



New Allegheny Times

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS SOCIETY AND THE CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Looking for a Few Good Members

TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS...to come to the MWSS General Membership Meeting on May 16th. Many years ago a resident of the North Side realized the neighborhoods were disappearing before his eyes. Armed with his camera he went out photographing and chronicling what was there and sadly, what is no longer there. Once again, David Grinnell who is the Chief Archivist for the Senator John Heinz History Center will present these slides. David will provide a look into the past. The MWSS General Membership Meeting will precede the slide presentation at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church at 416 West North Avenue. See you there.

SEEKING HOMES FOR 42nd ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR (September Date TBD)

We are actively seeking homeowners who are interested in joining the parade of homes that represent our unique and renowned historic neighborhood. Our house tour is the most established tour in the city of Pittsburgh, and is the major fundraising event for the Mexican War Streets Society. Chairing the house tour again this year are David and Laurie Charlton. If you would like to put your house on tour, please send your information to Homeowner Liaison, Leslie Ward at ljward@yahoo.com or call 412.596.0181. You may also contact Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net or call 412.848.1083. If you would like to volunteer for the tour, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Nichols at 412.231.0927 or lostlonelyandviciousbaby@yahoo.com. Hope to see you on tour!

Bruce Harshman, MWSS President **MMS**

While Moving Forward, Don't Forget to Look Back Once in Awhile

During the April 11th CNNC general membership meeting, our Development Director, Tom Hardy, leaned over to show me an email he just received notifying us that the Elm Street Committee at the Urban Redevelopment Committee was going to recommend to the full URA board that the CNNC receive \$25,000 to study how to improve our designated "Elm Street" district—an area from Arch Street east, encompassing the entire eastern third of the Central Northside. This is especially welcome news for residents of Boyle Street and its surrounds as they have particularly suffered from years of decline and have many vacant properties to deal with. Earlier in the day, the URA had informed us of their interest in investing further in the CNNC's ambitious scattered lot housing development with October Development and S&A Homes in order to expedite the project.

By the next issue of the *New Allegheny Times*, the CNNC membership will likely have ratified a "Memorandum of Understanding" with October Development and site preparation will have begun on Phase I of the project. The new deli at 4 East North Avenue will likely be open and the residents of Federal Hill can stroll down the street for a coffee and some good deli food at a corner which just a scant year or so ago was given up for dead. As talked about at the last CNNC meeting, plans for acquiring tenants for the Garden Theater Block and it is likely that site preparation work will begin this summer. Also, by the end of May, the CNNC will have made a significant reinvestment in marketing the neighborhood to future residents and homeowners by hiring a branding/PR firm to promote the neighborhood to a national and, thanks to modern technology, international audience. Most astonishing: In a region which continues to lose population, our neighborhood has the real potential to increase in population by 15-20% in about ten years!

All of these things, taken together, show that our organization has made and will continue to make a difference. These developments are not the result of one single person but of many people working together, sometimes in the face of steep odds and strong opposition. While moving forward it's important to look back once in awhile and thank those who've worked so hard to make things happen.

So, I want to say how privileged I feel to have served the community in my role as board President for the past two years and I now look forward to my final year on the CNNC board as its past-President. I would like to thank everyone who listened to our vision for the Central Northside and took it seriously and helped make all that has happened, happen. Your work has made our neighbors' lives better and their futures more secure. Now, together, let's keep moving FORWARD!

Greg Spicer, CNNC President



MAY / JUNE 2011



PO Box 6588
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-323-9030
www.mexicanwarstreets.org

OUR MISSION:
To preserve the historic character of the Mexican War Streets and to promote our neighborhood through personal and community involvement.



PO Box 6255
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
www.cnnc-pgh.org

MISSION STATEMENT:
To enhance the lives of all Central Northside residents.

VISION STATEMENT:
By end of 2015 CNNC will transform all our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds.

NEW ALLEGHENY TIMES
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CNNC Board Nominees

NOMINEES RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION:

Joe Mansfield has lived on the Central Northside since 2003 when he relocated from Chicago to purchase and start the Monterey Pub. He sold the pub in 2007 and started a small business. Joe is a member of the MWSS and has been a member of the CNNC since 2007. In 2009, Joe was elected to the board of directors of the CNNC and has served on several committees as well as providing advice in the areas of law, insurance and real estate. Joe is dedicated to improving the Central Northside through well-managed development projects, as well as improving the safety of the neighborhood. He looks forward to serving another two-year term on the board to see the exciting Garden Block development come to fruition.

Julie Peterson is running for re-election to continue the important work that has been started since she first joined the board in 2009. She is interested in continuing to spread the word about this fantastic neighborhood that she calls home and to volunteer her time as needed. "We have made great progress and there is a lot more to do. I hope to be a part of that."

