

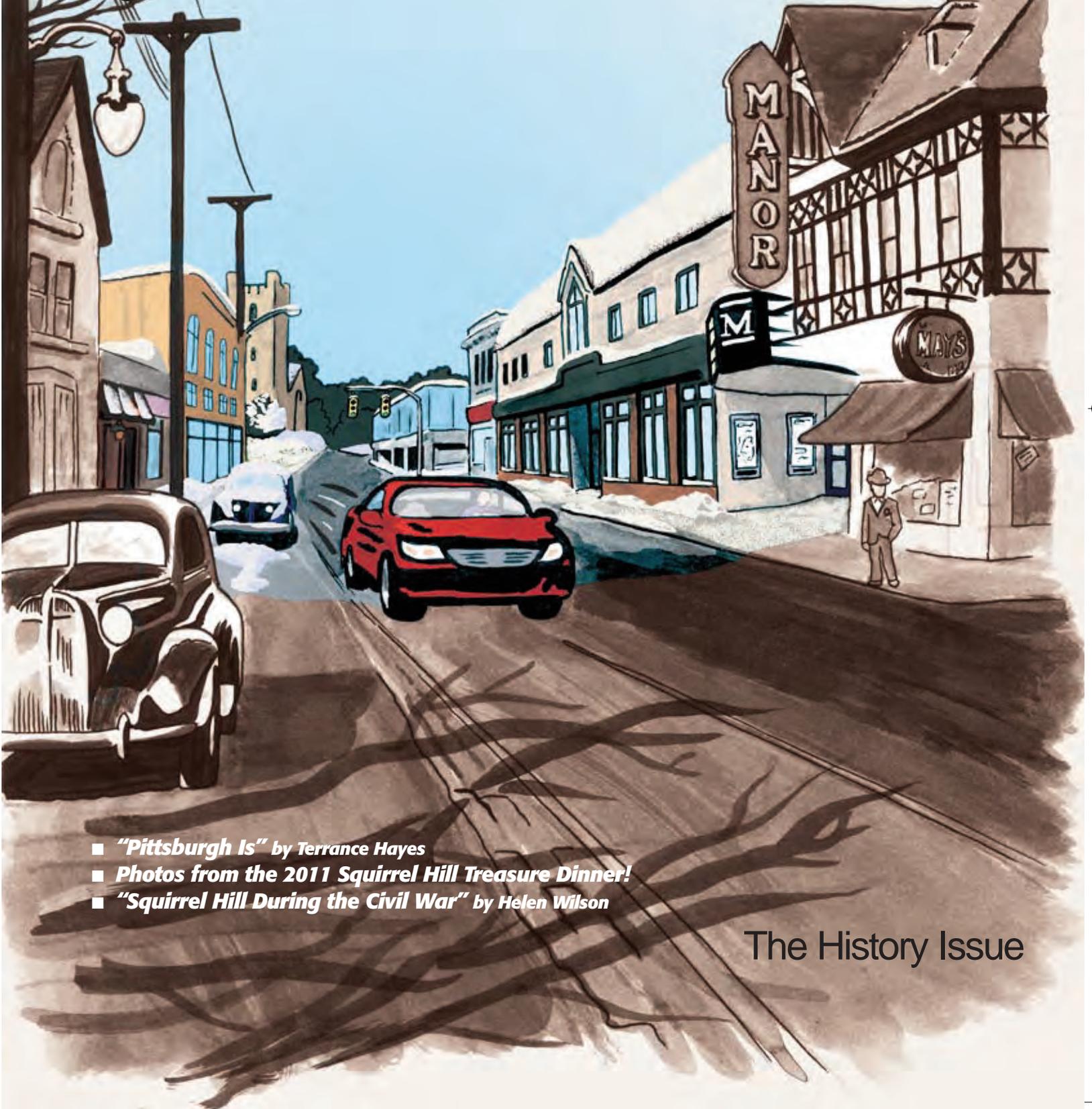


Squirrel Hill

Magazine

A Publication of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition

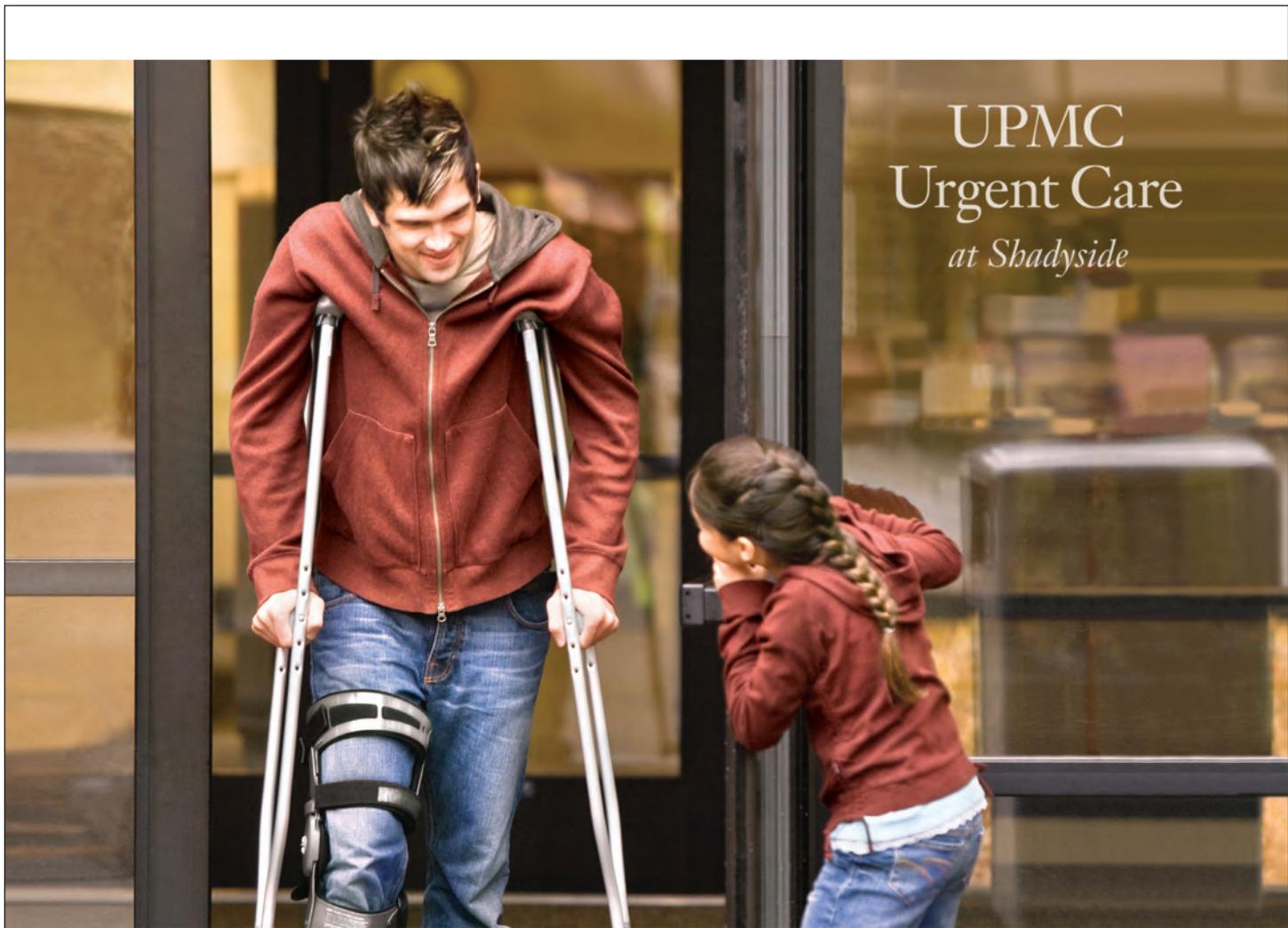
Winter 2011



- *"Pittsburgh Is" by Terrance Hayes*
- *Photos from the 2011 Squirrel Hill Treasure Dinner!*
- *"Squirrel Hill During the Civil War" by Helen Wilson*

The History Issue





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Cover Artist : Becky Hawkins

Pittsburgh native Becky Hawkins began self-publishing her comics in 2007, right before getting a job as a cruise ship musician. She's been writing comics and traveling ever since. Her illustrations also appear in *The Zinester's Guide to NYC*.
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<http://frenchtoastcomix.com>

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Coming Your Way



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Our Mission

The Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition is a non-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and improving the quality of life in the 14th Ward of the City of Pittsburgh. Volunteer-supported standing committees provide leadership to our community by studying, debating, and advocating positions on issues affecting our neighborhood's vitality.

Our mission is implemented through a long range planning process, which fosters community-based initiatives in the areas of education, public safety, transportation, parks and open spaces, and commercial, institutional, and residential development.

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Storm Water and Sewage Coming Your Way —

It's time to mobilize to protect our homes and businesses

By Ray Baum

President, Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition
info@shuc.org

Squirrel Hill is up to its knees in a poisonous combination of storm water and sewage. The same story is playing out all over the city. Our ancient system of combined storm and sewage pipes cannot handle the volume of water from ordinary rain storms and is forcing water and sewage into our basements and rivers. Catch basins are not being maintained. Multiple storm sewer systems are feeding into city and ALCOSAN pipes that are too small to handle the volume of water. Old sewers are collapsing. Basements are flooding.

