC & MWSS,

We recently contacted Ms. Mary Monaghan, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Assistant Director for Neighborhood Libraries, regarding the possibility of sponsoring a subscription, on a continuing basis, for a daily/weekly/monthly journal or newspaper (i.e. National Geographic, Scientific American or the Post-Gazette) for our new library. As I'm sure everyone here in the community is, we're very very happy to see the library coming and we wanted to show our support in a concrete way. Much to our delight, Ms. Monaghan has taken us up on our offer.

Ms. Monaghan advised us that she would have the library's new manager contact us, once he/she was named, with a list of publications which the library will be subscribing to, and that we can then pick from that list.

We wanted to let the rest of the neighborhood know about this simple way that people of the MWS and Central Northside can welcome and support our new asset. Would you please consider posting the following notice on your websites and in your newsletters. We would be happy to act as a point of contact for interested donors or we could pass on to you both the name and contact info for the manager once we receive it.

"Our new library is almost here! As a way of welcoming and supporting our new neighbor, please consider sponsoring a subscription, on a continuing basis, for a daily/weekly/monthly journal or newspaper (i.e. National Geographic, Scientific American or the Post-Gazette) in the library's name. It's a relatively simple and inexpensive way to invest in your community and you'll know that your money is going to something specific and tangible that will be of great value to all your neighbors who use the library."

Thanks,

Bill and Susan Steen
1322 Arch Street

412.482.1537