



September 2008

**NITS Welcomes New Officers,
Board and
Advisors**

Neighbors in the Strip
(NITS) is proud to announce the new members to its Board of Directors and Advisory Board, elected at the September 10, 2008 annual business meeting. Jim Bennett, Executive Vice President of Easter Seals Western Pennsylvania, will assume the office of President of the Board from Anne Mullaney, of Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle, who has served in that office since 2001.



Judy & Jim Bennett at the 2008 Spirit of the Strip Awards

Jim brings a wealth of experience and energy to NITS. Since his arrival at Easter Seals, Jim has developed and expanded the organization's vocational/employment program into a multi-million dollar social business venture. In addition to his duties at Easter Seals, Jim is just ending his term as Chairman of the Board for Pennsylvania Industries for the Blind & Handicapped, a 78 member statewide organization that markets products and services provided by persons with disabilities.

The following new directors have joined the Board:

- Karen Brean, CTAC
- Sarah Moeller, University of Pittsburgh
- Chris Beers, Spaghetti Warehouse
- Ryan Shewchuk, Pitt-Ohio Express
- David Marks, Seagate

NITS is also pleased to welcome the following additions to its Advisory Board:

- Ron Ausnehmer, Eleven
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Monika Berwein, Kaya
- Anne Ditmanson, Resident
- Councilman Patrick Dowd
- Sylvia McCoy, 'Burgh Bits & Bites
- Bryant Olson, Hampton Inn & Suites
- Amy Rosenfeld, Mon Aimee Chocolat
- Shawn Walthour, EDSI
- Erin Wolfe, Pittsburgh Opera

For a complete list of Board and Advisory members, visit www.neighborsinthestrip.com.

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 fourth featured photo from the **Spirit of the Strip PhotoWalk**. 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?"



Where in the Strip can you monkey around?
Photo courtesy of Scott Dietz, 412foto.com

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 cynthiahelffrich@yahoo.com quickly!

**UPDATE TO OPEN STAGE THEATRE
2008-9 SEASON**

Open Stage Theatre has advised us that there have been some changes to the dates for their 2008-9 season. So mark your calendar as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Oct 30 – Nov 15 | The Mystery of Irma Vep |
| Feb 5 – Feb 22 | No Child... |
| April 23 - May 9 | Disinfecting Edwin |

Watch for more information on these productions in upcoming months

Sprout Mural to be Dedicated

As many of you have noticed, the mural enhancing the wall of Benjamin An's **WFH Oriental Food Market** has been completed and the Strip District is proud to continue its long tradition of welcoming diversity with Pittsburgh's first mural paying tribute to the Chinese community.

A dedication ceremony for the mural will be held on September 24, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The dedication will begin outside the market and will feature a Lion Dance. The lion dance is one of China's most distinctive cultural arts. The performance frightens evil spirits and brings luck and prosperity.

Following the dedication, a reception will be held at **Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle**, sponsored by **The Sprout Fund**, **WFH Oriental Food Market**, **Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle** and **Neighbors in the Strip**.

During community planning meetings, Mr. An introduced the concept of a "City Lung," a spot for meditation and contemplation of nature where the spirit can be restored along with the city air, as a basis for the mural. Artist, Ian Thomas, brought this concept to life with images based loosely on 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 and will now inspire travelers on Penn Avenue.

Please join us as we celebrate this beautiful addition to the Strip District.

For additional information, see the invitation for this event on page 4

Antiques Appraisal Show Comes to Heinz History Center



Got stuff? Want to be on camera? Then join the **Heinz History Center** and KDKA for "Pittsburgh's Hidden Treasures, An Antiques Appraisal Show" on Sunday, September 28 from noon to 4 pm.

Bring collectibles, heirlooms and other prized possessions to the History Center and meet with professional appraisers and conservators from the Smithsonian. Through the day KDKA cameras will roam the **History Center** seeking out the most unique items for a series of special programs later this fall.

For more information, visit www.pghhistory.org or contact Terri Blanchette at tsblanchette@hswp.org.

Pittsburgh Opera Partners with Locks of Love

Talk about a bad hair day! Nobody beats Samson, the Hebrew warrior in **Pittsburgh Opera's** season opener, "Samson & Dalila." With one swift slash of Dalila's shears, the hero loses his God-given strength. But a haircut for Locks of Love makes a hero out of anyone willing to donate their long locks to help children with total hair loss.

Pittsburgh Opera wigmaster James Geier will snip the locks of five people who wish to donate their hair to help children suffering from hair loss. On hand will be "Dalila," mezzo-soprano star Stephanie Blythe, dubbed "the finest singer in the world" by *Newsday*. The event will be held at **Pittsburgh Opera's** new headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip on Wednesday, October 8. The refurbished building – George Westinghouse's original air brake factory – includes creative space for costumers, wigmakers, makeup artists, and other theater crafts.

