



August 2008

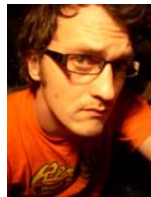
Art Pops Throughout the Strip



Thanks to the favorable weather in July and August, work on the Strip's newest mural, is proceeding at a stimulating pace and should be completed in plenty of time for the mural dedication

scheduled for September 24. The Sprout Fund sponsored mural, designed and painted by artist Ian Thomas, is located at 2227 Penn Avenue on the east wall of **WFH Oriental Food Market**, owned by Benjamin An.

The design concept for the mural was inspired by images of the Chinese city of Guilin, a small city nestled among undulating, green hills, and the Li River, China's most beautiful and scenic river. The "gumdrop" hills and misty limestone pinnacles of Guilin's mystical landscape have inspired generations of painters and poets. This beautiful landscape will be evocative of a "City Lung," a spot for meditation and contemplation of nature where the spirit can be restored along with the city air. Details for the dedication ceremony and celebration are being finalized, but will feature Chinese food and entertainment as befits the first mural honoring Pittsburgh's Chinese community.



Ian Thomas, Artist

For additional information on the Mural Dedication, see the invitation on page 4 and continue to visit our website at www.neighborsinthestrip.com where details and photos of the mural in progress will be posted as they becomes available.

And Then There Were Three...

Within the next few weeks murals will also grace the walls of two other Strip businesses. The **Open Stage Theatre**, 2835 Smallman Street, was selected for a mural by the National City MLK Community Mural Project. This project engages some of Pittsburgh's best artists to mentor teens and their families in the production of public art as a way of strengthening communities. **Klavon's Ice Cream Parlor** will also be sporting a mural on the wall adjacent to its parking lot. You can already see a giant handlebar-mustached figure who looks suspiciously familiar.

See accompanying article on anti-graffiti action in the Strip

Strip Scavenger Hunt

Do you know your way around the Strip District?

Test your knowledge in NITS first ever **Online Scavenger Hunt**. Here is the third featured photo from the **Spirit**



of the Strip PhotoWalk (we're getting a little more challenging this month). The first person to identify where the photo was taken will win a Strip Tote Bag. If you can't identify the location immediately, never fear! Keep your eyes open as you shop, dine, stroll or otherwise enjoy the Strip and maybe you will discover the location later. NITS will feature a photo from the Spirit of the Strip PhotoWalk (or other occasion) each month through December 2008 and ask "Where in the Strip can you find this?"

What door in the Strip objects to being pushed around ?

Photo Courtesy of Dan Buczynski

If you want to refresh your memory on photos from previous months, visit our website at www.neighborsinthestrip.com. Remember, that after the publication of the December NITS-e-gram, those who can correctly identify the location of all six photos will be entered into a drawing for an amazing grand prize! Only the first person to correctly identify the photo each month will be acknowledged, giving the monthly winner an advantage (you'll know at least one of the locations) so send your guesses to cynthiahelfrich@yahoo.com quickly!

Interested in Participating?

Neighbors in the Strip is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors and Advisory Board for its 2008-2009 fiscal year. If you are interested, in serving on either board or wish to nominate another, please contact Becky Rodgers at 412-201-4774 or rholders@yahoo.com by September 2, 2008.

Open Stage Announces 2008-9 Season

Do you need something to cheer you up? The theme of the 2008-9 season at **Open Stage Theatre** is "1, 2, 3 Laugh" and promises a series of zany and thought-provoking productions.



October 16 – November 2 – **The Mystery of Irma Vep**. Something is prowling the English moors in this high-energy, quick-witted comedy classic. While satirizing everything from Wuthering Heights to politics and Shakespeare to horror films, this play's two actors perform some dozen characters (mummies, werewolves, a limping groundskeeper) in a series of lightning-fast costume changes as newlywed Lady Enid struggles to crack the mystery of Irma Vep.

February 5 – 22 – **No Child...**
When Nilaja Sun attempts to produce a play at a high school in the Bronx, things go far less well than she had hoped – or do they? Find out for yourself in this tour de force solo performance that features 16 characters flowing seamlessly from the mouth of one performer. It is a touching, insightful, hilarious and ultimately hopeful look at America's broken education system.

April 16 – May 3 – **Disinfecting Edwin**
From its initial image of a blathering Dallas housefrau bound to a chair with Christmas lights, to its shocking final twist, this play is a language-rich, character-driven good time. This world-premiere comedy about love and obsession follows two people obsessed by the same man as they discover that there may be more that binds them together than keeps them apart.

