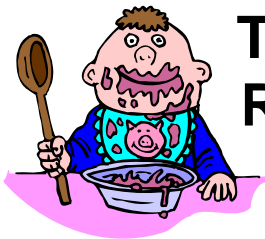


March 2009



The Yum Report: The Strip is 'IT' for your Lent, Easter and Passover needs!

Where else but the Strip can you get the freshest and tastiest seafood to satisfy your family during Lent? Specials on seafood are abounding at **Wholey's** www.wohley.com. Yum and Sib are planning a run on the Canadian Cold Water Lobster Tails. **Benkovitz Seafoods**, in addition to their seafood specialties for Lenten fasters, is offering a full menu of traditional Jewish foods, from gefilte fish to kugel, for Passover through April 16. All items are available to eat in or for takeout and can be sampled during the day. Remember, **Wholey's** and **Benkovitz** both offer free parking, so there's no excuse not to visit them!



And as long as we're discussing parking, don't forget to stop by **Right By Nature** (which also has free parking). Preview specials at www.rightbynature.net/page2.html. Even if fish isn't your dish, you can still skip meat on



Friday with a delicious vegetarian entrée and RBN offers a great selection of natural or organic products to choose from. Another option for meatless Fridays is the Pittsburgh staple – Pierogis! Homemade pierogis can be had at **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church** on Saturdays and a fat and yummy version can also be found at **S & D**

Polish Deli (these have become a new staple of the Yum pantry).

But this season is about more than just fish and other non-meat meals. It's also about chocolate! If your willpower is strong enough start stocking up now at **Mon Aimee Chocolat** and **Fudgie Wudgie** for the best chocolates the city has to offer.

(Continued on Page 2)

Every Step Counts!

Join Easter Seals at Walk With Me Pittsburgh



Easter Seals Western Pa has announced plans for its seventh annual *Walk With Me* event and fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, July 25 at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. The three-quarter mile walk/wheel will unite hundreds of Pittsburgh area participants to raise funds for **Easter Seals** services, drive awareness of issues affecting the disability community and change the lives of individuals and families living with disabilities.

Register early for this year's *Walk With Me* by visiting www.walkwithme.org/pittsburgh or by calling 412-281-7244. Every individual and team participant will be paired with an **Easter Seals** Honorary Ambassador and have an opportunity to learn about his or her personal story.

For more information about **Easter Seals Western PA**, please visit their website at www.westernpa.easterseals.com.

'Ditch the Workout, Join the Party' at the Pittsburgh Ballet



Visit the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School** in the Strip District on March 31 from 6:30 to 7:30 for a free Open House featuring Zumba – a fusion of Latin and International music that creates a dynamic, exciting and effective fitness system.

Taught by Zumba-certified instructor Tammy Rink who studied under 'Beto' Perez, the originator of the Zumba Program, this is a fantastic opportunity to discover why Zumba is one of the most popular fitness crazes to come along in quite a while.

If interested, go dressed in attire and footwear that allows freedom of movement and shake the monotony out of your ordinary aerobics routine! For more information, call 412-281-6727 or e-mail PBTschool@pittsburghballet.org

P.S. And while you're at it, get your backstage pass for **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** on April 23rd to celebrate PBT's 40th season! For more information, visit www.neighborsinthestrip.com and see the ad on page 3 of the NITS-e-gram.

Belle River Market Opens for the Season

The **Belle River Market**, featuring a collection of hand-made crafts, vintage and unique items will open on April 4 at the corner of 20th and Penn. The market, now in its third year, runs Saturdays only from 9 am to 3 pm and features local vendors showcasing their crafts. On the slate for opening day are:



ChaChing Jewelry, Suzi Fiori – Jewelry made from international and antique coins
Simplers Creek Soap Company, Mary Radford – 100% natural vegan and milk soaps, bath and beauty products
Wintermoon Designs, Rebekah Cochran – Hand-painted purses
Seven Lights Designs, Jay Parker – Sterling and fine silver jewelry
Eve's Eden, Judy & Harry Weiss – Vintage and handmade jewelry, painted furniture and clothing
Sharon Westplat – Photography
Taheera's Designs, Taheera Tucker – Flowing, all-season skirts in silks and silk blends
Jen Carlucci – Accessories and toys for feline friends
EJ Villegas and Lz Rocks – Artisan glass, stone and wire-wrapped jewelry

Helping the Homeless in Today's Hard Times

Pittsburgh Opera is pleased to partner with **Three Rivers Youth's Hub** to collect clothing for our neighbors in need. The Hub provides a number of services to homeless youth in the community. Bring new or gently used, clean adult-sized clothing items to drop off in the Benedum Center lobby before a performance of *La Boheme* or at the Opera headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District before April 3. No underwear or socks, please. For more information, contact Allison Ruppert at 412-281-0912, X262.



