

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
April 2002



Edited by Ollie Rieley

Sign Up for Yard Sale Today!!!

Sunday, June 2, 2002, 9AM-?

You might think that this is a bit early to start thinking about the yearly Yard Sale - but what the heck - consider participating.

In case you weren't here last year (or the previous gazillion years before) - each year on the first Sunday in June Highland Park goes crazy and about 100 families have yard sales on the same day, same time, etc.

The Highland Park Community Club takes care of the advertising, placing ads in newspapers and the Pennysaver, posters on light poles throughout Highland Park, East Liberty and Morningside, and in anyone's office who will take them. We also hand out lists of homes where the yards sales take place and items for sale, along with a map of the locations in our beautiful neighborhood. These lists are handed out by wonderful volunteers at two locations and are distributed in three other locations (Stanton-Negley Drug Store, Enrico's and Walnut Market). Participating households get signs and balloons to post at their sales (available on my porch on the Saturday morning before the sale).

Last year we handed out 750 lists - so I guess that you might say that we get a pretty good turnout (depending on the weather - there is no raindate). People sell everything from antiques and collectibles to food to junk that hasn't seen the light of day since Noah floated the ark. ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$12 PER HOUSEHOLD. Send me the application below (or a facsimile) by May 29 (at 9:00PM) with a check for \$12 made out to the HPCC if you want to participate.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number (for my info - not to share): _____

List of items for sale: _____

Return to: Judy Wolfe
5910 Wellesley Ave.
Pittsburgh PA 15206

Thanks!!! --- See you at the Yard Sale.

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2002, AT ST. ANDREWS

Special Election...

...to be Held at April Meeting

Branden Weber

A special election will be held at the April HPCC meeting to fill the vacant Vice President position and to replace Secretary Paula Flaherty who recently resigned. Lisa Williams is nominated for the position of Vice President. Shannon Mischler is nominated for the position of Secretary. Both of these jobs are very important and we thank these people for being willing to serve. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. All members of the club are eligible to vote.

It is noted that the by-laws contain a provision stating "Any director not attending three unexcused (sic) meetings shall be removed from the board." (Article V, Section 4) There are several directors who are marginal in attendance. I am going to contact each of them to see if they are interested in continuing or want to leave the Board.

A special thanks to Paula Flaherty who has served over four years as secretary. Her cheerfulness and crisp minutes are appreciated.

Be Sure to See

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Special Election -- Above

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What Treasures.. -- Page 6

New Approach -- Page 7

poemART and Peace Exhibit

janet j. jai, internationally exhibited poet-artist.

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Past President: Tania Grubbs (661-4054)

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Paula Flaherty 361-2203 (02)

Karen Raffensberger 363-9750 (02)

Bruce Robison 361-4892 (02)

Jan Stajanos 363-8208 (02)

Kevin Bivins

Debbie Hart (03)

Christina Lagnese 441-6696 (03)

Kate Zober 661-9312 (03)

Bob Staresinic 441-8972 (03)

Suzanne Colvin (04)

Rudy Maceyko (04)

Mary Beth Steisslinger

Ed Sullivan 361-1101 (04)

Dana Thomas 665-2992 (04)

Committees

Beautification: Dell Ziegler 363-1252

Block Watch: Jan Stajanos 363-8208

Children: Tania Grubbs 661-4054

Commercial District: Muzz Meyers 661-2315

Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195

Education: Kevin Bivins

Hospitality: Kate Zober 661-9312

House Tour: Dana Thomas 720-0906

Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331

Newsletter: Ollie Rieley 661-1205

Program: Bruce Robison 361-4892

Public Safety: Mercine Nefores 661-5425

Recreation: Charlie Peterson 441-2766

Reservoir Covers: Dave Hance 361-4935

Restoration: Dave Hance 361-4935

Super Playground: -----

Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830

Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203

Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972

Zoning: Brandon Weber 720-0906

Voice Mail 734-5261

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Zone 5 665-3605

HPCCD/HPCC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com

Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

The Exhibit will be open March 31-April 30. The Formal Opening is Sunday, April 7 at noon with a poetry/song performance at 1 p.m. Undercroft Gallery, First Unitarian Church, Morewood and Ellsworth, Shadyside. Gallery hours: Tues-Fri, 10-2. Sun, 12-1:30. Closed Sat & Mon.

poemART is poetry and abstract art combined. The exhibit will include site-specific work about Peace. More about poemART at www.poem-of-the-month.com.