Action is needed now.

Our city council members, Doug Shields and Bill Peduto, have been convening public meetings in their districts with SHUC as a co-sponsor. Participants include representatives of ALCOSAN, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, and a wide range of residents, property owners and business people. The principal objectives of these meetings are to facilitate the sharing of information regarding the effects of flooding on properties and businesses, to find out what the authorities are doing now and what they are planning to do, and, of course, to find solutions.

Some key facts we have learned:

- *The problem is severe and chronic with sewer backups plaguing our homes, commercial districts, streets, parks and the businesses along Forbes and Murray Avenues. We assume this is true in other business areas as well.*
- *A very old combination storm/sanitary sewer that runs behind the businesses on the south side of Forbes Avenue (Little's, etc.) has collapsed and is causing sewer backups that are affecting most, if not all, of the businesses.*
- *Sewer backups are also affecting the businesses on the north side of Forbes Avenue.*
- *The basements of businesses along lower Murray Avenue are being flooded and the paving is being damaged on a regular basis.*
- *Our neighbors in Greenfield are suffering ruinous damage from flooding in the Saline Street area under the Parkway Bridge. Much of this water comes from Squirrel Hill, including the unimproved part of Pocusset Street Extension. Changes made to sewer mains by ALCOSAN may be contributing to this issue.*
- *PWSA has contracted with Michael Baker Engineering for a city-*

wide study which will include recommendations for improvements. SHUC plans to be part of that process.

- *Major sewer projects will be needed, but they are very expensive and require long lead times.*
- *There are additional shorter term and less expensive solutions such as better catch basin maintenance, trees and water catching gardens, rain barrels, green roofs (that also save on heating and air conditioning), and other methods of keeping storm water from entering the sewer system.*

So, where do we fit in?