Do Something Good for the Environment and Something Wonderful for Yourself!



Visit **Zerrer's Antiques**, 2703 Penn Avenue, during their sale with up to 40% off select items and do something good for the environment and gentle on your wallet. Check their eclectic mix of previously loved home furnishings and accessories. At **Zerrer's** you'll find something for every taste and budget. Their inventory may be old, but it will be new to you! For more information, go to www.zerrersantiques.com.

The Yum Report (Continued from Page 1)

And, if you think you are beyond the age for an Easter Basket – think again! **Palate Partners** is offering an Easter Basket for grown-ups with chocolates that go very well with wine. Visit <http://www.palatepartners.com/giftbaskets1.html> and get started on a gift basket for your favorite Honey Bunny.

There are at least two not to be missed dining opportunities in the Strip this Easter (and Yum is still trying to figure out how to do both). **Eleven** is planning an Easter Brunch from 10 am – 3 pm. Yum and Sib were present at the Valentine's Day brunch which had a similar menu and it was superb! Check the menu at <http://www.bigburrito.com/eatbig/09/03/index.html> and make your reservations early!

Equally intriguing to the Easter Bunny in Yum is the one time only Easter brunch at the **Enrico Biscotti Café**. There are only about 30 spots available, so act soon or forever hold your peace. From bread basket, to frittata, to house made ravioli with pancetta and asparagus, and much, much more, this tantalizing menu promises a brunch that will curl your toes!

And finally, if you, like Yum, Sib and the Steel Magnolia, can't get enough of **The Pittsburgh Popcorn Company's** delicious gourmet popcorn, they are offering a special Easter Tin with your favorite flavors. We haven't seen it yet, but there's no doubt we will be popping in soon!

Of course, this is only the tip of the iceberg with regard to the springtime holidays in the Strip. So be sure to come on down and enjoy the spring weather in Pittsburgh's Historic Market District.

P.S. Congratulations to **Sushi Kim** on Munch's wonderful review of their barbecue buffet! To read the whole article visit www.post-gazette.com/pg/09078/956682-46.stm.

P.P.S. The Ladies Philoptochos from St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will be selling fresh Easter bread from 9 am – 4 pm on April 10-11 in front of **Stamoolis Brothers**. Yum!

Happenings

There's too much going on in the Strip to cover in the NITS-e-gram – it would be like reading the Sunday New York Times! So visit our website at www.neighborsinthestrip.com for a list of Happenings in the Strip. Be sure to bookmark it and you'll always know what's going on in Pittsburgh's favorite neighborhood – the Strip!

BACKSTAGE PASS

See. Select. Subscribe to PBT's 40th Season!
SPECIAL ONE DAY OFFER FOR FIRST-TIME SUBSCRIBERS
6am-6pm on April 23, 2009



PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE
40TH ANNIVERSARY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: TERRENCE S. ORR

YOU'RE INVITED!

April 23, 2009

Join us at the Benedum &
Celebrate our 40th season!



Subscribe to our four-ballet series and receive the 5th ballet free, plus complimentary parking at Theater Square!

There are two ways to take advantage of this one day only offer: call us at 412-456-9107 or visit us at the Benedum Center for Performing Arts from 6am to 6pm.

Visit us at the Benedum and:

- Test drive your seats!
- Enjoy complimentary breakfast and lunch by Panera Bread
- Take a ballet or Pilates class offered in the lower lobby by PBT School
- Take part in an hourly special gift raffle
- As one of the first 50 to visit and subscribe you will receive a delightful gift bag with signed pointe shoes and goodies from local Pittsburgh companies.

By subscribing that day you will also have the opportunity to watch PBT dancers take company class on stage, followed by the dress rehearsal for PBT's production of Cinderella! Class and rehearsal viewing are limited to the first 100 subscribers who RSVP to these events on site the day of the event.

Please note subscriptions in this offer exclude Director's Circle. Valid only for first time subscribers purchasing on this date. Other restrictions may apply.

Photography: Rieder Photography
Artist: Julie Erickson and Luca Strizzi



Coming Soon!

Third Annual Spirit of the Strip PhotoWalk – Behind the Strip

The Pittsburgh Marathon – Strip District Festivities

Top Chef, The Tour —————▶



See you next month...Cindy H.