Camerata Concert at St. Andrew's

Gail Luley

The Pittsburgh Camerata, Rebecca Rollett, artistic director, performs at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street, on Saturday, April 20, 2002 at 8:00 PM. The 26-voice chamber choir will sing musical visions from the creative genius in a concert titled "Choral Phantasies." J.S. Bach's deep spirituality is evident in Cantata 106 "Gottes, Zeit is die allerbeste Zeit", as is Christopher Smart's strange religious fervor in Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb." The 26-voice choir will also sing Conrad Susa's "The Knell," "Love Bade me Welcome" by John Tavener and "Anthem for Thanksgiving" by William Billings. Joining the Camerata are Adam & Rotem Gilbert, from the Renaissance wind band Piffaro, on recorders; Patricia Halverson, from Chatham Baroque, on viola da gamba and local baroque musicians Laura Haibeck on viola da gamba and J. Tracy Mortimore on violone. Tickets are \$15 and \$6 for students. Tickets for children in middle and elementary school, accompanied by an adult, are \$1. For more information, call the Camerata at 412.424.5884 or visit their website at <http://www.pittsburghcamerata.org/>.

Seminary Concerts

Sunday April 28, 3:00 P.M.. Daniel Phillips, violin; Tara Helen O'Connor, Flute. Admission.

Tuesday, April 30, 7:30 P.M. Seminary Coir Spring Concert. Free Both in the Hicks Chapel Auditorium. Call (412) 362-5610 ext 2196 for more info and to confirm.

April at St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

There's a lot going on at St. Andrew's in April!

On Thursday evening, April 4th, at 8 p.m. the St. Andrew's Choir sings Choral Evensong, with a recital following by one of our regions foremost pianists, Linda Morgan-Ellison, and PSO violist Ray Marsh.

On Saturday evening, April 13, at 7 p.m. our "Cinema St. Andrew's" will feature a showing of the classic 1955



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Henri-Georges film-noir masterpiece, "Diabolique," starring Simone Signoret, Vera Clouzot, Paul Meurisse, and Charles Vanel. Bring a snack or beverage to share and enjoy another film classic!

On Saturday, April 20, at 8 p.m., the Pittsburgh Camerata will perform at St. Andrew's. Tickets to hear our region's finest chamber choir are available at the door for \$15.

And looking ahead . . . the first weekend of May is "Marathon Weekend" here in Pittsburgh. In addition to our regular 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday morning services on that weekend we also offer a Saturday afternoon, May 4th, 5:30 p.m. service of Holy Communion for those who will be participating in the Marathon or who find it difficult to travel to church on that busy Sunday morning. All are welcome.

An important part of our life and mission here at St. Andrew's is to be of service to our wider Highland Park neighborhood. If you are aware of a pastoral need--a child to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, an illness, a death in the family--or if there is any other way we can be of assistance, we welcome your call. The Church Office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - Noon and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Our phone number is (412) 661-1245, and our e-mail address is <st_andrewspgh@juno.com>.

The News from Peabody

Anne Franks

Congratulations to Coach Jim Kahn and the Peabody Boys' Basketball team for their outstanding season. The Highlanders won the City Basketball Championship for the fourth year in a row! Speaking of sports, you may have noticed the Girls' and Boys' Track teams practicing in Highland Park. They may be found practicing the shotput, running, or jumping hurdles most afternoons between 3 and 5 PM. It is fun to watch these young athletes developing their skills.