The first step is to gather information. The Coalition has been fortunate to obtain the services of Corinne Bernstein, a Coro Fellow, for six weeks. Corinne has been meeting with the Mayor's office, the URA, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, as well as business and property owners. Corinne has been doing GIS reconnaissance, researching what is happening here and what is working in other cities. She has compiled a list of the property owners and businesses in the Forbes Avenue and Murray Avenue Business Districts. We composed and mailed surveys to all these contacts requesting information regarding how storm water problems are affecting them.

While we don't have the resources to contact all residential homeowners, landlords and tenants, we do want and need your information. To that end, we have posted a survey on Survey Monkey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/surveystormwater>. Please complete the questionnaire online or go to our website at www.shuc.org to obtain the link to download, complete and mail in the survey.

With this information, we will be in a position to obtain better results quickly and efficiently.

SHUC is forming a Squirrel Hill Storm Water Task Force. As we did with the Squirrel Hill Gateway Taskforce, we are reaching out to property owners, business people, public officials, and all other stakeholders and asking them to join. The task force will review the information we are gathering now and will continue to gather. We will work together to develop plans that YOU will want to support. We will support solutions that will help PWSA, ALCOSAN, Public Works, and the DEP make effective decisions. We will devise local strategies, and make sure there is follow-through by all. For additional information, please contact our office, info@shuc.org, or 412.422.7666. 🌲

Neighborhood of the World

By Jessica Lee and Ceci Sommers

From cosmopolitan businesspeople, to a thriving Jewish population, to students at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh, Squirrel Hill offers an eclectic mix of residents, food and shopping. This immense cultural diversity creates a worldly experience for visitors inside and outside of Pittsburgh. Below are a few examples on Forbes Ave. alone of why we are proud to call Squirrel Hill a Neighborhood of the World.

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Joel Siegel from **Little's Shoes** says, "In addition to shoes from all over America, we have the finest shoes from Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil and Mexico, China and Vietnam, Israel and the ever-popular UGGs from Australia."

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Ten Thousand Villages have thousands of handmade goods from 130 artisans groups in 38 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

The **JCCs Early Childhood Development Center [ECDC]** nurtures and educates children from widely diverse backgrounds and traditions. They have representation from over 20 countries and easily 20 languages with children from many different Christian faiths, various degrees of observance in the Jewish faith as well as Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim children.

Also at the JCC is the Mandarin Chinese class for children, taught by Chanel Nernberg (see photo).



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- Norman Childs, Founder

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Elsie Hillman, Ceci Sommers and Bill Peduto at the unveiling of the plaque.

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Supporting Local Business

By Norman Childs

I've always said that I am extremely fortunate to have started my company in Pittsburgh, but more importantly in Squirrel Hill. Not only do I work here, I also live here. What makes Squirrel Hill special is the way neighbors support local businesses.

Even though at times it may be more convenient, faster, or even less expensive to purchase goods and services from the big box retailers, people in Squirrel Hill believe that supporting local businesses contributes to the unique character of the neighborhood. It's wonderful to know that you can do just about anything in Squirrel Hill, often without the need for a car. We have everything from men and women's clothing stores, a shoe store, jewelry stores, a movie theater, banks, barber shops and hair salons, numerous restaurants, churches and synagogues, and all disciplines of medicine right in our back yard. Not to mention a very active community group in the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition – an organization everyone should support.

The notion of community members supporting each other is so important to me, that we recently hired an employee at Eyetique whose full time position is dedicated to creating programs that give back to the community. The Charity Partners program works with local nonprofits to raise funds while providing services and products people need. Once an organization signs up, over the course of one year we will donate 2% of the net sale total when their board members, staff, donors and service recipients shop at any Eyetique or 3 Guys Optical location and list the charity as the referral source. Through the Small Business Partners program we are working with small companies (10-100 employees), who don't provide vision insurance, to enable their employees plus their immediate family members to have their vision needs met. Best of all a charity can qualify as a small business and employees of small businesses can support a charity – a win win for everyone. These two programs are our way of giving back to a community that has supported us for over 30 years.

In 1979 I started Eyetique in a small storefront on Murray Avenue and thanks to the support of everyone in this neighborhood and beyond now have ten locations in the Pittsburgh region. As a kid who grew up in Squirrel Hill I'm fortunate, I never had to leave to learn there truly is no place like home. 🌲

Norman Childs is the owner of Eyetique & board member of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition.

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Dr. Fisher earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at UPMC. He served with the United States Peace Corps in Jamaica as a youth and health volunteer. Dr. Fisher is active in local and national medical organizations and served on the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

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This Just In...

The New Murray Avenue Practitioners



Judith Levy M.Ed., CEHP, RMT

Judith Levy M.Ed., CEHP, RMT is an intuitive practitioner grounded in both the traditional psychotherapeutic and educational principals of behavioral change as well as in the alternative principles of energy health practices including Reiki and Thought Field Therapy.

She has a gift for combining various energy practices with attention to behavior and

thoughts while implementing those practices to address energetic disturbances according to the special needs of each client. Areas of assistance include achieving goals and overcoming obstacles to success, reducing stress, managing/supporting and improving emotional and physical issues, accelerating healing, managing a chronic condition and solving problems with a holistic approach for body, mind, and spirit.

Judith has over twenty years of teaching experience and extensive training in the healing arts. She is a Reiki Master Teacher in two schools of Reiki and is a Certified Energy Health Practitioner.

Please visit her website at www.judithlevywellness.com 412-521-5133

Barbara Solomon RN, LAc

Barbara Solomon RN, LAc, has been a nurse since 1985, an acupuncturist since 2003. In addition, she is a Reiki Master, certified Qi Gong instructor and is proficient in reflexology and Chinese massage.

Barbara has worked in the healthcare field since the late 70's in a variety of areas including doctor's offices, ICU, clinical research, and private practice and has come to understand and embrace the mind/body connection.