Barbara Talerico has lived in this neighborhood since 1997. An IT project manager for The Bank of New York Mellon, she is married to Glenn Olcerst, an attorney and artist who has lived in the War Streets since 1976. Some of her accomplishments in the past two years as CNNC Treasurer include financial reporting, outreach and fundraising. "I'm running for a second term on the CNNC Board because this dynamic organization is making great strides for the neighborhood I love and I have the experience, desire, and ability to help it achieve its goals. I want to thank my fellow CNNC Board members for their assistance and their dedication to our neighborhood, and hope to have the opportunity to serve with them for another two years." (See Barbara's complete profile at www.cnnpcgh.org)

NOMINEES RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

Anthony Cabral was brought to Pittsburgh with American Eagle in 2002. After being taken through all of Pittsburgh's uniquely differing neighborhoods, only one stuck out...the Central Northside. So much opportunity, such a great aesthetic and relatively accessible. Anthony purchased his first rental property on Resaca Place, where he and his future wife lived for two years prior to moving to Ben Avon. Anthony and Lauren Cabral moved back to the Northside in 2008. Their prior experience was enough to make them miss all that the neighborhood has to offer, leading them back to where they want to be. Being drawn to the neighborhood for its rich history, architectural charm, and obvious growth potential is only a start. What has enhanced this couple's desire to become more involved in the neighborhood's development are its inhabitants. Meeting so many interesting, dedicated, and talented individuals has been motivating, to say the least.

Chris D'Addario has been a resident of the Northside of Pittsburgh for 11 years. His years living and working in our neighborhood have afforded him the opportunity to befriend quite a few of his neighbors. He is an active member of the CNNC as well as a Lifetime Member of the Mexican War Streets Society. "I moved to Pittsburgh from Massachusetts in 1997 to start a business. The pulse and vibe that Pittsburgh had in the late 90's drew me here. Living in both Greentree and Churchill before moving to Manchester, in 2002 I relocated to the Central Northside for its architecture, its diversity and its strong sense of community. Now in 2011, the same vibe that I felt in 1997 is pervasive throughout the North Side. Serving as a CNNC Board Member from 2008 to 2010, I focused my efforts on safety issues. As current development opportunities are completed and new ones - unimaginable just a few years ago - present themselves, I am excited at the chance to affect change, making the Northside a destination of choice. Elected as a Member of the CNNC Board, I would dedicate my efforts to help fulfill the CNNC Vision Statement: 'By end of 2015 CNNC will transform all our neighborhood's vacant lots and empty storefronts by filling them with thriving individuals, commerce and families of all kinds.'"

Twenty years ago, **Arthur James** moved to Pittsburgh from Indianapolis. Seven years ago it was time for him to buy his first home. Having lived in the suburbs all of his life, he wanted to experience what life in a city neighborhood had to offer. He looked for a house in many of

Pittsburgh's neighborhoods, but as soon as he started looking in the Central Northside, it was obvious from the start that there is a real sense of community here that you don't find elsewhere. Now he feels like buying a home here is the best decision he could have made. "I'm constantly amazed by what CNNC has been able to accomplish and I've realized that it's one more thing that distinguishes our neighborhood from others in the city. I don't know of any other organization that has done such an outstanding job of engaging the community to put together a master plan and then following up on that plan with real progress. None of this could have happened without the dedication and hard work put forth by all of the past and present members of the board and everyone who has volunteered their time and energy for the good of our neighborhood. If nothing else, I'd like to express my gratitude to all of you. But even more, I'd like to help carry this momentum forward and I hope I can do so by serving on the board."

Scott Mosser moved to the Central Northside in 2006. While he's lived in many places all over the country, he feels the Central Northside is a truly unique place. "The community of people that make up the Central Northside is what is truly special and I feel the CNNC is the body that best represents those interests. Over the past six years I've attended CNNC meetings and played small roles on the Safety and Communication committees, but feel that it's important that I now step up and do my share help move the projects like the Garden Theater block and the Community plan to their logical conclusions."

Paco Mahone is a native of Pittsburgh, a father of two boys, husband, writer, musician, and nerd. As a child and teen, his experience of the Northside was limited to stadium events (Pittsburgh teams at Three Rivers, Pink Floyd), theater and music (August Wilson plays, jazz at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild) and the great Northside museums. He has fond memories of coming to the Northside to buy action figures at Zayre's, a long-gone department store in the Allegheny Mall. "After living in New York City and returning to Pittsburgh, my wife Denise and I, and our soon-to-be-born son, Eamonn, looked for a neighborhood to call home. The Northside was the last place we looked and the very best choice. We have lived on the Northside for almost six years, and can't imagine living anywhere else. I feel part of a diverse community and I believe in the immense potential of this neighborhood. I feel very blessed to live in this community and want to contribute to its evolution. Plus, many may remember my last cat Dolphy was the Mayor of Mexican War Streets. I figure I can do better than a cat. If elected, I will be a seriously fun board member."

Thomas and Karina Westfall have resided on Garfield Avenue, in the area also known as North Jacksonia, since 2010. While living in Wexford, PA, they found the 45-minute commute to their jobs located in the Strip and the North Shore quite stressful. After looking for a place to call home, the couple landed in the Mexican War Streets neighborhood by accident while looking for a barbecue restaurant on Federal Street. Immediately, they fell in love with the architecture of the houses, the picturesque layout of the neighborhood and the West Park. Karina is originally from Ecuador, South America, and Thomas is from Ithaca, NY. Together, they have lived in New York City, Tampa, FL and Wexford, PA. While living in New York City, Karina volunteered as a singer at the New York Cares choir, and worked for a Public Relations firm as a Marketing Coordinator, while Thomas volunteered as the finance committee chairman for the West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH), an emergency food pantry offering counseling and training programs that help low-income individuals. In Tampa, Karina worked in big corporations as a Marketing Specialist and Marketing Financial Analyst. Karina holds a Bachelors of Arts with Marketing and Finance concentrations. She is currently working as a consultant at Highmark. Professionally, Thomas has 30 years of experience in software development in several industries, and had become an expert in the medical device industry. Thomas is currently working as a project leader at Omnyx, a joint venture of General Electric and UPMC. The couple has held meetings with North Side Associates and negotiated the installation of cameras in the Garfield-Alpine area. In addition, Thomas has reviewed the Section 8 tenant selection process, and use of constables in the area with the aforementioned company. Karina will bring a creative mind, as well as excellent communications and negotiation skills to the Board of Directors, while Thomas will bring excellent project management skills. They are both devoted to the continued growth of the Northside neighborhoods as a viable diverse community.

