



January 2009

Strip Scavenger Hunt – Go for the Grand Prize!

Do you know your way around the Strip District? We have finally reached the finale of the **NITS Online Scavenger Hunt**. Have you identified all six of the featured photos over the past six months? If not, we are presenting them once again to refresh your memory (you can also view photos at our website, www.neighborsinthestrip.com)

The individual who correctly identifies the most locations in which the photos were taken will win a large tin of gourmet popcorn from **The Pittsburgh Popcorn Company**, featuring the charm of the Strip District during the holiday season. These tins were so popular that they sold out during the holiday season, but Genalle and



Rob at **The Pittsburgh Popcorn Company** were gracious enough to reserve one for the winner of the **NITS Online Scavenger Hunt**. The best part is that the tin is empty! And why is that the best part? Because Ron and Genalle will fill it with your three favorite flavors, fresh and delicious!

Entering is easy...Just list your guesses and the corresponding photo number and e-mail to cynthiahelffrich@yahoo.com or fax your response to 412-201-1141. In the event of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Entries must be received by Wednesday, February 4, 2009 and the winner will be announced on our website on Friday, February 6. So if you haven't yet identified all 6 photos, you have a little time yet to visit the Strip and track them down.

AND, as an extra incentive, if the winner can identify not only where photo #6 was taken, but also WHAT it is (there's a hint in the description), he or she will also receive a \$20.00 Gift Certificate for **Crystal**, recently featured by Guy Fieri on the Food Network.

Contest is not open to the Staff or Board of Directors of Neighbors in the Strip or their immediate family members; the photographers who provided the photos and owners of the locations in which the photos were taken and their immediate families are also ineligible.



#1 Where in the Strip can you find this spectacle?
Courtesy of Shelly Tichy



#2 Where in the Strip could you find this gathering of heroes?
Courtesy of Sohail Khwaja



#3 What door in the Strip objects to being pushed around?
Courtesy of Dan Buczynski



#4 Where in the Strip Can You monkey around?
Courtesy of Scott Dietz
412foto.com



#5 'Green' buildings are popular, but from where in the Strip was this green photo taken?
Courtesy of Jennifer Yang



#6 Where can you find this regal Secret of the Strip and WHAT IS IT?
from NITS Archives



The Yum Report:

Yum Seeks A Return to Fitness in 2009
(or Getting Fit in the Strip)

How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? Yum has vowed to get fit in '09 and has dutifully set to work compiling a list of fitness opportunities available in the Strip (in no particular order):

- **Schoolhouse Yoga** – Yoga has been shown to increase strength, balance and flexibility, as well as helping with weight loss and much more. Yum was most intrigued by the benefit that promised to “improve quality of sleep.” Hmm...Yum does believe that improved sleep is key to a healthy lifestyle.
- **Bikram Yoga** – Bikram Yoga can result in strengthened, toned and flexible muscles, healing and repair of injuries and illnesses, and the ever-popular weight loss. Performed in the safe environment of a heated room, body resistance to the postures is relieved without risking injury. Hmm...Yum wonders whether any amount of heat short of nuclear fission can relieve the amount of resistance Yum's body is likely to exhibit.
- **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** - Yum recently discovered that Pittsburgh Ballet offers reasonably priced open classes in ballet and pilates at their Strip District location. Yum has also learned that ballet provides a complete discipline involving body, mind and creative expression where one can immerse oneself in the beauty of the music and enter another world. Hmm...Yum wonders whether one of those other worlds might contain Food Paradise from the Travel Channel.

Next Step: Yum will be sending Sib out to sample these amazing facilities and report back so that Yum can make an informed decision.

In the interim, Yum will be exploring the vegetarian dining at **Kaya**, **Eleven** and **Enrico Biscotti** (see this month's Happenings column), with a side trip to **Right By Nature** to explore the wonderful world of healthy, natural food.