Barbara returned to Pittsburgh from Oregon in 2010, the same year she was introduced to Reconnective Healing and The Reconnection, a fascinating vibrational healing system. She is very excited to be able to offer Pittsburgh a number of exceptional treatment modalities including acupuncture, Reconnective Healing and Qi Gong classes.

Please visit her website at www.mybambooroad.com 412-608-6015

Amber Baker CMT, RYT

Amber Baker CMT, RYT is a transformative practitioner who utilizes both body-based and energetic techniques to bring the body, the emotions, and the soul back into balance. These address the root cause of disease, stress, as well as mental/ emotional imbalance allowing the body to be informed by greater states of health, wellness, and connectedness.

While working simultaneously in the fields of social work and natural health for over 10 yrs., Amber has gained in-depth experience working within the eastern and western systems of healing. Bridging the gaps between them, she has found them complimentary, tremendously effective and beneficial in her work with autism, physical illness, mental/ emotional patterns and many other variations of imbalance.

Amber is a facilitator and practitioner of Massage/ Bodywork, Soul Memory Discovery, Reconnective Healing, and Sound Healing. She is an instructor of Kundalini Yoga and has extensive experience in Native American Ceremony and the Sri Vidya Tantric Yoga System.

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Squirrel Hill's Part in the Civil War

By Helen Wilson
Vice-President, Squirrel Hill Historical Society

Some historians opine that the first skirmish of the Civil War took place in Pittsburgh, not at Fort Sumter. In 1860, the U.S. Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, ordered 124 cannons to be shipped from Allegheny Arsenal to two forts under construction in Louisiana and Texas. When the news leaked out, crowds of angry Pittsburghers, egged on by soapbox orators, took to the streets to prevent the shipments. They feared the weapons would be used against them if the South seceded. Their suspicions proved correct, because Fort Sumter was fired on only a few months later, and Secretary Floyd later became a Confederate General.

As the nation commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Pittsburgh's role in it is rarely mentioned. Yet crucial things were happening here, even though it was the site of no battles. Pittsburgh was a major arms and munitions producer and an important army depot. Soldiers and military supplies came through the city to be sent to the war zone. River traffic and railroad lines converged downtown, making it a key transportation hub. The shipyards produced steamships and warships, some of them ironclad.

At least three times during the war, fears were raised that the city would be attacked by the Confederates. The fears came to a head when the Confederate army began to march north in 1863. Rumors flew that General Lee was heading toward Pittsburgh. Mines, factories and mills were closed and the workers sent out to build 27 fortifications in the city and surrounding area. Bars were also closed to keep men's minds on their work. At times, more than 11,000 men a day labored in the monumental three-week effort to build a 12-mile defensive barrier of forts, redoubts (protective barriers), batteries and trenches around the city.

One of the most massive fortifications, and the only one that could be considered a true fort, was Fort Black, located in Greenfield high on what is now Bigelow Street. It guarded the Monongahela River approach. Like the other fortifications, it was built of mounds of dirt. Its walls were about five feet high so soldiers could stand and fire at the enemy. Trenches at the outer base extended the slope five to fifteen feet more. About 1,800 workers labored on the fort. The story goes that the men set about their work so enthusi-

astically they dug too deep and couldn't see over the ramparts. The situation was corrected and cannons installed on timber supports. The fort was never used because General Lee went to Gettysburg instead. Some historians think if he had attacked Pittsburgh he might have succeeded because the city, in spite of its importance as a supply depot and munitions manufacturer, was not heavily guarded. In addition to Fort Black, a powder magazine was built down the hill near what is now Beechwood Boulevard. The sturdy brick building was used as a stable for racehorses after the war.

Although nothing remains of Fort Black and the powder magazine, other remnants of the Civil War remain in the Squirrel Hill area. One is Mary S. Brown Memorial-Ames United Methodist Church at 3424 Beechwood Boulevard. The church is named for Mary S. Brown, the wife of William H. Brown, who owned coal mines on Squirrel Hill and a lot of other places and had a huge fleet of steamboats on which to ship the coal. William Brown was not in the military during the Civil War, but he ferried coal and other supplies to Union troops. One time he was captured by Union forces, who thought he was a Confederate spy. He might have been executed except for the timely arrival of a dispatch from General Buell.

Brown's oldest son, Samuel, served in the army during the war. He planned the imposing Mary S. Brown Chapel as a memorial to his beloved mother. Captain Sam died in 1905, before his dream could be realized. The church was finished by his brother, W. Harry, in 1908. In the foyer of the church is an elaborate bronze plaque dating to 1908 that lists the names and regiments of 59 soldiers from the local community, all but six of them from the Civil War.

Adjacent to the church is Turner Cemetery. It contains the graves of at least six and possibly many more of the men listed on the plaque. Only three of the soldiers' graves still have tombstones. One is eerily imbedded in the roots of a sturdy tree, as if the soldier's body sprang up again from its roots. The words carved on the stone, "J. P. Clark, Co. C, 103rd Inf" face the tree only inches away from the trunk.



Major Denniston's monument in Homewood Cemetery



GAR Section in Homewood Cemetery

One soldier listed on the plaque is Alexander Murdoch. He was a member of the family who owned the flourishing Murdoch Farms greenhouses and nurseries. The family was so anti-slavery their house on Darlington Road was a stop on the Underground Railroad before the war. Alexander enlisted in the army and later wrote a vivid memoir of his wartime experiences.

Another soldier on the plaque is Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in the battle of Winchester. He married the Browns' daughter Alice. Brown bequeathed coal and coke fields around Connellsville to the Colonel, who later sold them to Henry Clay Frick and used the profits to help form the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad. Schoonmaker is buried in Homewood Cemetery. Befitting a wealthy man, his monument is located among those of industrialists and business owners. Most of the Civil War veterans in Homewood lie in the GAR section, a shady hollow with borders marked by black cannons half buried in the ground. The uneven rows of military-issue tombstones, weathered and leaning, are a somber and moving sight.

