



June 2008

Penn Avenue Pottery Introduces Guest Artist Program

Penn Avenue Pottery has carved out a unique niche in the Strip District with a showroom filled with handmade pieces of pottery in the front and a working kiln in the back. And, beginning this summer, **Penn Avenue Pottery** is expanding their offerings by initiating a series showcasing local potters.



June features **Holly Van Dine**, a graduate of Bennington College where she studied ceramics with Stanley Rosen. Holly has also worked under **Penn Avenue Pottery** member Valda Cox and studied at Touchstone Center for Crafts with Joyce Michaud. Previously she was the manager of marketing and communications at a steel company, and later for the City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, as well as a consultant to many schools, art groups and corporations. Holly currently works with clay and exhibits at the Firehouse Studios on the Northside.

"I've been influenced by a wide range of tribal art -- as art emerging from shared culture -- and from countless contemporary potters and ceramicists whose work I admire. I'm currently working with icons of American culture -- the Statue of Liberty, George Washington -- looking at what happens when the context for viewing them is changed from the official to the personal.

Penn Avenue Pottery began in 1979 when owner Bill Foglia created a studio/gallery space at 1905 Penn Avenue. The building was a consignment store for three years until the Fall of 1990 when it became a collective of four potters. The current members are Valda Cox, Mike Gwaltney, Gary Pletsch and Tracey Seder Donoughe. The members share overhead expenses and the running of the gallery (open Tuesday thru Friday 10:00 - 3:00 and Saturdays 9:00 - 4:00PM or by appointment).

The opening is scheduled for June 20, 2008 from 5:00 - 8:00PM and will run to July 20. Call for more details (412-281-9394)

Penn Avenue Pottery is located at 1904 Penn Avenue.

Strip Scavenger Hunt

Do you think you're an expert on the Strip District? Test your knowledge in NITS first ever **Online Scavenger Hunt**. Beginning this month and extending through December 2008, NITS will feature a photo from the Spirit of the Strip PhotoWalk (or other occasion) and ask "Where in the Strip can you find this?" The first person to identify where the photo was taken each month will win a Strip Tote Bag. But, 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.



Where in the Strip can you find this?

Photo Courtesy of Shelly Tichv

Photos will be moved to our website following publication in the NITS-e-gram so that you can refresh your memory if needed. 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, so send your guesses to cynthiahelffrich@yahoo.com quickly!



Have You Seen...

Amy Rosenfield of **Mon Aimee Chocolat** is one of 25 finalists in the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade's competition for 2008 Outstanding Retailer. Go Amy!

Be sure to vote for your favorite (i.e., Strip District) restaurants for AOL's City Best at <http://citybest.aol.com/pittsburgh/>. There are quite a few Strip restaurants and nightspots up for honors, but your votes are needed. Deadline is July 10 and you can vote once each day. Make your voice heard!

NITS Helps Redd Up the River

Letter from Myrna Newman, Project Coordinator for Allegheny Clean Way:

"What an awesome and tireless group of volunteers you are! Thank you so much for the work you did last Friday night along the riverbank in the Strip District. The work done on the trail really improved its appearance and safety. Your seemingly endless effort at cutting and bundling was well worth it. The trail looks great! With the river as high as it was, I was really surprised at how much debris (about a half a ton) was collected from it. It thrills me to think that every bit of trash we get out of the rivers improves the overall health of our water and the appearance of our city. I can't thank you enough! I so enjoyed working with you all. We had such nice weather (after a pretty long bout of pretty awful weather), got a lot of good work done, ate pizza, met some great people, and got a chance to hear some of Zack Simmen's music on top of it all. Can't think of too many ways I'd rather spend my time."



Fashionistas Becky Rodgers and Cindy Cassell enjoy cleaning up the river bank in stylish attire

Looking for the Perfect Gift for Father's Day?

If your dad already has thousands of ties and trillions of tools, try something new this year...tickets for the Federated Investors **Parade of Champions**, June 20-22 at the **Heinz History Center**. This spectacular event will include opportunities for autograph signings from Pittsburgh champion athletes, championship trophies, interactive sports activities, a photo presentation featuring "Pittsburgh's Lost Teams," highlight videos from Pittsburgh's most memorable championship moments and live radio broadcasts by Fox Sports 970 and 104.7 FM.



Smallman Street will be closed in front of the **History Center** for the event with family activities and food from Spaghetti Warehouse, big Burrito's Mad Mex, Fudge Wudgie Chocolates, Pittsburgh Popcorn Co, and other Strip District eateries to tantalize your tastebuds.

For more details and information on tickets, visit <http://www.pghhistory.org/ParadeofChampions.asp>

New Mural "Sprouts" in the Strip

Courtesy of the Sprout Fund, the Strip District will soon have a new piece of public art, enhancing the wall of WFH Oriental Food Market, 2227 Penn Avenue, and providing Pittsburgh with its first Asian inspired mural. The final design has not yet been completed, but will be based on the concept of creating a "City Lung," a spot for meditation and contemplation of nature where the spirit can be restored along with the city air.



