Community Club Newsletter for September 1999

Edited by Ollie Rieley

Reward Offered to Stop Thievery from Community Gardens

If you think stealing from the Church poor box is low, read on. Highland Park and other East End communities have been the victims of a wave of thefts from community gardens. Someone who knows landscaping is stealing shrubbery that was paid for , planted and maintained by volunteers and community groups like the Highland Park Community Club (HPCC). Public plantings in the Park itself, as well as neighborhood sites, have been taken. Highland Park has lost about 30 shrubs. Four were stolen from a public garden in East Liberty. Garfield and other communities have had similar thefts.

This situation has become so serious that the HPCC has offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s). Councilman Jim Ferlo has agreed to match the reward for a total of \$1,000. Persons with information should call Councilman Ferlo's office at 255-2140.

Dell Ziegler, the Chair of the HPCC beautification Committee, said "We've been planting public gardens in the park and neighborhood for nine years. The reception has been so strong that the effort has spread to East Liberty, to various public areas, churches and flower boxes — we even spent a lot of effort at No. 5 Police Station./ The real shame in this crime is not the financial loss, the real shame is that the thefts will stop the efforts to improve communities. Neighborhood groups will not put in their money and time so it can be stolen by some low-life three months later. We ask that everyone be vigilant and hope that the \$1,000 reward will help turn over the rock that the thief has crawled under."

Annual Meeting and Elections

The September 16th meeting will be the annual meeting for election of officers. All members of the club are invited to come to the meeting and cast their votes. The nominating committee has selected the following slate of officers and directors:

President: Diane DeNardo
President Elect: Muzz Meyers
Secretary: To Be Announced
Treasurer: To Be Announced
Directors: Jay Carson

Karen Raffensberger Jan Stayianos Amy Enrico Paula Flaherty

The officers are elected to one year terms and the directors to three year terms. If you would like to be Secretary or Treasurer, call Diane DeNardo at 363-2092 or Mitch Kates at 661-4995 to put your hat in the ring. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor the night of the meeting.

Vote at the

September Meeting!!

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Tazza d'Oro Applies for Longer Hours and Outdoor Seating

Ollie Rieley

Tazza d'Oro owner Amy Enrico appeared before the Zoning Board of Adjustment on August 26 seeking to extend Tazza's hours of operation and to permit some outdoor seating in front and to the rear of the building. Ms Enrico's request was supported by many friends from the neighborhood and opposed by a few. Several people spoke giving reasons why they would like longer hours, most frequently to allow picking up coffee earlier in the day on their way to work or to permit more evening time to enjoy their refreshment and company of friends. Several noted that they worked long hours and when they got home, ate dinner and were ready to relax at the coffee shop, it was after hours for the shop. Nearby neighbors assured the Board that there was no noticeable nuisance from the Coffee Shop. A few opponents voiced objection to the requested changes because they would be exceptions to the new zoning rules which were so carefully created over the last several years. The lawyer for the opposition presented a brief stating five reasons for this position. The Board granted a continuance until September 9 for Ms Enrico's lawyer to respond to the brief, a week for the opposition lawyer to rebut the response and promised a decision 30 days after that (October 15).

October Meeting Program

Bruce Robison

Mark on your calendars now — The program for the October meeting will discuss Block Watch and Public Safety. Make sure someone from your block attends!



H. P. C. C.

Officers, Directors & Committees

President: Mitch Kales (661-4995)
President Elect: Diane DeNardo(363-2092)
Comm. Dev. V.P.: Debbie DeAngelis (363-4948)
Treasurer: Norma Lipscomb (362-6562)
Secretary: Paula Flaherty (361-2203)
Past President: Bob O'Connor (362-1239)

Directors

Maura Brown 362-0534 (99)
Paul Dougherly 362-9517 (99)
Bruce Robison 361-4892 (99)
Ed Sullivan 361-1101 (99)
William Zlatos 661-6395 (99)
Carol Dyas 661-1613 (00)
Jay Gilmer 363-9100 (00)
Kelly Meade 362-0331 (00)
Mary Lee Snuffer 734-8477 (00)
Bob Staresinic 441-8972 (00)
Tom Burns 363-3654 (01)
David Hance 361-4935 (01)
M. Meyers 661-2315 (01)
Ollie Rieley 661-1205 (01)
Kathy Ziegler 363-1252 (01)