Another soldier buried in Homewood Cemetery is Major Joseph Denniston, grandson of an early Squirrel Hill pioneer for whom Denniston Avenue is named. When Denniston heard the war had begun, he helped form a volunteer company, was wounded in battle, lost the use of his sword arm, and was assigned to a desk job. He insisted on going back into action. He was badly wounded again, and his leg had to be amputated. He still insisted on serving his country, so he worked for the army in the commissary department. He emerged from the war with one leg, a useless arm, and other debilitating injuries but went on to be elected Allegheny County Treasurer and later Treasurer of the City of Pittsburgh. In between the two positions, he tried gold mining in Montana to improve his health. His interesting monument in Homewood Cemetery has carvings of his hat and his medals.

Many of the stories told by the soldiers dealt with the horrors and privations of the war. A present-day descendant of soldier John Schmeltz tells this story:

John told his grandchildren about how during the war his hair froze to the ground as he slept on the battlefield one December. John had no noble ideas about war. He saw many horrific scenes. He hated it, saw no glory or romance in it. He and many others in the 136th were encouraged to reenlist, but he and his cousins refused.

John was around 65 when he was hired as a night watchman for the tube mill in Hazekwood. This was a common practice. The Civil War vets got first pick at these jobs. The idea was they may be old but they knew how to handle a gun and were not afraid to use it.

The war changed the lives of the soldiers who fought in it and the people back home who waited, sometimes in vain, for their loved ones to return. It also provided a major impetus for Pittsburgh's burgeoning industrial development. 🌲

Anyone interested in learning more about Squirrel Hill history is invited to attend the meetings of the Squirrel Hill Historical Society, held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue. Go to www.squirrelhillhistory.org to view upcoming lectures and events. Also, please consider joining the SHHS. Membership is only \$10 per year. There is no charge for attending the meetings.

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On The Record

By Rachael Hellman



“Every year, we get a new crop of freshman who are exploring the neighborhood and wander in,” Jay Malls, an employee of Jerry’s Records and established Pittsburgh DJ says about the Squirrel Hill vinyl shop where he works. “I think it’s definitely a spectacle of sorts—a desti-

nation spot if you know much about records.”

While Little’s Shoes may be seen to represent Squirrel Hill footwear, Giant Eagle Squirrel Hill groceries, or Alan’s Pets and Plants household companions, Jerry’s has come to represent Squirrel Hill music.

Since Thanksgiving weekend of 1994, when owner Jerry Weber moved his store from its original location in Oakland, Jerry’s Records has thrived above New Dumpling House on Murray Avenue. Unlike many other record stores, Jerry’s exclusively sells used vinyl. Malls says that record connoisseurs from all over the world have claimed that Jerry’s, at over 12 thousand square feet, is the largest all-vinyl store they’ve seen.

Weber doesn’t have to go out of his way to purchase his merchandise. After over 30 years in the business, the records kind of just come to him.

“It’s literally about what comes up the steps and who calls,” Malls says.

Search as long and far—and be willing to spend money—but Malls doubts even the savviest hunters of vinyl could find some of Jerry’s most rare items. Aside from the astounding collection of the popular genres like jazz, rock, and soul, people come from far away to check out the more obscure stuff, too—like Calypso and Polka.

In addition to records, Jerry’s also sells turntables and offers turntable repairs—both of which are handled by Vince Bomba through his own store, Galaxie Electronics. Weber’s son also has a store that shares a roof with Jerry’s—Whistlin’ Willie’s 78’s.

Like Malls, the rest of Jerry’s employees have some close relationship with music—whether it’s collecting, playing music themselves, or prior experience working around vinyl.

Music now, if we want it to be, is invisible, intangible. While few people still purchase CDs, and 8 tracks and cassette tapes are extinct, records, the oldest of these mediums, have maintained their allure. It might be the way the vinyl gently undulates on the turntable, or the crackly sounds between tracks on an old record. Maybe it’s not only about hearing, but seeing the music happening the moment the needle hits the groove. Malls put it this way: while new technology eliminates the need to manufacture physical things (and while this advantageous from a business perspective), there’s always going to be people who want “stuff”—more specifically, records.

“People who like records are always going to want records and I feel pretty confident that they’re always going to be considered cool. Because they just are,” says Malls. 🌲

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

She said: Do you think the house looks OK for the holidays. We do have people coming?

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Mary Schenley and the Making of Our Park System

By Susan M. Rademacher
Parks Curator, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Only two of our city's four historic regional parks bear a family name. Frick Park is named in tribute to Henry Clay Frick who, upon his death in 1919, gave 150 acres and an endowment to develop and care for a new park. Frick Park is also a symbol of a father's love for his daughter -- Frick's daughter Helen is reputed to have asked her father for the park property as a gift to the children of Pittsburgh. This story is perhaps the better known of the two family-named parks, because the Frick home and museums at Clayton remain to embody the family's presence and impact on Pittsburgh.

Schenley Park, on the other hand, wouldn't exist today if it weren't for the forgiveness of a father in restoring his estranged daughter to her inheritance. In what became the scandal of the day, Mary Elizabeth Schenley eloped at age 15 from her Long island boarding school with the headmistress's 43-year-old brother, Captain Edward Schenley. The newlyweds settled in London and Mary was promptly disinherited. Her father, William Croghan Jr., couldn't bear the break for long, visiting the young couple and the first of many grandchildren in London a year later in 1843. His forgiveness is especially understandable, given that Mary was the widower's only surviving child.