Hop on the Irish Party Bus!

On September 5-6 a free bus will leave **Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle** for the Pittsburgh Irish Festival every hour beginning at 5PM on both evenings. The bus will make it's last trip both nights from the Pub to the festival at 11PM returning to the Harp & Fiddle at midnight. The shuttle is first come first serve, so come early, park free and relax in a friendly pub.

Hothouse Party for the Sprout Fund

If you are interested in supporting the work of the Sprout Fund, plan on attending the sixth annual Hothouse event on Saturday, August 23 on the upper floors of The Union Trust Building in Downtown Pittsburgh. The event serves as a stage to present a sampling of some of the innovative projects and emerging leaders of successful community initiatives supported by Sprout over the past year. Held annually at unique development sites, the event celebrates the organization's accomplishments and features live music and performances, food and drink by Pittsburgh favorites, a silent auction, and a VIP reception.

Visit www.sproutfund.org/hothouse/home for more information.

The Yum Report:



Cioppino enhances the Strip's reputation for 'Fine Dining' to go along with 'good food'

Recently, while paying a courtesy visit to the feckless Sib, Yum managed to sneak a peak at a delicious looking chocolate brown invitation. "...Invite You and a **Guest** to our Preview Opening...Complimentary Meal...Something to Savor" were all Yum could read before Sib rudely snatched the intriguing missive right from under Yum's button-cute nose and stowed it unceremoniously in a desk drawer. Since Yum had no such invitation of Yum's own, some serious wheedling (and other methods not worth mentioning) were required to convince the intractable Sib that Yum should most definitely be included as "**a Guest**" at the opening of **Cioppino**, the latest addition to the Strip's pantheon of distinguished restaurants.

It was a stellar night indeed, as many of the Strip's most well-respected denizens were meeting and greeting at a furious pace, but the true "Star" of the evening was **Cioppino** - both the ambiance and the food. The atmosphere at **Cioppino** combines casual elegance, while remaining true to the industrial tradition and fresh, local products of the Strip; the food is classic American with a delightful Tuscan influence.

Yum was dining in the company of the usual crew of Sib, Chum and the Steel Magnolia, as well as assorted other hangers-on to make a total of eight, which was a great number for sampling a wide variety of menu offerings. A huge variety of appetizers, salads and entrees were ordered and there was a great deal of passing back and forth of samples (and anyone who has read Yum's other columns knows how much Yum likes that!).

Chum ordered a very interesting shrimp scampi appetizer with crusty Tuscan bread to soak up any extra sauce. Yum was assured that it was exquisitely delicate, but flavorful. But, of course, Yum will never know because the vindictive Chum **REFUSED TO SHARE!** Particular standouts for Yum were the Carpaccio (which was a revelation to the raw-shy Yum) and the beautiful platter, graced with tasty artisan cheeses.

Yum has just been advised that since space is at a premium, a more thorough discussion of the menu will have to wait. Yum will try to obtain a copy of the menu (menus are cleverly encased in cork covers to reflect back on the Armstrong Cork Factory) to share with you, dear readers. In the meantime, Yum wants to make sure that you know about the Cigar Bar and the **Il Mercato** Market that are an important part of **Cioppino**. The Cigar Bar is sure to become a big favorite among discerning guests. Warm, welcoming, comfortable and clubby, the Cigar Bar offers a menu of 'small plate' delicacies and is fitted with a huge humidor and cushy leather chairs. **Il Mercato** is a specialty market that will include an espresso bar and deli. Grab something great to take home, or eat in at a café table while reading the New York Times.

Cioppino offers everything you need, you may not ever want to go home! (*Continued on page 3*)

Events

August Music Schedule for Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle.

The **Harp and Fiddle** has a great lineup of talent for the month of August:

August 22	Callan
August 20	Pump Fakes (Acoustic Night)
August 23	Terry Griffith
August 27	Jason Kendall (Acoustic Night)
August 29	Whiskey Limerick
August 30	Sean McClorey

If you haven't already done so, stop by the pub on Thursdays in August for Latino Nights, as Cuban Chef, Sammy Balbuena, prepares authentic Cuban cuisine.

Visit www.harpandfiddle.com for a complete calendar of events!