Committees

Beautification: Dell Ziegler 363-1252 Block Watch: John Reinsel 361-7973 Children: Tania Grubbs 661-4054 Commercial District: Muzz Meuers 661-2315 Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195 Education: Jay Gilmer 363-9100 Hospitality: Kelly Dougherty 362-9517 House Tour: Norma Lipscomb 362-6562 Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331 Newsletter: Ollie Rieley 661-1205 Program: Bruce Robison 361-4892 Public Safety: John Di Pucci 361-1023 Recreation: Charlie Peterson 441-2766 Reservoir Covers: Dave Hance 361-4935 Restoration: Debbie DeAngelis 363-4948 Super Playground: Steve Pettler 363-3978 Vard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830 Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203 Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972 Zoning:

Voice Mail 734-5261 C. O. P. 665-3644 - Pager 690-6008 SEPTEMBER, 1999 PAGE 3

Editor's Note: The following article was inadvertently omitted from the July Newsletter. I apologize for the oversight on my part.

House Tour Thanks

Norma Lipscomb

As Chairperson of the Tenth Annual H.P.C.C House and Garden Tour, I wish to express a huge **Thank You** to the following:

The owners of the homes and gardens.

The Committee; especially Connie, Helen Faye. Janice, Jeanne, and Ruth.

Rich Burgett for the layout of the directory.

Mike Eversmeyer for the house histories.

Walnut Market and Macondo for selling advance tickets.

Gretchen McKay of the Post Gazette for the wonderful article.

St. Andrew's Church for the use of its facilities.

For their contribution of funds:

Asia Carpet Lou Iezzi Auto Service Café Baci The Food Gallery Club One Rollier's Hardware

Macondo Stanton Negley Drug Store

Howard Hanna Real Estate

For their contributions to the Silent Auction;

The National Aviary Ace Lock Sue Parker Adolph Sufrin, Inc. John Heinz History Center The Carnegie Diane DeNardo Pittsburgh Center for the Arts Pittsburgh Children's Museum Weisshouse Dingbat's The Pittsburgh Playhouse East End Florist Pittsburgh Pirates Pittsburgh Steelers Betty Fanto

Gemini Theater Renaissance & Baroque Society

Mary Lee Snuffer Waterworks Cinema
Mitch Kates Civic Light Opera
Macondo The Marriott
Mattress Factory Y Music Society

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

The Frick Art & Historical Society

The Volunteers who acted as docents or sold tickets.

And, to all those who attended the Tour.

And to you Norma, the Community and, indeed, the entire city, say THANK YOU and WELL DONE. Editor

Around St. Andrew's

Bruce M. Robison

The fall season begins at St. Andrew's Church in September with a return to our regular schedule of services--Sundays at 9 a.m. (Holy Communion, in the Chapel) and 11 a.m. (Choral Morning Prayer, in the Church, with Holy Communion on the First Sunday of each month), and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. (Holy Communion, in the Chapel, with Bible Study following). All are welcome!

Highlights of the month will include a Parish Theater

Party (to see the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater's production of David Hare's "Racing Demon") on Friday evening, September 3rd, an evening at the ballpark to see the Pirates play the Giants on September 4th, and the fun and festivities of our ANNUAL PARISH "ROUNDUP" SUNDAY Chuck Wagon Picnic on the first day of our Church School's fall program--Sunday, September 12th.

This coming October 8th, at 8 p.m., the Second Annual St. Andrew's Lecture will feature as speaker the Hon. Sala Udin, Pittsburgh City Councilman, discussing the role racial issues will play in the development of our city and region in the coming decade and century. As a way of preparation for that topic, our Adult Education Committee is scheduling a Friday Forum at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 17th, to view and discuss the video "Wylie Avenue Days," which profiles the history of the African American community in Pittsburgh's Hill District. All are welcome to attend this event, which will be held in St. Andrew's Brooks Hall.

We also in this fall season will want to mark our calendars now for Thursday evening, October 7th, and the first "First Thursday" program of Choral Evensong and Recital, beginning at 8 p.m.

We at St. Andrew's are pleased to have been "the church in Highland Park" since moving to the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue in 1906. If you would like more information about services, concerts, or other activities--or if there is some way we can be of assistance to you--please contact us

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St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - September

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel 11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship Nursery and Church School at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Visit our Homepage: www.hows.net/15206saec

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through the Church Office, 661-1245.

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Community Portrait

Clara Venturino - Crossing Guard at Hampton and Negley

Richard G. Johnson

Ten Questions---

1. How long have you been a Crossing Guard?

"Fifteen years. I've been a Crossing Guard for fifteen years! This year is the 52nd Anniversary year of the Crossing Guard service. Fifty-two years ago there was a death in the Inspector's family. That's when she started the Crossing Guards. She's now in a nursing home. This year we went 'til June 18th and started again August 26th."