Last month we told you that Peabody is working in partnership with West Penn Hospital to develop a Health Careers Academy for the fall of 2002. This academy is the third to be housed at Peabody; the Public Safety and the Information Technologies Academies are

also at the school. Plans are progressing well and we anticipate that the program will be fully operational when school opens. The Health Careers Academy prepares students for employment or post-secondary education in health related careers. Students will have the opportunity to acquire skills in the health related business field, which includes health care information systems, medical records, billing and accounting, or in the direct care field which includes lab technician, nursing, respiratory therapy and medical assistant. Academy students will enroll in an academic curriculum that is enhanced by specialized courses, a simulation learning lab, computer technology and community resources. Internships will provide twelfth grade students with work experience in either a hospital or a community care facility.

Please feel free to contact the school if you would like any additional information about the Highlander Academies.

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St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - April

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.

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Ask Not What Your Neighborhood Can Do For You...Ask what you can do for your neighborhood.

Mitch Kates

Howdy neighbors! It's me, your on again/off again often AWOL community club member...Once again forces beyond my control have kept me on the move and missing the action in our favorite local neighborhood (those bills do have to get paid!) While back from a recent mission I had a chance to check out the latest issue of the HPCC newsletter...loved the bit about the mystery business showing up (keep on it Bob!) I also got a chance to read our new President's column, which addressed low turn-out at meetings and a lack of volunteerism. I for one am guilty of missing meetings. I think there's a bloody conspiracy that's keeping me from being in town when the meetings occur...I'm going to definitely look into that...

Anyway, I thought I'd help the cause with a pep talk. I have two points to make on the issue at hand. In my travels, as I have reported in the past, I like to compare what we have here in Pittsburgh with other cities. Yes, it's warmer in Atlanta in the winter, yes the architecture, homes and topography in San Francisco are amazing and yes Seattle is quite scenic and a great "little" city. New York has great energy and Dallas...well I can't think of anything great to say about Dallas...My point is Pittsburgh has many of the same qualities. Now I'm not going to say that we are better in all the aforementioned categories, but we can compete. And frankly compared to all the cities I just mentioned, you can afford to live here...in a really nice house! I've made this "soap box speech" before so I won't do it again other than to say the past month and a half of travel proved to me once again that we live in a great city.

My second point...which is more to the point. We, the residents of Highland Park, live in a city. For the most part we chose to live in the city and for that matter Highland Park (yeah there are other choices, just not as great.) When one chooses to live in the suburbs they usually choose to live in a "neighborhood" that involves a certain lifestyle. This may be a bit controversial but... driveway to garage, garage to the house, close the door and see ya! City communities and neighborhoods mean diversity, sidewalks, knowing your neighbors, block parties and house tours. Communities don't just happen, they evolve and grow because the people that choose to live in city neighborhoods liked what they saw and the potential they held to be a "real" community.

The Highland Park Community Club has existed for many years. The past few years have seen the clubs membership grow to amazing numbers. The club exists purely as a result of volunteerism for the purpose of growing the "community" aspect of our neighborhood. We have arguably one of the best neighborhoods in the city, which by the way is only getting better and stronger. We have the best coffee shop in the city, hands down. La Foret...'nuff said. If you haven't been to The Sitar you are missing out. And stop by the new cooking school! What an amazing addition to the neighborhood!!!

We can't stop now gang. We've all worked hard in our own ways to see this community grow, and it is. We can't assume for a minute that the rest will take care of itself. We must continue to strive for excellence. *Get involved, stayed involved*, pass it on! Tag, you're it!

Peace

Breakfast on Bryant Street -- HPCC Marathon Party

Muzz Meyers

Sunday May 5, come gather around the Walnut market and Sitar Restaurant to enjoy the company of neighbors, coffee, juice and doughnuts, great music, and fun activities for kids. The party starts at 9 and goes to 12:30 so whenever you roll out of bed just come on down. And while you're there don't forget to cheer the runners as they cruise by. Let's all celebrate and showoff our neighborhood spirit.