MWSS Neighborhood-Wide Yard & Art Sale

Got junk? Turn your trash (or treasures) into cash during the Mexican War Streets Neighborhood-Wide **Yard & Art Sale** on **Saturday, May 14** from 9am - 4pm. Participation is easy -- if you live in the MWS neighborhood (from Buena Vista to Arch and North Avenue to Jefferson) just set up your goods for sale in front of your house...inside your house...or in groups of your choice. Community artists are also encouraged to display and sell their artwork. There is no cost to you. The MWSS will promote the event, and we encourage you to share the date with anyone who might be interested in attending. **MWSS**

Gardening Day on Perry Hilltop

Come one, come all to the **4th Annual Gardening Day** at Reformed Presbyterian Home (2344 Perrysville Avenue) on nearby Perry Hilltop, **Saturday, May 7th** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Help us to beautify our grounds and visit with a senior resident as well. Breakfast and lunch snacks provided. Bring your own gardening tools if you wish. Plant the seeds of growth and friendship on the Northside! Young and old are welcome! For more information, contact Sandy Pagone at 412-321-4139 or www.spagone@rphome.org.

Pedal Pittsburgh

May 22, 2011

PEDAL PITTSBURGH 2011

Fun bike ride showcasing Pittsburgh's diverse neighborhoods. Cyclists of all riding abilities can participate with routes ranging from 6-60 miles. Sponsored by the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh. Cost is \$25/rider; \$55/family. To ride or volunteer, 412.232.3545 or www.pedalpittsburgh.org.



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MWSS MEMBERSHIP:

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(Annual dues: \$12 per member, \$6 students/seniors 65+, \$50/5 years or \$150 Lifetime Member.

Dues period through Dec 2011 or in perpetuity.)

I would like to be involved with:

House Tour

Special Events

Neighborhood Beautification

Historic Preservation

Safe Streets

PR/Clerical Help

Please return this form with your payment to:

Mexican War Streets Society, PO Box 6588, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Kidstuff at the Library!

Family Playshop - Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17 & 24 11 am

Bring your little to our playgroup program. We will enjoy age appropriate toys, have an expert on hand for casual conversation and end with a fun storytime. Babies & toddlers.

Mother's Day Tea - Saturday, May 7 12 pm

Celebrate Mother's Day on the children's room terrace. We will listen to a story and share treats. This program is for moms or mother figures and their families.

Imagination Builders: Lego Club - Sats, May 21, 28 & June 4, 11 2 pm

Children and their caregivers are invited to use their imagination by building structures using a variety of building toys. Grade PreK-6.

Summer Reading Kick-Off Party - Saturday, June 18 12 pm

Children who participate in the Library's Summer Reading program do much better in school when they return in the fall! Celebrate the beginning of Summer Reading Club at our kick-off party where you can register for summer reading, play games and enjoy refreshments. All ages.

Please call 412.237.1890 or visit www.carnegielibrary.org for Teen and Adult programs, plus more information. Carlton Stout, Manager
Carnegie Library Pittsburgh - Allegheny

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West Ohio & Ridge Avenue Bridges

The City of Pittsburgh is preparing to work on the West Ohio Street Bridge and to demolish the Ridge Avenue Bridge. Both of these bridges were designed to carry pedestrian and vehicular traffic over the railroad corridor that passes through West Park. The bridges themselves are historic structures and form a portion of the historic park landscape. The bridges have structural deficiencies that must be addressed and they stand in the way of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC's) goal of providing clearance for taller trains in this rail corridor. In August 2006 the Pennsylvania PUC issued order A-00119379 which:

1. Approves a request by the City of Pittsburgh to remove the Ridge Avenue crossing over the Norfolk Southern Railway because of its deteriorated condition.
2. Directs the City of Pittsburgh to submit preliminary design plans for the replacement of the West Ohio Street Bridge, with 22 feet of vertical clearance over the track bed.
3. Mandates that the design plans "take into consideration the historic and aesthetic nature of the Allegheny Commons Park and the recreational activities conducted therein."

Sometime in May, the general public will be invited to view the City's plans. You will see how the landscape will change with the removal of the Ridge Avenue bridge and the rebuilding of the West Ohio Street Bridge. Presently there is a slight rise in roadway elevation at the bridge and the trains are largely out of sight. In order to provide 22-foot track bed clearance, either the track bed must be lowered by four feet or the bridge raised by four feet or more. While track lowering was studied, it has been judged to be not feasible, so in reality what we will be looking at is a bigger "hill" at the bridge location, and roadway and sidewalks ramping up to the bridge from both sides. At some time in the future we will be seeing more of the trains as they pass through the park with taller loads.