2. How long have you been in Highland Park?

"Twelve years ago in February, three things happened to me in the same month: I got this corner as a Crossing Guard, I moved to Highland Park, and I got a position with the Ames Department Store. I've been at Hampton St. and N. Negley for 12 years as of last February."

- 3. What can you say about this corner, Hampton & Negley? "This corner handles 13 buses, usually around 60 kids(I know them all by name!) We used to have just two stop signs, now there are four, and with your help a few years ago we got the warning sign, too. I have authority to issue tickets, and to issue warnings. I've done both, and then have testified in court for the tickets."
- 4. How did you get to be a crossing guard?
 "I originally started out as a substitute. When I first started, the Inspector called me her 'gem', because I was willing to travel. Both of us liking Neil Diamond didn't hurt."
- 5. Where else have you worked as a Crossing Guard?
 "I've worked Fifth & Penn, Stanton & N. St. Clair,
 Squirrel Hill, Point Breeze, Homewood and the North Side. I've
 worked the Marathon 14 times. I've done the Arts Festival
 downtown, crossing people at the entrance to Point State Park by
 the Hilton. Also the Regatta and the Fourth of July."
- 6. What's the worst thing you've seen?

"There've been several accidents, fortunately, none too serious. It usually happens when it's drizzling, and when somebody gets impatient, tries to go through the intersection around somebody else, and hits someone in the intersection. Once someone hit a police car that way. Winter is the hardest — it's sooo cold!"

7. What's something you don't want anyone to find out about—ever?

"Really. Oh no, I can't. Well, once I was commended by Mayor Masloff for retrieving something for someone, then whistling her down. Something fell off or out of her car; I got it, and whistled her down. The lady was so happy that I was returning something to her and not giving her a ticket, she wrote

me a letter, and my boss the Inspector and the Mayor. That's when I got the commendation from Mayor Masloff."

8. What should people know or think about?

"The kids, of course. Please drive slowly. Too many people are just racing up to stop at the stoplight at Stanton. What for? Think about the kids, and drive slowly. In the winter, take the few extra seconds to clean the snow off the windows of your car. You really can't see the kids, and they aren't paying attention to you. Think about their safety first."

9. What else would you like to say?

"There's lots of love in this job with the kids. I have lots of friends, people both kids and adults and adults that used to be kids I've crossed, all of them slow down and honk, and wave to me. I always have candy for the kids. Lots of time the kids and sometimes the adults bring me candy and flowers and coffee."

10. How do you like your coffee? "Hot!"

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August 1999 Meeting Highlights

Paula Flaherty

Meeting called to order at 7:35 P.M.

Reports:

C.O.P. Report: Office Scalise said she was on vacation in July and on duty at regatta in early August so she wasn't in the neighborhood as much as usual. Patrols have been active in the Park with 15 arrests for underage drinking or marijuana in July. There have been a total of 150 arrests this summer. Burglaries have been up in all the neighborhoods, particularly toward East Liberty. There also have been thefts of shrubbery from the neighborhood plots. Welcome to Officer Bill Webb from Zone 5 who attended tonight's meeting.

Program: No program tonight.

Beautification: Good year although theft of plants has had a negative impact. The Home Depot development will include landscaping and planting so it won't be an eyesore.

Block Watch: No Report.

Children: No report

Commercial District: Café Baci Chef Daryl Barnes is going to institute a new menu. He would like to make it a "neighborhood" restaurant. Prices have been lowered, sandwiches added and a children's menu added.

Day Camp: No report

Hospitality: Refreshments at tonight's meeting taste good.

House Tour: Ten houses were on the tour in June plus a silent auction. There was a profit of approximately \$4208. Attendance was about 400.

Membership: Current membership is approximately 600. A proposal to adopt the following dues schedule for the coming year was made and approved. Regular membership rate: \$20.00, low income rate: \$10.00, first year membership rate: \$5.00. This is a continuation of the rates for the past year. The \$5.00 rate was successful in attracting a large number of new members, we won't know how many of them will apply for the \$10.00 rate or renew at the \$20.00 rate.

Newsletter: Articles are always due at the meeting or soon after. *Public Safety:* No report.

Recreation: A club member has volunteered to organize softball and basketball for neighborhood adults. Gyms are being explored. — On Tuesday August 24 at dusk, Godzilla will be shown in the Park. This Sunday Reservoir of Jazz will be happening. Maureen Cato was presented with flowers to thank her for 5 years of Jazz in the Park.

Reservoir: Things are moving along with the new filtration plant for reservoir No. 1.

Restoration: no report. The fountain is planned to return in the future. The benches around the reservoir are in bad shape; but they will be improved during the general refurbishment planned as part of the installation of the new filtration plant.