Fluff says: For a more serious description of the services and benefits offered by Schoolhouse Yoga, Bikram Yoga and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, visit their websites at:

- www.schoolhouseyoga.com
- www.bikrampittsburgh.com
- http://pbt.org/school/open_classes.php

P.S. In case you missed it, China Millman celebrated the *Dishes to Savor for 2008* in the Post-Gazette and Yum is pleased to report that Strip District restaurants were responsible for two of the selections. Congratulations to

- **Lidia's Pittsburgh** for their Chicken Livers
- **Kaya** for their Avocado Tempura

Yum feels the need to sample...soon! To read the whole article, visit www.post-gazette.com/pg/08366/938655-46.stm

Happenings

It may be winter, but it's hot in the Strip!

January 31, February 7, 14, 21, & 28 – Make the Brown Bag Opera Concerts at **Pittsburgh Opera** part of your Saturday shopping day in the Strip. No reservations are required for these free concerts which begin at noon. Lunches may be ordered in advance from **Il mercato** for \$14 (or bring your own). For more information, visit <http://www.pittsburghopera.org/>

January 31 – Opera Up Close at **Pittsburgh Opera**. A behind the scenes preview of **Pittsburgh Opera's** upcoming production of *Don Pasquale*. The program begins at 12:45, immediately following the Brown Bag Opera Concert. For more information visit <http://www.pittsburghopera.org/>

February Wine Classes at Palate Partner:

- **February 5** – Wine Tour of Spain
 - **February 13** – Chocolate and Wine
- To register, call 412-391-8502 and visit the website at www.dreadnoughtwines.com for a full description of the classes.

February Events at Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle –

- **February 1** – Super Bowl Party including prix fixe pre-game buffet dinner, cash bar and half-time munchies. Call 412-642-6622 for reservations.
- **February 13** – 17th Annual Great Guinness Toast, including complimentary appetizers and \$1 off drinks during happy hour. No reservations accepted. Go early and stay late. Toast will be at 11 pm.
- **February 14** – If you haven't found your one true love, never fear – Lisdoonvarna's here!. Just in time for Valentine's Day, enjoy this celebrated Irish matchmaking festival and see love bloom at the **Harp & Fiddle!**

For more information on these events, weekly live music and much, much more visit www.harpandfiddle.com

February 5 – 27 – *No Child...* at **Open Stage Theatre**. Don't miss this insightful, funny and ultimately hopeful look at America's broken education system – a tour de force one-woman show! For more information, visit www.openstagetheatrepittsburgh.org

February 6, 12 and 20 – At **Spaghetti Warehouse** enjoy the Mystery Most Wanted performance of *One Love to Lose*. When TV's highest rated soap faces technical difficulties the actors must mount an outrageous live performance in which everything becomes real – even the murder! Call 412-261-6511 for reservations and visit <http://www.mysterymostwanted.com/pages/Warehouse.htm> for more information.

February 10 – 15 – A single night of love is not enough for **Kaya** which is celebrating Valentine's Day all week long with a chocolate and rum dinner, featuring chocolates from Mon Aimee. Check their website at www.bigburrito.com/kaya (menu will be posted soon) and to make reservations.

February 13 – Unfortunately the Valentine's Day Dinner on February 14 at **Enrico Biscotti** is sold out. But the good news is that a Valentine's Eve Dinner has been added! Enjoy a five-

course meal, a bottle of vino from Carlo's Garage and a taste of love you will never forget. Dinner begins at 7 pm and the price is \$65 per person. Call 412-281-2602 for reservations.

February 14 – Valentine Chef's Tasting Menu at **Eleven**. Five course tasting menu (vegetarian option available) with optional wine pairings. Visit <http://bigburrito.com/eleven/eleven.shtml> for complete menu and to make reservations.

February 27 – The Big Fat Vegetarian Throwdown at **Enrico Biscotti**. Soon to be a Pittsburgh tradition...a vegetarian dinner at Enrico's. Feel the love from one vegetarian to another. Dinners are 7 – 10 pm at \$40 per person. Call 412-281-2602 for reservations.