So far the City has met with community Stakeholders once and with community Consulting Parties (neighborhood group representatives) twice. The Consulting Parties have voiced a number of historic and aesthetic concerns with raising the bridge and have questioned the wisdom of basing the track lowering/bridge raising decision primarily on West Ohio Street Bridge economics when 22-foot clearance will be an issue at North Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue bridges in the future. All these concerns appear to have been overruled. Please watch for an announcement of the West Ohio Street Bridge Public Meeting and plan to attend so that you can form your own opinion about community impact, ask your own questions and make suggestions about how you think this project should be done.

Written by Jerrold Green for **CNNC**

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Historic District Expansion

As you may know, for more than a decade, residents of the Central Northside have been working toward expanding City Historic designation beyond the current borders of the Mexican War Streets City Historic District. Notwithstanding the unique history of the War Streets, the whole of the Central Northside retains the largely intact footprint of Allegheny City with block after block of Victorian row houses from the heyday of that proud Victorian city. With the preservation of Manchester, Allegheny West and significant portions of Historic Deutchtown, we now have the opportunity to preserve much of the contiguous footprint and the valuable structures of the old city for the sake of the entire city and region, now and into the future.

Therefore, the Central Northside Neighborhood Council is joining with The Mexican War Streets Society to propose the establishment of a city historic district whose boundaries include nearly the entirety of what is now the Central Northside.

This is no small matter. We have done substantial and painstaking research and have enlisted the help of historians and preservationists best acquainted with the history of Allegheny City in general and our neighborhood in particular to help us write a detailed justification for this proposal.

The CNNC, for example, has undertaken an ambitious development agenda and is keenly aware of protecting the built environment as the neighborhood rapidly repopulates and various forms of new construction are proposed and built. Likewise, the MWSS has laid the groundwork for this proposal by already securing expanded designations at the state and federal level—an official recognition of the value of the larger neighborhood.

Bruce Harshman, MWSS President
Greg Spicer, CNNC President



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May 5 – 8, 2011

The Glue Factory Project: Are We There Yet?

Presented by CORNINGWORKS and the New Hazlett Theater
 The Glue Factory Project is an annual production created on internationally and nationally renowned performers over the age of 40.

May 13 – 22, 2011

Antigone

Presented by Prime Stage Theatre
 You will be totally immersed in the story through performance, music and dance bringing this classic Greek play to life.

May 25, 2011

cityLIVE!

Presented by no wall productions, Heinz Family Foundation, New Hazlett Theater
 A series of free events showcasing all things Pittsburgh!

May 26, 2011

Sweet Night on the North Side

Presented by New Hope for Neighborhood Renewal
 Third annual fundraising concert and gourmet dessert reception featuring jazz pianist/composer, Rick Gallagher; the soulful sounds of singer/songwriter, Joy Ike; and the high energy music of Flo Wilson and the Old School Band.

June 4, 2011

Songwriters Spotlight

Presented by The New Hazlett Theater
 Join us for this ongoing series of intimate evenings of music, songs and stories hosted by two local legends - Joe Grushecky and Rick Witkowski. They will perform some of their original music as well as songs they wish they had penned.

June 27, 2011–July 1, 2011

Summer Arts Intensive

Music, Dance and Theater Camp for ages 8 - 12 years
 Presented by the New Hazlett Theater
 Class instruction and workshops led by Pittsburgh's finest teaching artists. Choose from Theater Arts, Dance and Creative Movement or Songwriting/Music.

Progressive Diners!

The Mexican War Streets Society would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person involved in making the **2011 Progressive Dinner** another huge success. To all of the hard working cooks in the neighborhood who prepared appetizers, dinner and the desserts, thank you! To every person who generously provided a warm place to enjoy appetizers or dinner on a cold winter's night, thank you! And a very special thanks to Jen Hursh, for providing her amazing Arch Street home for the bountiful dessert event! Attendance of 110 people (11 groups) required 22 private homes as well as Brent & Shallory opening the Buena Vista Cafe for the plan to succeed. The wine was flowing, the conversations were lively, the food was delicious and \$2,000 was donated toward MWSS neighborhood projects. Hope to see you all again next year on Saturday, February 25, 2012!

Sandy Kniess, MWSS Social Chair 



From left: Dan & Kathy Deis, Greg Mucha; Neill Stouffer; Barbara Talerico, Laurie Charlton & Sandy Kniess; Neil Parham, Chad Fisher, Zandrea Ambrose & Nick Boardman; Susan Kosy, Jana Thompson & Susan Mucha; Hillary Masters & Kathleen George; Bob Beckham; David Charlton, Dan Wintermantel & Steve Smith. Photos courtesy of Leslie Vincen.



First Saturday Clean-Up Day

After the rain stopped, our First Saturday Clean-up Day in April was a success. We saw new friends and old and managed to clean up both Mechanics Retreat and Drivers Repose, and many alleys and sidewalks. We look forward to First Saturday Clean-up on **May 7th** when Urban Impact Pittsburgh will be joining us at 12 noon to work on projects with us. If anyone one has a project that they would like help with or to lead a project that day please email Kathy Deis at kdeis@aol.com or call me at 412-321-6979.

I would like to thank Ryan Costello, newcomer to the neighborhood and owner of the Buena Vista Coffee Shop building, for his donation towards flowers to be planted in Mechanics Retreat Park. And thanks for the help from all the neighbors that came out on that First Saturday Neighborhood Clean-up, We'd also like to thank the barristers and owners of the Buena Vista Coffeeshop for their support!