Croghan was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, at the fabled country seat Locust Grove. His father was the Revolutionary War Quartermaster General William Croghan, married to the sister of General George Rogers Clark. After the steamboat allowed passage upriver, Pittsburgh became a favored destination of Louisvillians. It was on such an outing that William Croghan Jr. met the prosperous O'Hara family, marrying daughter Mary O'Hara in 1821. The couple started their family in Louisville with son William and daughter Mary Elizabeth born at Locust Grove on April 27, 1826. That same year, William Croghan Jr. wrote his brother-in-law, "*I am sick & tired of farming, incessant toil and anxiety & no profit...I am now firmly resolved so soon as my difficulties will allow to make arrangements for moving to Pittsburgh.*" Sadly, he would make that move as a widower, his wife Mary having died 1827. In an 1828 letter from William's sister Ann Croghan Jesup to her



sister Eliza Croghan Hancock, Ann writes "*Mr. Baldwin in Pittsburgh says Will Croghan is the finest boy he ever saw & Mary is a lovely child it did me good to hear him speak of those poor little children. Mary has quite recovered I sat up with her for two nights she was dangerously ill with Quinsy and inflammation on the Lungs.*" Young Will died only a month later.

Father and daughter Mary Elizabeth soon moved to Pittsburgh to make a new life. There, William Croghan Jr. was admitted to the Allegheny Bar. And in August of 1833, Mary writes to her Aunty Lucy Jesup, "Next year Papa is to build his cottage." This fine Greek Revival-style home atop Stanton Heights was named Picnic House, and contained 22 rooms. Croghan died at Picnic in 1850, but his will preserved the home and furnishings for the use of Mary and her children until 1931, when Mary's

daughter Hermione, Lady Ellenborough, sold the furnishings. The house was demolished in 1955, and its grand ballroom and foyer were transplanted to the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning where they remain a major attraction.

Mary's inheritance of O'Hara properties from her mother's estate made her the largest property owner in Allegheny County. Her Pittsburgh landholdings included slums at the "Point" and she was severely criticized as an absentee landlord and exploiter of the wretched by Pittsburgh's *Labor Tribune* and the *Chicago Daily Tribune* in the late 1880s. Her redemption came in philanthropic form. Significant gifts to several important institutions helped shape the cultural, social, and physical landscape of Pittsburgh as we know it today.

Among her major gifts were:

- *Land for building the West Penn Hospital;*
- *Property for the Western Penn Institute for the Blind;*
- *A large lot for the Newsboys Home;*
- *A \$10,000 subscription toward the purchase of land for Riverview Park; and*
- *The gift of the Old Block House and adjoining property, (the original Fort Duquesne) to the Daughters of the American Revolution.*

While the City of Pittsburgh had been attempting to buy or

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take Schenley properties for an Oakland park since 1869, it wasn't until 1889, after Captain Schenley died, that the land for Schenley Park was finally acquired. It was through the enterprising efforts of the "Father of Pittsburgh Parks," Edward Manning Bigelow (1850-1916), that Mary was persuaded to donate 300 acres, with an option to buy another 100 acres. Bigelow, named the first director of the new Department of Public Works, envisioned a park system for the city. When he heard that a developer was heading to London to broker a deal with Mrs. Schenley, so he promptly dispatched an attorney to get there first and secure a donation. Mary had just two conditions: that the land be used for a park named after her and that it could never be sold. The City soon purchased an additional 144 acres, including the present-day Schenley Plaza and part of the Carnegie Library for much less than its tax value.

When she died in 1903, the *New York Times* observed, "*The death of Mrs. Mary E. Schenley, which occurred at her home in Hyde Park, London, was made known in Pittsburg [sic] to-day. Mrs. Schenley has been Pittsburg's benefactress for many years....Mrs. Schenley was the heroine, sixty years ago, of the greatest romance in Pittsburg's early history....The affair created an immense social sensation at the time, and the house was preserved for many years in precisely the shape that it was in at the date of the elopement.*"

Mary returned only once to Pittsburgh before her father's death in 1850, and rarely after that. As an asthmatic, the smoky city was not a healthy environment for her. How fitting that our park system was created, in part, to improve the health of our people while changing the image of the city from gray to green. Schenley Park, along with all the parks and greenspaces of Pittsburgh, has more than fulfilled that early promise, thanks in no small part to the spirited benefactress Mary E. Schenley. 🌲

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, improving quality of life for the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence in partnership with the City. For more information visit www.pittsburghparks.org.



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Serving One and All:

A History of Social Services in Squirrel Hill

By Emily Leone

In a city like Pittsburgh, with its numerous small communities, neighbors take care of their neighborhoods by keeping them clean and safe, being proactive residents and watching out for each other. It's a natural thing for many to do.

We are fortunate here in Squirrel Hill because our neighborhood also has something many communities don't: a number of valuable social service institutions. From long-standing ones like Jewish Family & Children's Service to newer ones like the Squirrel Hill Health Center and the Good Grief Center, agencies that serve the public are poised to help at a moment's notice.

As these social services have evolved and changed over the years to accommodate changing needs and greater numbers of the population, their audiences have widened and shifted, too. But ultimately their focuses have remained the same: to improve the quality of life of children, families and adults of all ages.

More than a century ago, The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh came into existence in response to the needs of the community. Founded in the early 1900s as the Home for Crippled Children, it was known primarily for many years as a treatment place for children with polio. In the 1960s, the Institute was serving children with a wide-range of disabilities.

Today, the Children's Institute helps meet the special needs of children, young adults and their families.

"We have become what we are today through decades of assessing the evolving needs of our community and planning strategically how best to meet them. Reaching out to the community is, we believe, simply part of being a valued organizational citizen and good neighbor," said David K. Miles, president and CEO. "We are grateful for the opportunity to serve – and for the extraordinary support from the community that, in turn, allows us to help our amazing kids and families in so many ways."