Vintage 5K Masters Race & 2 Mile Walk

On Saturday, April 20, the Vintage senior community center, North Highland Avenue, will hold their annual Vintage 5K Masters Race & Walk from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Adult runners age 40+ look forward to the beautiful race course through the scenic Highland Park neighborhood and park. Residents are encouraged to participate as runners, walkers and volunteers. The 2 Mile Walk is open to all ages. Also, our runners and walkers especially love it when residents come out to watch and cheer them on.

Vintage realizes and cares about the temporary inconvenience the race creates for our neighbors. Below are alternative route directions to plan your race day travel in advance. North Highland Avenue will be closed from Penn Circle North to Highland Park along with Reservoir Dr.

From the West:

To Butler Street/Highland Park Zoo

Take any side street to North Euclid. Turn north, follow North Euclid to end. Go left on Bunker Hill, turn right on One Wild Place (the extension of Mellon Street). Follow zoo signs to Butler Street.

To the other side of North Highland Avenue:

Follow above directions to One Wild Place. Turn right on One Wild Place. At the fork in the road, bear right onto Lake Road. Follow Lake Road 1.1 miles. Make right onto Connecting Road. At top of hill turn right, then make an immediate left onto Farmhouse, and an immediate left onto Heberton.

To Penn Circle:

Go south on North Euclid to Penn Circle.

From the East:

To Butler Street/Highland Park Zoo

Through Highland Park, follow side streets up to Heberton at Grafton. Take road to the right (Farmhouse Drive). Turn right onto Connecting Road and make an immediate left. Go left on Lake Road. Continue on Lake Road 1.1 miles to stop sign. At stop sign turn right for Butler Street and the bridge. Turn left to return to Highland Park on the west side of N. Highland Avenue.

Alternate to the other side of N. Highland Avenue.

Take any side street to Collins. Turn south and follow Collins (it turns briefly into Negley Run Blvd. and then back into Collins after crossing East Liberty Blvd.) to Penn Circle and turn right onto Penn Circle. Go across N. Highland Avenue and make a right onto N. Euclid.



Meeting Highlights of March 21

Meeting called to order by President Branden Weber at 7:35 P.M.

COP Report: Officer Scalise reminded members that Silent Complaint forms may be used to anonymously submit reports to the police for action.

President: Branden reported that a candidate had agreed to serve as vice president for the remainder of this term (until September 2002). There will be a special election at the April meeting. All members of the club are eligible to vote.

Community Plan Town Meeting: The Town Meeting is scheduled for March 26, at 7:00 P.M. at St. Andrew's. Ed D'Alessandro, coordinator of the Plan, predicts there may 150 to 200 people in attendance.

Visitors: Frank and Lisa Pistella were introduced. They are the new owners of the store that was "At the Park". PM Pizza has

moved across the street and will be on the first floor. Phil remains the Chef! The second floor houses a casual lounge. Robert and Colleen Knecht were also introduced. They are the new owners of Sandy's Deli.

Program Committee: There was a short discussion about reinvigorating the program committee. Bruce Robison, Chair of the Committee, invited interested people to volunteer ideas or help.

It was noted that a jitney service plans to start up in the old lottery store on Bryant Street.

A member family complained seriously of tow truck problems in the western area of the neighborhood. They have not been able to get help from various city establishments. The problems include overnight parking of tow trucks and other commercial vehicles.

Trees/Arbor Day: Mary Beth Steisslinger noted that the supervisor of the park hopes to plant some trees for Arbor Day and that some trees may be planted as part of the "Green Team" program taking place at the Farm House. The question was raised whether the

Club could provide some funds for the trees. President Weber will refer to the finance committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. to partake of the treats provided by our guests.

What Treasures Will Be Found?