Kathy Deis, MWSS Greenspace Chair **MMS**



(Photo of Steve Adams & Greg Spicer; Kathy Deis & Riley; John Engle & Tom Cihil courtesy of Leslie Vincen)

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Toula's! Another Innovative Development Success for the CNNC

If you've been following the saga of Toula's Hot Dog Shop at 1108 Federal Street, you'll be happy to know there has been a positive outcome, thanks to the dedication of CNNC volunteers and the generosity of Duquesne Light and the URA. And, that means that the redevelopment of this important property can move forward.

Façade improvements on the east side of Federal Street, an innovative project that the CNNC Development Committee had been working on with several businesses for one year, was put on hold recently due to the untimely death of the former owner of Toula's and the building being condemned. This past March, with the cooperation and support of Duquesne Light Company, the CNNC was able to take control of the former Toula's through a sheriff sale. With this development, the façade project was free to go forward and CNNC immediately transferred the property to Bill Barron, the developer of Crazy Mocha and the new deli on North Avenue. This important step in redeveloping Federal North was the culmination of many months of hard work and innovation by dedicated volunteers.

According to Tom Hardy, Development Consultant to CNNC, "Kirk Burkley (the Co-Chair of the CNNC Development Committee), was instrumental in making this happen. He learned that Duquesne Light held a lien on that property and reached out, resulting in a donation of the lien to CNNC. He also reached out to Rob Stephany at URA, resulting in a \$20,000 grant to the CNNC as equity in the project."

For those interested in the details – CNNC tried for several months to buy the building from the former owners' heirs, but could not come to an agreement and they refused to even open an estate. After doing a title search we noticed that Duquesne Light had a judgment against the property. We then approached Duquesne Light about donating and assigning the judgment to the CNNC so that we could foreclose on the property and take ownership at sheriff sale. Duquesne Light agreed and assigned its judgment to the CNNC for \$1.

Because the project will require significant structural restoration and negotiation with a few other lien holders, Kirk Burkley, on behalf of the CNNC, approached the URA about making a grant to assist with the project. Again, the URA saw the value in this important project and made a \$20,000 grant to the CNNC as equity in the project.

We thank all of our partners, in particular Duquesne Light and the URA, and volunteers who have helped to make this another success and look forward to Bill Barron's next project in Federal North!

Karen Bryant
 Marketing and Communications Consultant
 Central Northside Neighborhood Council
Karen@kjrbryant.com



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MF: Exhibits & Events

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Gestures 15: An Exhibition of Small Site-Specific Works

Initiated in 2001, Gestures 15 marks the 10th year of presenting new, small site-specific works by artists from the Pittsburgh area. Since that time, the museum has presented new work by 194 Pittsburgh-based artists and creative thinkers. Guest-curator Katherine Talcott, Gestures 15 includes new work from Sue Abramson, Chris Craychee, Jerstin Crosby, Will Giannotti, Deborah Hosking, HOT SPOTS: What Comes After Oil? (artist collaborators Ann T. Rosenthal, Wendy Osher, Elizabeth Monoian, and Karin Bergdolt), Stephanie Mayer-Staley, Ingrid Nagin, and Garry Pyles.

May 13 - August 21, 2011

Neighbo(u)rhood

Neighbo(u)rhood is the title of this summer's large-scale group exhibition at the Mattress Factory. The exhibition includes events, sculpture, photographs, installations and video-based works, which present differing points of departure and reflections upon the idea of neighborhood by artists Glenn Loughran, Ferhat Özgür, Seamus Nolan, Sarah Pierce/The Metropolitan Complex, Diane Samuels, Elisabeth Subrin, and Dawn Weleski. The exhibition re-considers the idea of neighborhood here and now, the figure of the neighbor and how to live together. The title refers to a difference of translation but also an assertion of the role of you in the existence of neighborhood whether spatial or defined by community; neighborhood as an incomplete project.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Friday, June 17, 2011

2011 Urban Garden Party: From Hollywood to Paradise

Chaired by Michael White and Rick LeBeau

Each year, the Urban Garden Party becomes the talk of the town as more than 1,000 attendees turn out to help support the museum's mission in a festive, celebratory atmosphere. The Urban Garden Party will take place from 7:00 to 11:00 pm. A VIP Pre-Party, hosted by Bob Sendall of All in Good Taste Productions, will begin at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, June 19, 2011

2011 Urban Garden Party: Family and Community Day (FREE)

On Sunday – the Mattress Factory is open for FREE for everyone. Stop by the Mattress Factory on Sunday from Noon-5pm to play outside and check out the museum. Activities include screen printing, hands-on art activities, exhibition tours, and more.

Contact: info@mattress.org • www.mattress.org

What's Not There Anymore



This photograph is of a house that stood at the corner of Sherman Avenue and W. North Avenue (300 W. North Avenue).

The property was purchased by the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and then torn down to increase their lawn in front of the church. I believe it was derelict for many years and subject to vandalism and small fires. Does anyone in our neighborhood have more information on this property for our archives? David McMunn, MWSS Vice President

MWSS

Shelter Walk Benefits Northside Common Ministries

Shelter Walk 2011: A Walk with a Twist

Starts at 1601 Brighton, ends in West Park

Saturday, June 4th

Walkers begin at 9am

Shelter Walk 2011 is Northside Common Ministries' largest fundraiser of the year. Funds are used to help support the work of our Food Pantry serving 750 families each month and our homeless men's shelter serving 30 men every night. Walkers choose a 1k, 3k or 5 k walk through historic Northside and meet up at West Park for a small festival. For info on sponsorship, being a walker or forming a walk team, email jay.poliziani@ncmin.org, call Jay at 412-363-1163 or visit www.ncmin.org.