Super Playground: The committee head will be contacted to address the general disrepair and litter in the area.

Yard Sale: Gross proceeds were \$934 and after expenses \$579 was netted by the club. Thanks to Judy Wolfe.

Voice Mail: No report Welcoming: No Report.

Parks: A master plan is being developed to revitalize all four major Pittsburgh city parks. It should be available in 6 to 12 months for study.

Treasurer's Report: Although the treasury appears healthy, an unexpected bill was received from the IRS.

New Business:

- 1. Tazza d'Oro Support: A question of the propriety of providing financial support for the legal fees surrounding the zoning hearings for Tazzo d'Oro was raised. When it was apparent last fall/winter that the zoning board approval for the Coffee Shop would be appealed to common pleas court, the board had approved a motion to provide financial support up to \$5000 to help defray legal expenses to defend against the appeal. The approval was overwhelming and was justified by the perceived importance of the Coffee Shop to the community. Two issues were raised: a) there was no finance committee meeting approving the proposal, b) is it appropriate for the club to help a business in that manner. In light of the controversy, Amy Enrico, proprietor of Tazza d'Oro, declined the funds, making the issue moot.
- 2. Plant Theft: Dell Ziegler noted that there have been several instances of plant theft from the Club's plantings and the new plantings around the reservoir. He moved that a \$500.00 reward be offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. After approval by a finance committee meeting within the board meeting, the board approved the reward. Mr. Ziegler said that he had been told that Councilman Ferlo would arrange matching funds for a total reward of \$1000.
- 3. *Officer Nominations:* The nominating committee presented the following slate for officers to be elected in next month's general membership meeting:

President: Diane DeNardo President Elect: Muzz Meyers Secretary: To be announced Treasurer: To be announced

Board of Directors: (five to be elected)

Jay Carson

Karen Raffensberger

Jan Stayianos

Amy Enrico

Paula Flaherty

Additional nominations will be sought from the floor.

Web Site: Tony Kieth volunteered to help set up the web site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

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TAZZA ON HIGHLAND IS A DESTINATION

Beth Saxon

My twilight summer runs around the reservoir are one of summertime's great offerings for me. I get my exercise in a beautiful and comfortable time of day and, more importantly, I get to defer the discomfort of exercise until the last possible moment of the day. Others opt for the "do it early and get it done with" philosophy. The "now or never" approach suits me just fine.

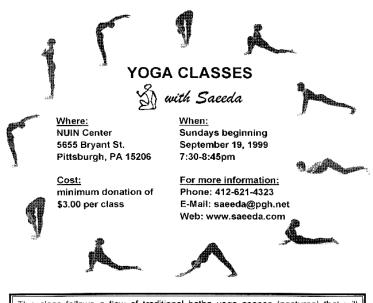
It was upon one of these twilight runs recently that I noticed the buzz and hum of people at Enrico's Tazza d'Oro on Highland Avenue. It was a happening place indeed. Lots of people socializing, some reading quietly, most it seemed partaking in the fine java and eats that Tazza has to offer.

I was heartened. The sight of people coming and going to that little coffee shop filled me with glee. Who needs Starbucks when you've got a distinctive little place close by, I thought. Highland Avenue seemed alive and vibrant in a way that I had not seen it look before. Alive, yes, but certainly not rowdy. This is the coffee crowd we're talking about.

It pleased me to know that those folks were staying in the neighborhood to do their thing, and many, I'm sure made their way into Highland Park with Enrico's as their destination. This is not all that unusual for Highland Park as we lay claim to such fine restaurants as La Foret and Café Baci which have as their patrons folks from all over the place. Tazza d'Oro, though, is more so an everyday kind of place. And for many of us, coffee, Tazza's core product, is an everyday kind of thing.

Of course, I'll be the first to remind anyone that people have long found worth in our neighborhood, long before beans were being ground and milk was being frothed on Highland Avenue. Beautiful old homes, tree lined streets, good neighbors, flower gardens, restored houses, community mindedness, a lovely park -- these are some of the things that make Highland Park a great place to live. Good lattes on Highland Avenue is a bonus.

I'm looking forward to the cooler days that fall will bring. Perhaps my girls will be more willing to go for long walks if I tell them there's hot chocolate with "lotsa whipped cream" waiting for them only blocks away. Hope to see you there.



This class follows a flow of traditional hatha yoga asanas (postures) that will massage every organ in the body, releasing and eliminating toxins, while providing mental concentration and control throughout the mind. It's a great way to start your week! Beginners are welcome!

Saeeda Hafiz is the author of YOGA - For Daily Living (video) and YOGA - Personal Direction (audio CD and cassette).