Mary Beth Steisslinger

Spring is here! Some days Nature will admit that and other days she won't. Last spring for the BioBlitz in Schenley Park, it poured down rain and was a chilly forty-five degrees in the middle of June. The weather kept some people away but over 60 scientists and environmental educators and over 1500 nature enthusiasts visited the BioBlitz in Schenley Park last year. Who knows what the heavens will send down this May 18 for the Highland Park BioBlitz. One thing is for sure, though, the animals and plants will be in the park that day and the BioBlitz scientists and educators will be there, too. Aside from migrating species, the park is the year-round home to a variety of diverse living things. The exciting thing about a BioBlitz is that we get to see just how diverse Highland Park is, and one never knows what ecological surprises and biological treasures may be found.

Highland Park is the last of the four major parks of the city to experience the 24-hour, round-the-clock, biological survey that is BioBlitz. Since Highland is the most developed of the four major parks of the city, including Frick, Schenley and Riverview, everyone expects that the species count will be lowest in Highland. I'm not so sure of that. The reason I say this is that Highland has water resources that are at least equal to that of Schenley Park and beyond those found in Riverview and Frick. And though Highland has little forested areas in the interior of the park, the park is bordered to the North and East by a wide band of continuous wooded slopes. Highland is also very close to the Allegheny River, a major flyway for birds. So, just maybe, there will be a surprisingly high species count!

Of course much could be done in Highland Park to enhance biodiversity and make it more of a park for ecological education and preservation. An ecological improvement to the park which would go far to improve biodiversity would be the altering of mowing regimens in key locations. Allowing some of the lawn areas, especially along forest, wetland and water edges to grow up into wildflower and native grass meadows, would vastly improve habitat for songbirds, butterflies and numerous other insects and small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Rather than mowing all summer long, meadows could be mowed once a year to prevent tree incursion. In addition to being biodiverse, the meadows could be beautiful, too! Reconnecting the park to the river front would do much for allowing animals a migratory corridor into the park. And expanding upon the migratory corridor idea, connecting Highland Park to the relatively vast stretches of undeveloped land across Washington Boulevard via a "green" overpass would be amazing. I have seen such "living" overpasses above the New Jersey Turnpike. They serve as connectors to narrow migratory green belts amazingly preserved in that land of urban sprawl. These look ever so much like any other fenced overpass except that there are native trees, bushes, flowers and grasses growing thickly on these wildlife "bridges", and the only vehicles using them besides the animals are bikes. Wouldn't it be cool to have a natural "green" bike bridge crossing Washington Boulevard connecting bike trails

in Highland Park to rail-trails on the other side? What if we had a natural "green" bike bridge across the River?!

Anyway, the point is that our urban parks, or any green spaces for that matter can be extremely biodiverse. It is only a matter of how well we manage them, and that includes how well we connect them to the greater surrounding segments of natural environments. A truly environmentally progressive culture would plan for these connections as we developed our surroundings. It is harder to do in retrospect, but still possible.

So, come on out to the BioBlitz and see all the scientists at work cataloging all manner of plants, insects, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in Highland Park. There will be traps set for bats, moths and night flying birds in the evening of the 17th (all animals except insects are identified and released), but most of the hunts and trapping activity will take place during the day on May 18th from 10 am to 3 pm. The final species count will be announced at 3 pm on the 18th. In 1997, the Riverview Park BioBlitz species count was 1,164. In 1998, 1,471 species were found in Frick Park.

Last year in Schenley Park, the BioBlitz count was 1,408 species. The Schenley BioBlitz was held in June, a bit later than our other BioBlitzs and the migratory season for birds was largely over. The bird count was 46 species, so it could have been higher. The insect count in Schenley was comparable to that Riverview and Frick; however, scientists noted a marked absence of moth species that require oak as a larval food plant. This was unexpected because Schenley is oak dominated. The larvae of these moths are a major source of food for insectivorous birds and may help explain the low diversity of such birds. Noticeably absent were nighthawks, which used to be common in Pennsylvania. There has been a recent, drastic nationwide decline in nighthawks. Some of this may be due to increased insecticide use. An unusual wasp-like longhorn beetle (family Cerambycidae) was taken along with a rare purple centipede in the order Lithobiomorpha. Of the 352 species of vascular plants found, scientists found three plants on the state Species of Special Concern List: a Pennsylvania hawthorn, a fringe tree and a hop tree. Also, a positive find was four species of salamanders and two species of frogs, which are indications of healthy areas in Schenley Park.