THE WADE LAW OFFICE, PC ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Mark T. Wade, Attorney

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Dora the Explorer Discovers CM!

"WHOOSH!"

Through May 22, 2011

Step inside a whirlwind room, climb in the cockpit of an old-school airplane, build and launch rockets, experiment with light and bubbles to create colorful sculptures and much more in this new exhibit all about air.

Dora the Explorer: Dora's Pirate Adventure Exhibit & Live Show Opens Saturday, June 11

Join Dora and her friends - Boots the Monkey, Diego, the Map and more - on an exciting adventure this summer!

Interactive Pirate Adventure

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 5 pm; Friday, 10 am - 1:30 pm;
Saturday, 10 am - 1:30 pm & Sunday, Noon - 1:30 pm

Dress up like a Pirate and set sail on a Pirate ship! Visit Treasure Island and climb the Purple Mountain, climb through a giant treasure chest, create a Pirate memento and more!

Dora's Pirate Adventure, the Theatrical Show

Shows on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 2:30 & 4:30 pm

See this hour-long live performance featuring all of the favorite characters from the Nickelodeon hit show including Dora, Diego, Boots, Swiper and more!

Tickets for the theatrical show are \$12 for Museum members and \$20 for non-members, not including Museum admission. Purchase tickets at www.pittsburghkids.org/tickets

May Day • Sunday, May 1, Noon - 4:30 pm

Make handmade seed paper and plant it in a starter pot of origami-folded newspaper.

Mother's Day CD Card Making • May 1 - 8; 1:00 - 4:00 pm daily by appointment

Make a CD for Mother's Day with The Saturday Light Brigade! SLB staff will conduct and record interviews on an audio CD that can be decorated and affixed to a card as a Mother's Day gift that will be cherished for a lifetime. Purchase of a CD Creation Card Kit from the Museum Gift Shop required.

Mother's Day Gift-Making Studio • Saturday & Sunday, May 7 & 8

Honor Mom with a handmade gift this year using materials from gift-making stations in the Studio.

Colorful Fabric Patterns • Sunday, May 8, Noon - 3:00 pm & Saturday, May 21, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Play with color, shape and pattern with May's F.I.N.E. Artist in Residence, Petra Fallaux. Petra's vividly modern, abstract quilts are inspired by the landscape of the Netherlands, where she grew up. Create your own miniature fabric pattern with the artist. And don't miss her free artist talk exploring pattern, abstraction, improvisation and the unexpected in the art of quilting, on Sunday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh's Theater. The F.I.N.E. Artist Residency Series is supported by the Fine Foundation.

Pittsburgh Public Schools' All City Art Show • Exhibit Runs May 18 - 29, 2011

Opening Reception: May 18, 5:00 - 9:00 pm

This visual arts exhibition and group of performances showcases art and performances by Pittsburgh Public Schools K - 8 students. This exhibit is free to the public, Museum admission not included.

More information at 412.322.5058 or www.pittsburghkids.org

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Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 10am
First Saturday Clean-up Day
Mechanics Retreat Park
kdeis@aol.com

Saturday, May 7, 2011
Annual Gardening Day
Reformed Presbyterian Home, Perry Hilltop
412-321-4139

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 7 - 11pm
Last Look and Free Party
Former Manteca Bar - 1410 Monterey St.
coapgh@yahoo.com

Monday, May 9, 7pm
CNNC General Membership Meeting
Allegheny Traditional Academy
www.cnnc-pgh.org

Saturday, May 14, 9am - 4pm
Mexican War Streets Yard & Art Sale
www.mexicanwarstreets.org

Monday, May 16, 7pm
MWSS General Membership Meeting
Unitarian Church, 416 W. North Ave.
www.mexicanwarstreets.org

Saturday, June 4, 9am
Shelter Walk 2011
Northside Common Ministries
www.ncmin.org

Sunday, June 12, 11am - 4pm
Annual Deutschtown House Tour
www.deutschtown.org

Monday, June 13, 7pm
CNNC General Membership Meeting
Allegheny Traditional Academy
www.cnnc-pgh.org

Friday, June 17
Urban Garden Party
Mattress Factory
www.mattress.org

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COMMUNITY GEMS:

What's New at the New Hazlett Theater?

We're pleased to kick off the new **Community Gems** segment by shining the spotlight on one of North Side's cultural stars, the New Hazlett Theater, and its new Executive Director Rene` Conrad. Rene` sat with me recently in her office in the New Hazlett Theater to talk about her new role as the Executive Director and what the North Side means to this thriving creative enterprise.

Rene`, when did you begin your new position at the New Hazlett and what is your background?

I came to the New Hazlett in January 2011. Prior to that I was Managing Director of Quantum Theater, a professional theater group that performs in found spaces. I also worked with other smaller theaters and worked for many years in the for-profit world. So I have a wide range of experience in business, education and the arts.

What does being the Executive Director of the New Hazlett mean to you?

It is definitely a step up in my career. I'll have an opportunity learn something new and be challenged. I am happy to continue the mission of cultivating the arts and providing a venue for world-class and neighborhood cultural events.