Historically, social service agencies like Jewish Family & Children's Service and the Jewish Community Center were established by the Jewish community, for the Jewish community. Their missions have evolved over the years to include all community members— regardless of their religion, race, denomination or socio-economic status.

For years, the Jewish Community Center has been the "upstreet" destination, a community anchor for people of all ages and backgrounds since 1949, when the Irene Kauffmann Settlement, predecessor to the JCC, opened its doors at 5738 Forbes Avenue, said



Brian Schreiber, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh President and CEO.

"The JCC, by its very mission, is dedicated to the strengthening of the whole self—the intellectual and spiritual as well as the physical well-being—of each member of our community," Schreiber said. "As part of our core values, our board and staff have beautifully balanced how to be both a Jewish community center and a community center to the community at large."

Similarly, Jewish Family & Children's Service has provided decades of care to the community, from children and families to aging adults. More than ten years ago, JF&CS moved into a larger space on Bartlett Street to accommodate the growing need for additional services in the community. Between their Bartlett Street location and the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry on Hazelwood Avenue, JF&CS provides adoption services, a career development center, immigration and refugee services, elder care, psychological services and much more.

And perhaps now more than ever, providing a lifeline to whoever needs it, regardless of their background or situation, is critical, said Aryeh Sherman, president and CEO of JF&CS.

"JF&CS helps people grappling with lifecycle transitions and crisis, and very little has changed in that regard since we were established in 1937," Sherman said. "What has changed over time are community needs and the innovation and resourcefulness required to meet them, particularly in times like these where a difficult economy continues to exact a heavy toll on members of our community and on government funding sources."

Regardless of why a non-profit started or what belief tenants they operate under, all add to the rich, supportive community that is Squirrel Hill. As long as families and individuals need services to better their lives, social services will be ever-present in our community. 🌲



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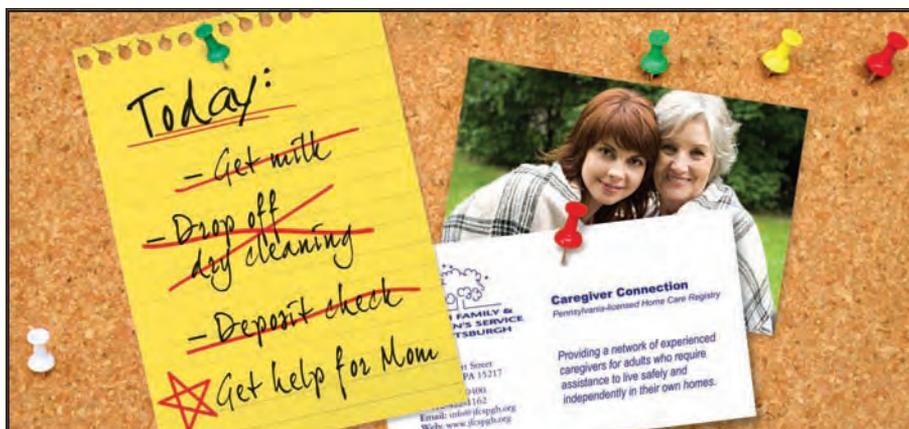
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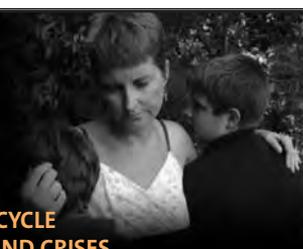
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Back In The Day...

A Photographic History of Squirrel Hill



Forbes & Murray, 1966



Murray & Beacon, July 1944



Manor Theater, November 1937

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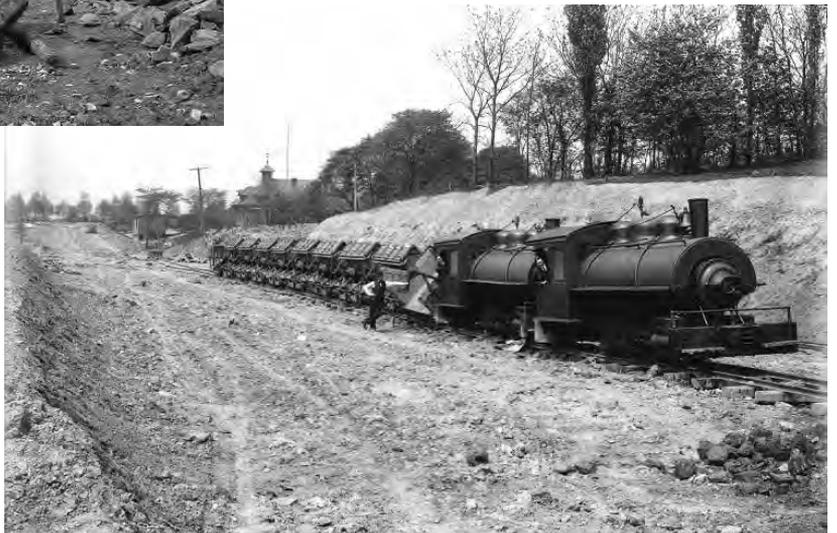
South Dallas & Wilkins, October 1907



Panther Hollow Lake boathouse 1937



Wightman School, October 1907



Hobart Street train, 1913

All photos courtesy of Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection, 1901-2002, AIS.1971.05, Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh.