BioBlitz sponsors say the efforts are worthwhile as a vehicle for public education and as a way to develop a scientific indicator of the parks health and well being. A BioBlitz is a "biological snap-shot" that can be used for comparison years down the road. Additionally, it is hoped that doing preliminary surveys such as these will generate the interest to do more thorough biological assessments of our parks in the near future. With more knowledge, we can better plan for the healthy management of our parks.

For more information about BioBlitz 2002 in Highland Park or to volunteer for one of the ecological restoration projects in the park during BioBlitz, call the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, 412-682-7275

Bryant Street Business Takes a New Approach

Lisa Pistella

There is a new business on Bryant Street, putting a new twist on an already good idea. Formerly known as At the Park, 5719 Bryant Street has gotten a face-lift and has reopened as **Six & Slice**. Under new ownership and management this establishment offers a wide selection imported and domestic beers and is the new home of the Highland Park favorite, **P.M. Pizza**. (Don't worry P.M. Pizza lovers . . . Phil Moran is still running the kitchen and all of his delicious menu items are still available!) The second floor lounge offers a laid back setting just right for unwinding after a busy day. Dine in or take out, either way you will find quality products, friendly service and an inviting atmosphere at reasonable prices. *Food delivery available.*

Treasurer's Report

Year to Date:

Income	\$16,489.00
Expenses	\$7,759.38
Surplus	\$8,759.62
Total in all Accounts	\$14,315.70

Union Project Hosts Neighborhood Discussion

The Union Project will be hosting a neighborhood discussion on April 13. The Union Project is a newly formed organization working to restore the former Union Baptist Church at 801 North Negley Avenue in Highland Park. The organization is restoring the building for working and gathering space for artists, community builders and people of faith. The neighborhood discussion will focus on future programming at the Union Project and is open to the public.

At the discussion, board members from the Union Project will update participants on organizational progress during the past three months. Board members will lead a conversation to hear the public's dreams for new opportunities and programs in this building. The Union Project invites and encourages participants to bring ideas related to any of its three mission areas (art, community building, faith groups). The Union Project will provide child care and art activities for children under ten years old. The discussion will be from 10am to 12 noon at 801 North Negley Ave.

For more information, contact Chad Martin at (412)661-7744 or chadrmartin@hotmail.com

Check out our new website: www.unionproject.org



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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 18, 2002, at St. Andrew's

APRIL CALENDAR	
MARCH 31 - APRIL 30	POEMART AND PEACE EXHIBIT, UNDERCROFT GALLERY, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH.
APRIL 13	UNION PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD DISCUSSION, 10:00 A.M., UNION BLDG., 801 N. NEGLEY AVE.
APRIL 18	HPCC MEETING, SPECIAL ELECTION, 7:30 P.M., ST. ANDREW'S
APRIL 20	VINTAGE 5K MASTERS RACE & 2 MILE WALK, N. HIGHLAND AVE. & RESERVOIR DR., 8:45 - 10:30 A.M.
APRIL 20	PITTSBURGH CAMARATA CONCERT, ST. ANDREW'S, 8:00 P.M., ADMISSION
APRIL 28	PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AFTERNOON CONCERT, 3:00 P.M., HICKS CHAPEL AUDITORIUM, ADMISSION
APRIL 30	PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CHOIR SPRING CONCERT, 7:30 P.M., HICKS CHAPEL AUDITORIUM
MAY 5	BREAKFAST ON BRYANT STREET - MARATHON PARTY, WALNUT MARKET LOT, 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.