Each person invited to participate will receive two tickets to "Samson & Dalila," a backstage tour, special gifts from the **Pittsburgh Opera**, and the knowledge that they are helping children with serious medical conditions regain confidence and self-esteem. Those wishing to participate should send their name, a photo and contact information to Allison Ruppert at aruppert@pittsburghopera.org. (Type "Locks of Love" in the subject line)

For additional information and other ways to help, visit <http://www.pittsburghopera.org/index.shtml#> and click on "Locks of Love"

Welcome to Uptown Fitness Studio!

Uptown Fitness Studio will host an Open House from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on September 25 at its Strip location, 2002 Smallman Street, (next door to **Kaya**). Owners, Sean Marszalek and Charles Cook, have over 16 years of experience between them and **Uptown Fitness** is a private club geared towards one on one attention with the client.

The Open House will include a fitness demonstration and nutrition seminar. The nutrition seminar will explain the glycemic index and the importance of eating low glycemic carbohydrates for fitness goals and disease prevention. Anyone who attend the open house will have the opportunity to sign up for training at a discounted rate.

For more information call Sean or Charles at 412-926-4158.

Be sure to read the October NITS-e-gram for the latest information on:

- **The Otto Milk Building Condominiums**
- **Pittsburgh Neighborhood Narratives Screenings**

Events

September 19 – District 6 Councilwoman Tonya D. Payne will host a fundraising event at PNC Park. A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit Dinwiddie Community Alliance and The Northside Common Ministries. *For additional information visit www.neighborsinthestrip.com for a link*



September Schedule for Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle. The Harp and Fiddle has a great lineup of events for the month of September:

September 19 Sean McClorey
Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day
September 20 Pat Garvey
September 25-27

And to all fans of the Fighting Irish: Watch the games at the **Harp & Fiddle**, official home of Pittsburgh's Notre Dame Club
Visit www.harpandfiddle.com for complete calendar of events

September 26 – November 1 – Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House. Marking five years of scaring Pittsburgh senseless, Hundred Acres Manor unveils its new face of terror – a Gothic castle façade that welcomes Manor visitors into a world where nightmares come to life. Proceeds benefit **Homeless Children's Education Fund.** *For more information, visit www.homelessfund.org/events/events*

Upcoming Events at Society for Contemporary Craft
November 1 – Craig Smith demonstrates woodturning skills
November 22 – Polymer clay artist Laura Tabakman
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! *For additional information, see page 4.*

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 4 - The Business of Being Born. The **Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health** is sponsoring a screening of Ricki Lake's documentary film about birth, "The

Business of Being Born" at the Aspinwall Waterworks Cinema at 9:30 am. *For more information, visit www.midwifecenter.org*

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.

The Yum Report:



Yum unfortunately has very little space this month but wanted to remind you to stock up on your Steeler gear in the Strip for the 2008-2009 football season. New this year we have Official NFL Steelers tins from **The Pittsburgh Popcorn Company.** PLUS...on game days and the day before Black and Gold Kettle Corn will be available. Excellent munchables for the game!

Welcome!



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

Members:
35th Street Associates American Dispatch
Beynon Building Co. The Buncher Company
Mahla Office Eqmt RKG Associates LLC
Reyna's

Congratulations!



...to **McCaffrey Interests**, selected to receive a 2008 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Award for the **Armstrong Cork Factory.** Mindy Crawford, of Preservation Pennsylvania commented, "This is one of the best examples of turning industrial buildings into great spaces."

...to **The Priory**, named one of the Top 10 Hidden Gems in the World by Hotels.com. We're sure it was the Strip Package offered by **The Priory** that was responsible for this prestigious award!

...to **Crystal Joseph** of **Crystal** for her stellar appearance on Guy Fieri's Food Network show, Diners, Drive-ins and Dives. Crystal and her mother, Rita, were delightful and the food looked great! Co-starring on the program were NITS' own Becky Rodgers, Barb DeTemple and Cindy Cassell who obviously are fans of Sunset Boulevard's "I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. Demille" – kinda scary, really. **Note: If you missed the show, the segment is #407, "A Taste of Everywhere" and will air again on 9/21 and 9/26**

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See you next month...Cindy H.



POLISH FOOD FESTIVAL

St. Patrick-St. Stanislaus
"In the heart of the Strip District"

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 • Noon – 8 pm

St. Stanislaus Church • 57 21st Street

Saturday Polka Mass at 4 pm

Music by **Bob Jezewski & the Merry Makers**

*Featuring all of your Favorite Polish Foods –
including our award-winning Pierogies*

**50-50 • Bake Sale
Theme Basket Raffles**



GRAND RAFFLE

1st Prize ... \$2,500.00

2nd Prize\$300.00

3rd Prize\$200.00



Fr. Harry Nichols, Pastor

The Sprout Fund & Neighbors in the Strip

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mural by Ian Thomas



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

the
**Sprout
fund**
www.sproutfund.org

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



Neighbors in the Strip
1212 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.NeighborsInTheStrip.com

RSVP to 412-201-4774

The mural design concept is loosely based on 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.