March 2 – **Pittsburgh Opera Cabaret**. Enjoy **Pittsburgh Opera's** Resident Artists performing Broadway selections, novelty songs and more at their bold new home in the Strip. All tickets include wine, dinner and dessert and proceeds benefit the Resident Artists Program. For more details or to make reservations, visit https://www.trgarts.com/eticket/o/PO/p/run_module.php?_module_=850

Pitt Ohio Sponsors Monte Carlo Night

Pitt Ohio Express will sponsor a Monte Carlo Night on Saturday, February 28 to raise funds for its two corporate charities, Autism Speaks and The Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The festive theme of the evening will be "Mardi Gras" and the event will be held at The West View Fireman's Banquet Hall.

For ticket or sponsorship information, please contact Jacquie Ward at Pitt Ohio's corporate office 412-232-3015. Support two wonderful causes while having a great time!

Escape Winter Doldrums with a Class at Enrico's

Whether you've already taken a breadmaking class at **Enrico Biscotti** or only wished you had, you will be thrilled to learn that they are expanding their class schedule. You won't want to miss the opportunity to learn the secrets of one of America's top ten bakeries. These classes are the perfect activity for cold winter months – working in **Enrico's** cozy café/garage with a nice, warm brick oven. So in 2009, make a vow not to sit around all winter watching the Food Channel...learn how to do it yourself!

- **February 8** – Learn the ancient art of the pizzaiolo, or pizza maker.
- **February 8** – Enrico's newest bread class focuses on sourdough bread, an event to satisfy the whole family.
- **January 29** – The Enrico Cookie Class will feature Espresso Tea Cookies and Chocolate Ravioli...Yum!
- **February 12** – Just in time for Valentine's Day, perfect your skills on a Ground Hazelnut Ricotta Cake with Girard Chocolate and a Caramel, Cranberry, Cornmeal, Hazelnut Upside-Down Cake and watch your loved one's face light up!

Breadmaking is \$50 per person and runs from 10 am – 1 pm; all other classes are \$65 per person and run from 6 – 9 pm. And since this is **Enrico Biscotti**, count on leaving filled with food and vino. For reservations call 412-281-2602.

Spaghetti Warehouse Super Bowl Offer

The **Spaghetti Warehouse** is proud to announce a very special Super Bowl offer. If the Steelers make a touchdown on the opening drive at the Super Bowl, Spaghetti Warehouse Club members will receive a coupon for a Meatball and Spaghetti dinner for \$1.00. Dinner will also include a salad or soup and fresh, hot sourdough bread.

To be eligible to win, join the Warehouse Club today. You can sign up online at www.meatballs.com, Click on "Join the Club."

Gilda's Steppers to Join in Highmark Walk

Gilda's Steppers from **Gilda's Club Western Pennsylvania** will walk together as a group in the 2009 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, May 30 at Heinz Field. The Walk for a Healthy Community is a fundraiser that benefits local health and human service agencies in the Southwestern Pennsylvania, such as **Gilda's Club**.

One way to ensure a healthier community is to support walkers such as **Rebecca Laughney** of **Gilda's Club**. Becky is seeking to raise \$1,000 to help those living with cancer. If you would like to help Becky achieve her goal, visit her fundraising page at www.firstgiving.com/bloughney.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Holds Open House

Did you know that **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** offers ballet and pilates classes to the public? Experience a sample class at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Open House at their Strip District facility on February 20 from 6:30 – 7:30. No need for a special wardrobe, just wear your regular workout attire. For more information contact adiandria@pittsburghballet.org



I presume that we all know the best place in the city to purchase everything you need for your Super Bowl Party, but just in case you don't, here's a hint:

THE STRIP IS IT !!!

GO STEELERS !!!

See you next month...Cindy H.