The New Hazlett is a nonprofit theater. How does that work?

The New Hazlett has raised considerable funds to renovate the space. Our goal now is to provide this space to artists and smaller arts groups ready to kick-it up a notch and perform in front of 300 – 500 people. To make that possible for them, the rent we charge is only a portion of what it actually costs us for the space. We then raise the rest from the foundation community and generous individual donors. We hope to soon begin building business partnerships to supplement the fundraising. And, we rely on volunteers for all aspects of our operations. Our most dedicated volunteers are our Board of Directors. And, at every performance, we welcome volunteers to help us make it happen. There is something going on almost everyday. It may not always be a performance; it might be a wedding or a meeting.

What is the history of this amazing building and the New Hazlett?

This building (which housed one of the first Carnegie Free Libraries in the country and the Carnegie Musical Hall – now the New Hazlett) was the cornerstone of the area when it was known as Allegheny City. The building is part of a historic landmark designed in a Richardson Romanesque style. In the 1960s, a major community effort kept it from the wrecking ball. The Pittsburgh Public Theater came into that space then and stayed until 1999 when it moved downtown. Then, in 2004 the community undertook a process of reimagining the space. A consultant was brought in, community meetings were held and a fundraising effort was initiated. The New Hazlett Theater opened up in the fall of 2006 with limited programming that has been ramping up every since. As late as last year when the library moved, another round of community meetings took place and now we're waiting to see what will happen with that part of the building.

Do you think the New Hazlett and the North Side are a good fit?

Absolutely! North Side residents support the arts and we have a wide range of programs to satisfy everyone's interest. And we need their patronage. There is definitely a cultural community on the North Side and we're proud to be part of it. And, we have something to contribute to the business community, as well. We know whose coming and when they are coming. If we could develop partnerships with restaurants that might like to offer a discount to our audience, we could get the word out to these people. We'd like to give business back to the community.

What else would you like the community to know about the New Hazlett?

- Check out the Website regularly to see what's happening at the New Hazlett, and attend these events. We're part of your community. www.newhazletttheater.org

- The building is available for events. In addition to artistic performances, we do meetings and award ceremonies. There are great facilities available to fill many community needs.

- The New Hazlett Theater Summer Arts Camp begins June 27 - July 1, 2011, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm for students in grades 5 - 8 that are interested in music, dance and theater. For more information, contact Desiree Davis, Education Coordinator at des@newhazletttheater.org, or call 412.320.4610 ext 15.

- The New Hazlett Theater is located at: 6 Allegheny Square East, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, 412-320-4610. Please come and see us.

Karen Bryant, CNNC Communications Consultant
Karen Bryant & Associates
Karen@kjbryant.com

CNNC



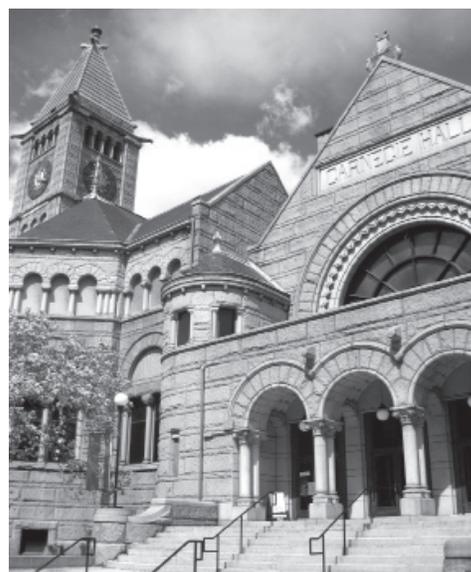
New Hazlett Volunteer Program

If you've always wanted to be part of the arts community, then the New Hazlett Theater is looking for you. Consider being a New Hazlett volunteer.

- **Talents required:** Enthusiasm; big smiles and an interest in the arts. As a volunteer usher, you'll assist patrons to their seats, answering questions, and create a welcoming environment for patrons.

- **Volunteer benefits:** You'll meet new and exciting people as well as see a wide range of quality performances for free in a world-class venue.

- **Getting Started:** If you are interested in joining the usher team, please plan to attend an orientation and training meeting at the theater on Sunday, May 22, 4:00-5:00pm or Monday May 23, 6:00 - 7:00pm. For more information, or to RSVP for a training session, please call Melinda Pietrusza, 412-320-4610 x12 or email melinda@newhazletttheater.org





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National Aviary Events

LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING

Acclaimed birder and photographer **Richard Crossley**, author of the newly released, ground-breaking *Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds*, will visit the National Aviary on **May 16** to speak on his experiences working on this monumental project. This stunningly illustrated bird book revolutionizes design by providing the first real-life approach to identification. Beginners, experts, and anyone in between will find that The Crossley ID Guide vastly improves their ability to identify birds.

Crossley will talk about his research and the beautiful compositions he created for the book, and will take audience questions. Copies of his *Crossley ID Guide* are on sale at the Aviary gift shop, and the author will stay for book-signing after his lecture. The lecture takes place at the National Aviary's FliteZone Theater, May 16, at 7:30 pm. Admission is FREE.

SUMMER CAMPS FOR TEENS, KIDS AT THE NATIONAL AVIARY

Feathers & Fun

Ages 4-5 • June 20-24

9 am - 12 noon

What's in an egg? Why do birds have feathers? Do parrots really eat crackers? Campers will learn what makes birds unique through games, crafts, stories and up-close visits from Aviary birds.