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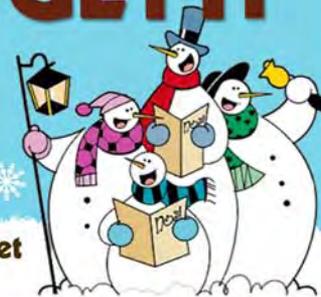


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She blesses her Bucs, her Steelers,
Her father, God rest his soul, was a Penguins fan.
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Her blue scarf twisting like the mad Monongahela,
Her blue face lined like a jitney's street map.
I'd tell her I'm not from this place;
These severed grumpy neighborhoods,
These ruthless winter tantrums,
But her long-winded stories have numbed me.
She is persistent as snow, as boot slush & Thinsulate,
As buses rumbling like great, metallic caterpillars.
She lights a cigarette & it means:
Spring will burn quick & furious as a match,
Summer will blaze.
She tells me, Nobody's a stranger in Pittsburgh.
And maybe I believe her. I believe her,
My frosty, fairy, foster-Mamma,
My stout, blabbering metaphor.

By Terrance Hayes
February 7, 1998

Reprinting courtesy of the poet, Terrance Hayes. Hayes is a Creative Writing professor at CMU and his most recent collection, *Lighthouse* (Penguin, 2010), won the National Book Award for Poetry.

Squirrel Hill's Treasure Awards Dinner — an Evening of Honor



The 2011 Squirrel Hill Treasures: Deborah Acklin, Sophie Masloff, and Robert Levin.



Harriet Baum, Rep. Dan Frankel and Mardi Isler



Karlyn Voss, Holly McCollough and Suzi Neft



Robert Levin being presented with Squirrel Hill Treasure Award by SHUC president, Ray Baum



Joe Negri & the Treasure Award band.

Calendar



EVENTS:

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, One Schenley Park

Through January 8

Winter Flower Show: The Nutcracker, A Fresh Arrangement

Evergreens lit with tens of thousands of LED lights and nearly 2,000 poinsettias will be on display for Winter Flower Show. With a Nutcracker theme, snowy forest scene, land of sweets, and miniature Garden Railroad, this long-standing Pittsburgh tradition is a special treat for all ages. For more info, call 412.622.6914

Cooper-Siegel Community Library, 403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

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Baby Play

Tuesdays, 10am & 11am

Singing, rhyming, movement and finger plays. No fee; open to the community.

Manic Motherhood

Wednesdays, 11:30am

January 18, February 1 & 15, March 7 & 21.

Brueggers, Murray Avenue, Squirrel Hill.

Discussion group for moms. Bring your new baby! No fee; open to the community. No fee; open to the community.

Manic Toddlerhood

Wednesdays, 11am

January 11 & 25, Feb. 8 & 22, March 14 & 28.

Join us to chat about the challenges and joys of parenting a toddler. A child development specialist will answer questions. No fee; open to the community.

Manic Nannyhood

Thursdays, 11am

January 26, March 8.

Finally, a support group just for nannies! Join to chat about the unique joys and challenges of professionally nannying. No fee: open to the community.

Unless otherwise noted, events will be at the Family Place, JCC, 5738 Forbes Ave. For info, contact Miriam Abramovich, 412.521.8011 x 398, or email mabramovich@jccpgh.org

Youth & Family Wellness Fair

January 29, 1 – 4pm

Interactive event for the whole family! There will be different fitness classes such as Zumba, Karate, & Hip-Hop along with tables highlighting many different aspects of health & wellness. Kaufmann Gymnasium. For more information, please call 412.521.8011 x 380 or email mmullen@jccpgh.org.

American Jewish Museum at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

5738 Forbes Avenue

Through December 30

BESA: Albanian Muslims Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust

BESA photographer Stu Huck. No fee. For more information, please call 412.521.8011, ext. 105, or visit JCCPGH.org.

SUPER SILLY!

January 10 – March 28

Superman Creators' Funnyman Fights Crime with Shtick.

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 15, 6pm. Reception sponsored by Miriam and Jim Lieb.

These events are located at the American Jewish Museum, JCC, 5738 Forbes Ave. For more information, please call 412.521.8011 x 105, or visit JCCPGH.org.

FILMS:

Harris Theater

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Into The Abyss

Opens Dec 2 - check the website for show times.

When the legendary Werner Herzog is not acting (he plays the villain in One Shot, currently filming in Pittsburgh) he's making provocative movies, including Aguirre: The Wrath of God, Grizzly Man and Cave of Forgotten Dreams. This one may be his most controversial yet. It's the true story of two teenagers

Continued on page 28



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convicted of a triple homicide in Texas ten years ago. Epitomizing the word “senseless,” the motive was to steal a car for a joyride. The convicted killers were Michael Perry and Jason Burkett, who had a history of substance abuse and bad tempers. They deny their guilt, each blaming the other. Herzog, who opposes capital punishment, came to this story after interviewing several people on death row. Among them was 28-year-old Perry. He probes the psyches of many people involved, unveiling layers of humanity, both cold and compassionate. (Werner Herzog; USA; 2011; 106 min)

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The Skin I Live In

Opens Dec 2 - check the website for show times. The wait is over – the new Pedro Almodóvar film is here. Rolling Stone calls it, “scary, sexy and terrifically twisted... It reunites Almodóvar with Antonio Banderas for the first time since 1990’s Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down! Director and star still bring out the wicked, badass best in each other.” In this thriller we follow a brilliant plastic surgeon, haunted by past tragedies, who creates a type of synthetic skin that withstands any kind of damage. His guinea pig: a mysterious and volatile woman who holds the key to his obsession. With subtitles. (Pedro Almodóvar; Spain; 2011; 117 min)

It’s A Wonderful Life

Dec 18 - 22 FREE!!
Sunday - show times 5pm and 8pm
Mon. - Thurs. 8pm
A holiday tradition, right?

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Tuesdays, ongoing 6-7pm
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Wednesday, January 11, 10:15 – 11am
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