Upcoming Events at Society for Contemporary Craft

- **August 22 – Rae Gold Fashion Show.** SCC will host a fashion show displaying new works by nationally known fiber artist, Rae Gold, who is displaying her work for the first time in two years in her hometown of Pittsburgh.
- **September 11 – Martini Madness.** This is the time to round out your martini glass collection. SCC will feature a variety of artists and live demonstrations along with the best bartenders in the city serving specialty martinis. (Must be over 21 to attend).
- **Free Saturday Artist Demonstrations.** Open to all ages
- **September 13 – Sun Yung Kang** shows how she creates books with sewn bindings
- **November 1 – Craig Smith** will demonstrate woodturning skills on a lathe
- **November 22 – Polymer clay artist Laura Tabakman** will include visitors in a participatory demonstration



For more information, visit www.contemporarycraft.org

September 20 – Polish Food Festival.

Enjoy all your favorite Polish foods at **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church** from noon to 8 pm. The festival will feature music by Bob Jezewski & the Merry Makers. A Polka Mass will be held at 4 p.m. Jestem glodny!



September 20–21 – 2nd Annual Glass Expo. The **Heinz History Center** features experts from regional and national collector clubs who will dazzle with their knowledge and displays of Pittsburgh-made glass. Learn how to care for glass, bring in two pieces for identification, attend mini-lectures, and much, much more. For additional information visit www.pghhistory.org

October 4 - Open House.

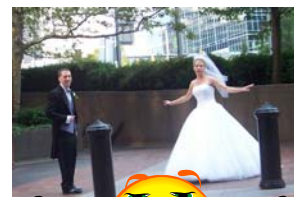
Pittsburgh Opera will hold a free, fun-filled Open House to inaugurate its new headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip on Saturday, from 10:30am - 3:30pm. Family-friendly events include concerts, opera improv, children's activities, refreshments, tours, and giveaways.

**PITTSBURGH
OPERA**

October 15 - Key to the Cure. Save the date for **Gilda's Club of Western Pennsylvania's** Key to the Cure at Saks Fifth Avenue. Event will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Watch this column for additional information in coming months or contact Gilda's Club at 412-338-1919.

Congratulations!

...to newlyweds **Chris Beers**, General Manager of **The Spaghetti Warehouse**, and his beautiful bride, **Jennifer**. Their Pittsburgh wedding was truly an 'affair to remember.'



...to **Paul Niede** who celebrated his 75th Anniversary behind the bar at **Niede's Hotel** in Lawrenceville. Paul has been pouring beer since Prohibition ended, 1933 – 2008!

Welcome!

Welcome and thanks to our New and Renewing Members of Neighbors in the Strip:

Members:
Benkovitz Seafood
Strip District Meats
Gilda's Club
Pittsburgh Opera
Shane Communications

The Yum Report (continued from page 2)

Cioppino will open to the public on August 15. Cioppino is located at 23rd and Railroad Street, across from The Cork Factory. Their website is still under construction, but will be at www.cioppionpittsburgh.com. Read more about Cioppino at www.post-gazette.com/pg/08220/902255-34.stm.

Goody, Goody

The Pittsburgh Popcorn Company is adding "Extra Flavor Thursdays" for all those who are requesting that some of their flavors of the week be available more often. That is a definite Four Yums Up!



See you next month...Cindy H.

The Sprout Fund & Neighbors in the Strip

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the
Sprout
fund
www.sproutfund.org



invite you to join
in a **celebration**
for our newest
**community
mural!**
9.24.08
5:30 to 7:30 pm
23rd & Penn Ave.
reception @ Mullaney's

A special thanks to
Benjamin An of WFH Oriental Grocery
and Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle
for generously supporting this event.



20th & Penn Ave. in The Strip District
9am to 9pm, 7 days a week
412.773.1112

Unique is what you seek so come take a peek.

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Unique Auto Salon Car Wash is one of the best detail shops in the Pittsburgh area with a dedicated team guaranteed to give you that full quality service you deserve.

	OUTSIDE	INSIDE / OUT	WAX EXTRA	INSIDE SHAMPOO	FULL DETAIL
CAR	\$20	\$30	\$25	From \$100 Seals & Glass \$20+	\$180+
SUV	\$30	\$40	\$30	From \$100 Seals & Glass \$20+	\$200+
FULL SIZE TRUCK	\$40	\$55	\$35	From \$100 Seals & Glass \$20+	\$210+

*Ask about our polish for chrome rims & our clear coat product for that new car shine.
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***To buff out scratches, we need to see the vehicle to quote a price.

Unique specializes in protecting the value of your vehicle. Every inside and outside wash consists of cleaning windows, dashboards, doors, door jams, rims, tires, wheel walls and vacuuming carpets with a freshener to eliminate odors.

Have your car detailed while you shop or dine in the Strip!