Teen Ornithology Camp

Ages 13-15 • July 20

Become a real "Pittsbirder!" Spend an entire day at the National Aviary learning how to watch birds in the Wetlands and Tropical Forest free-flight exhibits, and outside on the Aviary grounds and in West Park. Aviary staff will teach campers how to use binoculars correctly (bring your own or we'll lend you a pair), how to spot birds, how to observe field marks, how to identify bird species, and how to watch bird behaviors.

Penguins Camp

Ages 6-8 and 9-12 • July 13, 22, 27 and 29; August 3 and 5

Campers will help prepare food for the Aviary's African penguins and see first-hand how these amazing birds are cared for every day by Aviary staff. At the end of the day, campers will take home an original "masterpiece" painted by A-viary talented African penguin!

Rainforest Camp

Ages 6-8 and 9-12 • July 13, 22, 27 and 29; August 3 and 5

Campers will learn why rainforests are home to so many different kinds of plants and animals and why it is important for all of us to do what we can to help protect them. Campers will have the chance to make a one-of-a-kind craft made from sustainable rainforest materials.

Raptors Camp

Ages 6-8 and 9-12 • July 13, 22, 27 and 29; August 3 and 5

Campers will meet some the National Aviary's remarkable raptors, including hawks, owls, falcons and eagles. Participants will learn what these incredible hunters have in common and discover what makes them so perfectly suited to their ecological role in the wild as top predators.

Teen Career Camp

Ages 13-15 • July 15

Join other teens and spend the day working with National Aviary staff. Discover what it takes to care for, feed and train more than 600 birds in this hands-on day camp experience.

NIGHT IN THE TROPICS

Saturday, July 16 • 7 - 11 pm

Enjoy an evening of tropical fun with the National Aviary's flock! Relish selections from Pittsburgh's finest restaurants while dancing under the stars to the music of the Freedom Band. Enjoy thrilling bird encounters as you celebrate the season at the Aviary's annual summer fiesta!

For information on Events and Summer Camps at the National Aviary, call 412.323.7235, x439, email education.programs@aviary.org or click www.aviary.org.



NATIONAL AVIARY
let your spirit soar

KEEP UP TO DATE ON ORG NEWS

The Mexican War Streets Society & the Central Northside Neighborhood Council are pleased to bring the *New Allegheny Times* to you every other month. To contribute to the newsletter, or to place an advertisement, just send an email to Leslie Vincen at lvincen@comcast.net. Be sure to look for neighborhood updates posted at www.cnn-pgh.org and www.mexicanwarstreets.org. To join the email bulletin board, simply join Yahoo and then subscribe to the YahooGroup. The HRL is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChatNorthside>.

City of Asylum Events

READINGS UNDER THE BIG TENT

These readings are free, and will take place outdoors, under a tent behind 318 Sampsonia Way. They will start at 7 pm, and afterward there will be time for questions and answers. Reservations are recommended: 412-321-2190 or coapgh@yahoo.com.

May 3: Three authors (in partnership with PEN World Voices). Hosted by Eric Shiner, Acting Director of the Andy Warhol Museum

David Bezmozgis (Lithuania, now living in Canada)
The Free World

Kyung-Sook Shin (Korea)
Please Look After Mom

Hervé Le Tellier (France)
Enough About Love

May 10: Gary Shteyngart (American, born in Russia)
Super Sad True Love Story
Hosted by Terrance Hayes (Pittsburgh author and winner of the 2010 National Book Award in Poetry).

May 11: Jennifer Kwok (Netherlands via Brooklyn from Hong Kong)
Girl in Translation
Hosted by Bill O'Driscoll of *The City Paper*

LAST LOOK AND FREE PARTY

Saturday, May 7th • 7 to 11 pm
Former Manteca Bar (1410 Monterey St.)
Future site of City of Asylum/Pittsburgh's Alphabet City Literary Center
ALL ARE WELCOME! PLEASE COME!
Take a tour of the bar, get your photo taken as a bartender, plus an optional guided stroll down Sampsonia Way and its "house publications." Then join the party under a tent, off 318 Sampsonia Way. Free music and dancing. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. There will also be a raffle for: three club-level, 40-yardline, Steeler tickets—the game of your choice. Proceeds to benefit City of Asylum/Pittsburgh.

We would like to honor the Manteca and the multicultural backgrounds of our Northside neighbors by featuring the music and spirit of Afro-Cuban jazz found in the history of "Manteca"—a musical collaboration between jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie and the Cuban percussionist Luciano "Chano" Pozo. Please join us for a last look at our own Manteca followed by food, drinks, and a tour of select COA houses on Sampsonia street as we pay homage to our past, present, and look towards the future with the COA's Literary Building to come. Hope to see you there.

A HOME FOR BLACK POETRY

Thursday, June 23rd
City of Asylum/Pittsburgh and Cave Canem: A Home for Black Poetry will again present four great African American poets. The reading is held outdoors under a tent on the Central Northside. This year's poets will include Cave Canem founders Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady along with Natasha Trethewey and Amiri Baraka. Over 300 people attended last year, when the tent was set up on Monterey Street.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Our annual **Jazz Poetry Concert**, held on Sampsonia Way.

great food • large selection of cold beer • fabulous martinis
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