The artist chosen for this project is **Ian F. Thomas**. Ian earned his BFA in Ceramic and Painting studies at Slippery Rock University and an MFA in Ceramics at Texas Tech University where he further explored his interest in sculpture, printmaking and paint. Ian has also studied abroad at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava Slovakia and the Pottery Workshop in Jingdezhen China.

Ian's teaching and workshop experience includes instructing at the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Library Extension Program, Summer Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Slippery Rock University and a visiting artist workshop at Houston Baptist University. His work has been shown nationally, internationally and is part of several private collections. Selected images have also been published in 500 Pitchers, 500 Animals, Screenprint Basics and Image Transfer on Clay.

Be sure to check the NITS-e-gram and website (www.neighborsinthestrip.com) through the summer for information on the progress of the mural.

Smile! You're on Candid Camera

Thanks to grants from District Attorney, Steve Zappala, and former Councilperson Len Bodack, the Strip is now an even safer place to live, visit and do business. Seven security cameras have been mounted on the Terminal Building to monitor activity on Smallman Street and down the side streets from 16th to 21st Streets.



"These cameras will be a great help to the police in identifying criminals," said NITS Executive Director, Becky Rodgers, "And their mere presence will act as a deterrent to crime."

Events

June 12-June 28 – Out of This Furnace. Unseam'd Shakespeare Co. celebrates Pittsburgh 250 at the **Open Stage Theatre** with a revival of Thomas Bell's intimate tale of immigrants, labor, and the rise of unions in Braddock. Across three generations, one family struggles to build a life in the shadow of Carnegie's first mill. Visit <http://www.unseamd.org/> for information on tickets and special events surrounding this dramatic adaptation.

June 14-15 – Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Show. In honor of the Bonsai Society's 50th year a special exhibition will be held at **Society for Contemporary Craft** displaying the very best bonsai trees. For more information, visit <http://www.contemporarycraft.org/events/openings.html>

June 18 – Kaya Vegetarian Dinner. Seasonal vegetarian prix fixe dinner menu emphasizes flavor and variety, presenting familiar foods in exciting ways and making exotic foods delightfully accessible. For a preview of the menu, visit <http://www.bigburrito.com/kaya> and for reservations call 412-261-6565.

June 22 – Barbecue with the Bucs. The Pirate Wives are teaming up with **Gilda's Club of Western Pennsylvania** to celebrate their 2nd Anniversary in the Strip. Fans of the Pirates and supporters of **Gilda's Club** can all join in to help raise money to provide a meeting place for individuals with cancer and those who love them and to provide social and emotional support as a supplement to medical care. Fans and supporters will be able to interact with players & their wives, bid on wonderful auction items and enjoy a variety of food and music. To purchase your tickets, please contact **Gilda's Club** at 412-338-1919.

June 27–September 13 – Contemporary Masters. In recognition of the vision of the founder of the **Society for Contemporary Craft**, Pittsburgh arts patron Elizabeth Rockwell Raphael, this exhibition features work by Lenore Tawney, Marek Cecula, Jonathan Bonner, John Cederquist and Steven Maslach, who were shown in SCC's Verona store in the 1970's. Opening reception will be held on June 27 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.contemporarycraft.org

June Music Schedule for Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle. The **Harp and Fiddle** has a red hot lineup of talent for the month of June:

June 14 - Whiskey Limerick
June 20 - Corned Beef and Curry
June 21 - Mike Gallagher
June 27 - Red Hand Paddy
June 28 - Cueball

And don't forget the Acoustic Happy Hours on the back deck, on Fridays from 5:00 – 7:00 featuring some of Pittsburgh's finest acoustic acts:

June 13 - Marty, Paul & Mary
June 20 - Bobby V
June 27 - Dave Morgan

Iron City Beer to Feature Two Strip District Icons



In celebration of Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary, **Iron City Brewing Company** will be releasing limited edition collectible cans featuring six Pittsburgh icons and two of them are from the Strip District!

Primanti Brothers and the **Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum** will join the Pittsburgh

Passion, the Gateway Clipper Fleet, Seven Springs and Zambelli Fireworks to grace the

cans of Pittsburgh's favorite beer this summer. But hurry and get these special cans...they're sure to sell out fast! For more information on the limited edition cans and to enter a contest for prizes coordinated with this campaign, visit www.ironcitybrewingcompany.com

Welcome!

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



Members:

Bielau, Tierney, Coon & Co
Ceramiche a La Carte ***NEW***
The Cork Factory
Lidia's Pittsburgh
Reymer's Café
United Way of Allegheny County ***NEW***

Congratulations!



NITS would like to congratulate the 2008 Pennsylvania Downtown Center's Townie Award winners for Pittsburgh Main Street Communities:

- Bloomfield for Little Italy Days Festival
- Mount Washington for the Vu+ marketing campaign

A job well done for Main Street Managers Karla Owens and Greg Panza!



See you next month...Cindy H.

P.S. If you have any questions, comments or news about the Strip, please e-mail me at cynthiahelffrich@yahoo.com