What people are saying about Saeeda...

"It has been a pleasure working with Saeeda. Each day is unpredictable and I am not sure how I will feel and Saeeda is able to provide a customized class that fits whatever I need for that day."

-Salma Hayck
Actress

"Saeeda is a Yoga expert who will give you a thorough workout according to your needs. The Yoga she teaches reduces stress and can enhance your mental and physical well-being". --William Richardson, M.D. Atlanta Clinic of Preventive Medicine

"The effect that her classes have had on my mind, my body and my energy levels have changed my life." --Liz Berlin Musician-Rusted Root

"Doing Yoga makes me feel like a better person... At times, she makes me believe anything is possible." --Zed Armstrong Filmmaker PAGE 8 HPCC NEWSLETTER

Seminary Activities

Ollie Rieley

One of the major resources of our immediate neighborhood is the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. As an adjunct to the education of men and women as Christian Ministers, the Seminary conducts a vigorous program of continuing education. While many of the Continuing Education events are directed at specialized or technical topics, there are a number of general interest that our readers might be interested in. I am listing those that I see on the Continuing Education leaflet for the 1999-2000 school year. Unless otherwise noted these are free and open to the public.

Monday & Tuesday, September 27, 28. Women in Mission, Past Present and Future, W. Don McClure Lectures in World Mission and Evangelism, Dana L. Robert Associate Professor of Mission, Boston University School of Theology.

Sunday, November 14, 3:00 P.M. **Pittsburgh Seminary Concert Series**, Vahan Sargsyan, piano. Admission.

Tuesday, December 14, 8:00 P.M. "Festival of Lessons and Carols" Christmas Concert, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Choir under the direction of George E. Tutwiler, Organist, Choirmaster and Lecturer in Church Music and United Methodist Studies, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Thursday, January 20, 11:15 A.M. The Kelso Lecture in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaker to be announced.

Saturday, January 22, 3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Seminary Concert Series, Irene Schreier, piano. Admission.

Saturday, March 18, 3:00 P.M. **Pittsburgh Seminary Concert Series**. Louis Lev, violin; Isaias Zelkowicz, viola; David Premo, cello; Pauline Rovkah, piano. Admission.

Tuesday, May 9, 8:00 P.M. **Spring Concert**, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Choir under the direction of George E. Tutwiler, Organist, Choirmaster and Lecturer in Church Music and United Methodist Studies, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Saturday, June 3, 3:00 P.M. **Pittsburgh Seminary Concert Series**. Amy Phillips Abraham, Soprano; Daniel Phillips, Piano. Admission.

Further information on these events or others in the Continuing Education series can be obtained by calling Mary Lee Talbot Director, Continuing Education and Special Events, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, (412) 362-5610 Ext. 2197.

New Members

Diane DeNardo

The following people have recently joined HPCC:

Suzanne & Basil Zitelli Imy Rosenblatt
Tina Calabro & Dave Steidl Louis Sauer
Peggy Vincent Nikki Monroe
Amy & William Pollock Jennifer Scanlon

Kellie Given & Eric Weislogel

Mary Beth Steisslinger & Tim Stavenger

Welcome to all of you. Why don't you come to the September 16th meeting and vote?

Pittsburgh Camerata Concerts at St. Andrew's

Ollie Rieley

As in years past, the Pittsburgh Camerata will present their concert series at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Hampton St. Admission is charged for the concerts. Dates and times are as follows:

Sunday, October 10, 4:00 P.M. Saturday, December 11, 8:00 P.M. Saturday, April 1, 2000, 8:00 P.M.

This is an excellent performing group, if you enjoy music, pick one or more of these concerts and attend.

A Centenarian Celebration

On September 29, 1999, Vintage, in recognition of the United Nations "International Year of the Older Person," will host a Centenarian Celebration to honor two Pittsburgh women whose lives have spanned an entire century. The honorees are Hilda Reed, a Vintage participant and Rachel Mellon Walton, Vintage supporter and Community Volunteer. An evening benefit reception will be held in Vintage's beautiful East Liberty facility. Call Marilyn Crouch-Kraitchman at (412) 361-5003 for advance ticket sale information and other details.

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TIME VALUE

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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:15 p.m., Thursday, September 16th at St. Andrew's

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR	
SEPTEMBER 16	ANNUAL HPCC MEETING AND ELECTION , 7:15 P.M., ST. ANDREW'S
SEPTEMBER 27, 28	W. DON MCCLURE LECTURE, PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SEPTEMBER 29	A CENTENARIAN CELEBRATION, VINTAGE, ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED