Pivotal Streets Residential Façade Renovation Grant Program

By Alexis Miller

Clean off your paint brushes and dust off your hard hats. This spring, Polish Hill homeowners are going to get an extra hand with their façade renovation projects.

Thanks to funding from Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development and PNC Foundation, the Polish Hill Civic Association will be assisting homeowners interested in renovating their street-facing façades. The program, Pivotal Streets Residential Façade Renovation Grant Program, will give a matching grant of up to $5,000 per property.

The grant will match the homeowner’s contribution dollar for dollar up to $5,000. For example, if the total façade project is $10,000, the grant would be $5,000 and the homeowner’s responsibility would be $5,000. Interested homeowners should contact the PHCA for an application and detailed guidelines for the program, which will be available in late February 2013. Funding will be available at multiple times throughout the year or until the funding runs out. The first application deadline is March 30, 2013. An independent review committee, made up of architecture, design and construction professionals, will review applications and announce the winners of this competitive award by April 30, 2013.

The grant is disbursed on a reimbursement basis, so all awardees must pay the full cost of their project up front. Once the project is completed, the property owner will be reimbursed for the amount of the grant. All project sizes are encouraged, and any project with a minimum cost of $500 will be eligible to apply for a grant.

Homeowners may hire a contractor or do the work themselves. If the homeowner is performing the work, only the material costs are eligible for a matching grant.

Renovations should follow the guidelines and suggestions in the Pivotal Streets Design Book. Created by Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, the design guide is specifically for Polish Hill, highlighting the neighborhood’s varied architecture and suggesting design concepts for projects ranging from under $1,000 for micro

Continued on page 8
From the PHCA

President’s Message

While Pittsburgh made the Forbes Travel Guide’s list of 10 Unexpectedly Romantic Cities, I have been pondering some of the similarly wonderful and unexpected things that have happened at the PHCA so far this year. We are starting to see some stunning colors and design (it’s still behind the scenes) as we refresh and rethink our new website.

We are running out of chairs at meetings we have held about development in Polish Hill, from the disappointing plans for a social club (page 4) to the innovative approach to mixed-use development planning and design at the Brereton-Dobson Fire Site (page 5). Perhaps the most unexpected and exciting thing that has happened this year, is the tremendous support from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development and PNC Foundation, that will help us launch the Pivotal Streets Residential Façade Renovation Grant Program in Polish Hill (see article, front page). This opportunity is a unique one for the neighborhood, and is even more exciting because it allows us to unveil the Pivotal Streets Design Guide at the same time. Created by Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, the design guide is specifically for Polish Hill, highlighting the neighborhood’s varied architecture and suggesting design concepts for renovation projects ranging from under $1,000 up to $35,000 or more.

With the opportunity to receive up to $5,000 in matching grant funds, what better time to plan an anticipated or unexpected façade renovation?

Alexis Miller

New website for the PHCA

The PHCA has been collaborating with the design firm Imagebox to refresh our online presence, including a new website, blog and logo. The goal of the project is to echo the framework of our recent community planning process, and feature new projects, initiatives and news items as they unfold. We don’t have a solid date for unveiling the entire project, but it will likely be early April. We’d like to thank the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development for funding this much-anticipated update.

Meet the New Board Members

Two new PHCA board members were sworn in at the January 2013 community meeting. Mark and Susan will hold regular directorships, with a term of two years. Both have been active as concerned and engaged residents, attending meetings, volunteering and providing support to the organization for years. We look forward to working with both of them.

Mark Knobil

Mark Knobil is a tireless neighborhood advocate. He was on the steering committee for the Polish Hill Community Plan and is involved in the stakeholders’ effort to save the historic buildings on the Iron City Brewery site. He and partner Catherine McConnell have purchased and renovated a number of Polish Hill properties, including the row houses next to the Rock Room and the building that houses Lili Cafe, Mindcure Records and Copacetic Comics. Mark is also a gradually retiring video camera operator. He has worked on various television documentaries including several episodes of the PBS science show NOVA and many projects for National Geographic.

After living in Squirrel Hill for twenty years, Mark and Catherine moved to Bethoven Street, across from Al’s Motor Works, in 2002.

Mark says, "My work has taken me all over the world. The people I have met that I felt the best about seem to enjoy being a real part of a strong community ... whether that community is a group of mud huts in Ethiopia or a neighborhood coming together within a modern European city. What I enjoy most about Polish Hill, is just walking around, saying hi, and feeling like I belong here.”

Susan Atkinson

Susan Atkinson grew up in the Irwin area and has lived in Polish Hill since 1983. She rented for seven years and bought the building she lives in during the spring of 1990.

Susan is a licensed psychologist with over 30 years in the human services field and has operated her own business for the past 20 years.

Susan served as secretary for the executive board of the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) from 2003 until 2005. In 2005, she was awarded NAWBO Pittsburgh Woman Business Owner of the Year. She served as secretary to the board of directors for the Polish Hill Civic Association from 2006 through 2008.

In addition to her professional life, Susan is an avid outdoor enthusiast and a lifelong athlete. You can find her cross-country and telemark skiing in the winter, planting her garden in the spring, and hiking and biking through the summer and fall. Having trained in Shotokan Karate for 15 years, she holds the rank of Nidan. She draws from the philosophy and mentality she learned in Shotokan and views this as a paradigm for her life.

Interested in volunteering?

Stop by the PHCA office or a community meeting and fill out a volunteer profile form. Tell us what skills you have to share!
In a ceremony at Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland on Sunday, January 27, long-time Polish Hill resident Walter Sinicki was among the individuals honored with the Manifesting the Kingdom Award from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The award is given by the Diocesan Bishop to those who have been nominated by their religious leaders in recognition of their exceptional service.

Mr. Sinicki’s commitment to service extends to his neighborhood as well. In Polish Hill, he’s known as “Red,” and he has earned the respect of all who know him. We congratulate him on the occasion of this award.

District 7’s Council-to-Go meetings shift to a quarterly schedule

District 7 Councilman Patrick Dowd will now bring his Council-to-Go to Polish Hill on a quarterly basis, on the second Wednesday of the first month of each quarter. The meetings will continue to take place at the PHCA office, 3060 Brereton Street.

Next Council-to-Go meeting: Wednesday, April 10 7:00 p.m.

Event Calendar

February/March/April

Feb 5 | Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center (Senior Center, lower level)

Mar 5 | Monthly Community Meeting with a special presentation by PlanPGH
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center (Senior Center, lower level)

Apr 2 | Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center (Senior Center, lower level)

Apr 10 | Council-to-Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd
7:00 p.m. | PHCA office
3060 Brereton St.

May 7 | Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center (Senior Center, lower level)

Preventing thefts from vehicles

At each monthly community meeting, Zone 2 supplies us with the crime stats from the previous month. Polish Hill has one of the lowest crime rates in the city, so typically there are only a few incidents to report. Probably the most common crime in Polish Hill is TFA -- theft from auto. According to the details provided by Zone 2, many of these losses are avoidable.

Officer Marlease Porter, our Zone 2 community liaison, tells us that most thefts from vehicles involve items left in view and/or unlocked car doors. She asked us to remind residents not to leave purses, shopping bags, laptop computers or other items in sight -- put them in the trunk or take them with you. And make sure all doors are locked and windows closed tightly -- advice that holds true for homes as well as vehicles. These simple actions will help reduce our already low crime rate.

City of Pittsburgh planning presentation at March 5 community meeting

As you may know, the City has been going through a citywide planning process that includes numerous different topics. One of the first plans that the City Planning Department tackled was Open Space, Parks and Recreation (http://planpgh.com/openspacepgh/) and they are now ready to present their draft findings to the public for feedback and to discuss next steps.

Andrew Dash, senior planner from Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning, will present preliminary findings at a special presentation at the March 5 community meeting. We encourage any resident who has an interest in open space, parks and recreation to attend and give feedback.

Old store sign is the newest addition to the PHCA archive

An old storefront sign was donated to the PHCA’s Polish Hill archive by Chad Sipes, who found the sign for the Cut Rate Store in the basement of his building at 3037 Brereton Street.

A list of shops and businesses from around 1942 doesn’t record a store at 3037, but it does mention one next door at 3035 Brereton. According to this list, the Housewares Merchandise Outlet was owned by two Polish Jews who “sold their merchandise from house to house in satchels.” Perhaps this sign is from the same store, or it could be from a much older business. The sign is all wood and the lettering is handpainted in an old style. It could have been posted anytime between the early 1900s to the 30s or 40s. If anyone has any recollections about this business, we’d love to hear them. After the sign has been cleaned, it will be displayed at the PHCA office.

Walter Sinicki honored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh

Photo by Carole Kunkle-Miller

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With you. And make sure all doors are locked and windows closed tightly -- advice that holds true for homes as well as vehicles. These simple actions will help reduce our already low crime rate.
Social club application causes concern for Polish Hill, nearby communities

By Leslie Clague and Alexis Miller

On Jan. 17, community and board representatives from the Polish Hill Civic Association, Lawrenceville United and District 7 Councilman Patrick Dowd attended a zoning hearing to express concerns about the application by the Social Association of Pittsburgh Professionals (SAPP) for a zoning variance to open a social club at 0 Sassafras Street, just inside the northern border of Polish Hill. The site is located near the intersection of Herron and Liberty Avenues, where the borders of Polish Hill, the Strip District, Lawrenceville and Bloomfield meet; community groups from all four neighborhoods have taken an interest in the application, particularly because of past problems with violence, drugs and other illegal activity at other social clubs or after-hours venues. Neighbors in the Strip and Bloomfield Development Corporation were not able to send representatives to the zoning hearing, but empowered PHCA President Alexis Miller to speak on their behalf.

The zoning variance and the liquor license -- a separate application -- would allow SAPP to be open and serve alcohol from 7 a.m. - 3 a.m., seven days a week. In early meetings with neighboring communities, SAPP claimed that despite applying for a license and zoning that would allow them to potentially operate an after-hours club every day of the week, their intention was to have just a few events a month. SAPP representatives gave examples such as fundraisers for charities or weddings, but stated that people would be joining SAPP because membership would give them access to a space where they could host any sort of event they wanted.

During a Jan. 10 public meeting held in Polish Hill with board members of SAPP and residents and board members from all four communities, SAPP officers gave vague responses to questions about what types of events they would allow, operating hours, security and traffic concerns, and who would manage and staff the club. There were also questions about the parameters of regular and associate memberships. SAPP officers didn’t have clear answers to many of these questions, and repeatedly stated that they didn’t want to accept any limitations on their activities, which seemed to leave the question of what exactly would be happening at the club wide open.

The community representatives at the zoning hearing stated their opposition to SAPP’s application was based on this lack of specifics and SAPP’s reluctance to put any limits on what members could do at the space. The zoning board chair questioned SAPP officials closely about their intentions and managed to draw out a little more detail about the organization’s plans, but the additional information didn’t help draw the board closer to a decision.

The community representatives at the zoning hearing stated their opposition to SAPP’s application was based on this lack of specifics and SAPP’s reluctance to put any limits on what members could do at the space. The zoning board chair questioned SAPP officials closely about their intentions and managed to draw out a little more detail about the organization’s plans, but the additional information didn’t little to ease the concerns of community leaders. SAPP supporter Mike Machi of Bloomfield stated that among the regular events would be after-parties for boxing events; other SAPP representatives mentioned private parties. When questioned about membership, the SAPP representatives stated that the organization wasn’t just for professionals but was open to white-collar and blue-collar individuals as well. They stated that SAPP currently has about 200 members, but that they do not currently pay dues. They plan on growing the organization, but stated no specific goal or cap on the number of members they might have.

Community representatives stated that they did not want to discourage a private business, but the lack of reasonable limitations left open the possibility that the social club’s use of the site could go far beyond what the organization was currently proposing. The PHCA, Lawrenceville United and Councilman Dowd hope to negotiate with SAPP on a Conditions of Licensing Agreement, a legally binding document that would require SAPP to agree to conditions on matters such as the sorts of activities, management, hours of operation, and/or serving alcohol responsibly. Having conditions upon use would give the community some power in the event that the use of the building and the hours of operation expanded to a point where it was causing a negative impact on surrounding communities.

This zoning variance will impact the use of the building not only for SAPP, but for the long term. If SAPP discontinues use of the space, the social club zoning will stay with the building for up to a year after being vacated; the next occupants might not be as responsible as SAPP claims to be. The Zoning Board will now look at all the testimony and evidence presented, and come up with a decision by early March.

Citiparks
West Penn Community Recreation Center
450 30th Street

Use of West Penn facilities is free for all Pittsburgh residents. New users must register to get a Citiparks card. Facilities include workout room with exercise machines, weight room.

Weight training and boxing training available upon request.

Yoga class, Thursdays at 6:30 ($7 donation per class)

West Penn hours:
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday
Closed on Sundays

For more information, call 412-622-7353
In November 2012, the PHCA was one of 12 organizations awarded inaugural grants from the new Pittsburgh Neighborhood Renaissance Fund. The grant program was created to boost urban renewal projects in our region and is funded by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and the Design Center of Pittsburgh.

The PHCA received a grant for pre-development planning for the Brereton-Dobson Fire Site. During the Polish Hill Community Plan’s public meetings, the site came forward as a high priority and a creative opportunity for innovative, sustainable mixed-use development in the center of our most historic and culturally significant streets. The goal of the pre-development phase is to produce an inspired, community-based site plan that reflects the neighborhood’s desire for moderate-income housing and commercial space. The grant will allow us to explore design options such as sustainable architecture, co-operative/co-housing, green space and innovative mixed-use development.

At the start of 2013, pre-development planning began. The Fire Site Steering Committee held its first meeting on Jan. 15 with the Design Center. The role of the Steering Committee is to represent the neighborhood’s interests, and guide the selection and community process. The ultimate goal is to select a private developer partner that will work with the PHCA and other stakeholders to bring this project to construction and completion over the next few years.

The Fire Site Steering Committee is made up of PHCA board members and neighborhood volunteers with backgrounds in art, architecture, real estate, home renovations, design and development as well as members from several key stakeholder groups. Polish Hill residents and property-owners on the Steering Committee include Mary Lou Arscott, Paul Bowden, John Carson, Myra Falisz, John Lamberson, Catherine McConnell, Alexis Miller and Valerie Testa. Shelly Majcen of City Planning, Thor Erickson of the Design Center, and Kyle Chintalapalli of the URA/Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) are also on the Steering Committee. Tom Hardy of Palo Alto Partners is working on this project on behalf of the Polish Hill Civic Association as the project manager and real estate consultant.

The first meeting laid out the process and timeline of the grant. First, a market analysis of the site, including the potential for commercial and residential units, will be conducted. Next, the Steering Committee will create a request for proposal to developers that includes the market analysis, and a description of the site and development opportunity. Interested private developers will choose architects to work with and submit documents to the Steering Committee to be considered for the project. The Steering Committee will review these documents, interview the developer/architect teams and make recommendations on which developer we think would be best for this project.

The owners of the property, PHDC, and its board will have final say in this collaborative process of choosing a developer. Once a developer/architect team is chosen, there will be open community meetings and Steering Committee meetings to brainstorm uses and designs for the site. A final plan will be created and presented to the community. The PHDC will then work on negotiating the sale of the property to the developer, with the hope that the plans created in this process would come to fruition.
All the stores on Polish Hill were located in the basements of the buildings. As already mentioned in earlier stories there was every type imaginable on our streets. We had everything from candy stores, to groceries, to taverns and even beer distributors. Life was self-sufficient on our hill. Excursions into downtown shops were not frequent. I believe that the arrival of the fifties changed this. When people began to move into the suburbs, malls developed. With the advent of the malls the little dealers could not compete. So little by little the mom and pop stores began to disappear.

These small stores usually featured one or two items and the owners generally lived on the floor above the stores. The stores were cozy and the proprietors were friendly. Everyone knew each other quite well. There was also the added advantage of the credit system. We did not have credit cards in those days, but if you were short on cash the owner of the business would put you on the books. He would extend you credit until the next payday or when you could pay him back. Usually people would try to be good about paying back the merchant for the goods. Of course there were always a few people who were a bad risk. Their reputations would be broadcast in time and then they would receive no credit thereafter.

As a child the favorite stores obviously were the candy stores. One in particular was run by a very sweet widow called Mary. She had several children to raise and this was her means to a livelihood. Mary lived with her children in a pleasant two-story building which has since been torn down. She had her store across the street next door to Pampuch's Cleaning Store on Brereton Avenue. Mary had a glass counter case that featured penny candy. (Boys and girls of today would laugh if they were told that their grandmothers and grandfathers were able to buy something for one cent.) When my dad would give me either a penny or a nickel, down to Mary's store my little feet would scurry. (I didn't know then that the Indian head pennies would be worth something in the future, so I didn't hang onto them.) Once in the shop I would take my time choosing my penny selection. I believe that, looking back now, of the many types of goodies found in Mary's counter, the chocolate fudge candy was my favorite.

Before Lent would start I remember everyone wanted to buy their paczki (donuts). Sometimes they had jelly in them. Later they started to make them with cream. My aunt Rose loved the cakes they made that resembled a Hershey's chocolate kiss. It was a type of triangle cake. Sometimes the icing would be chocolate, at other times it would be vanilla. When I would be going to the bakery, my aunt would always ask me to pick up a half dozen of these cakes for her.

On the corner of Brereton across from the John Paul Plaza was a grocery store run by a man named Karol. He had a nice grocery store. Karol did not live in the building but commuted to his business. He had luncheon meats, canned...
ago to remember.) Anyway the meat selection at this store was excellent. During the war years when it was tough to find things, you could count on a variety here. We had to use coupons to purchase items so mom was very careful in her use of them. I recall that mom would make a list and I would go and get in line for the items on her list. Yes, we had to take numbers as we entered the store and when your number was called, you would give the clerk your order. Business was so good that there were three clerks on certain days to help the customers. In time Eddy added other items to his stock. He had cakes, canned goods, breads and things like glass items, pickles, relish, etc. Moms were starting to buy already prepared food items in the forties. Life was becoming easier for mothers. In the thirties you had to make things from scratch. Our moms were thrifty and still did a lot but when they could save time they would.

Next door to our house was a great butcher shop. I believe the proprietor was Mr. Delach. Later the owner was Okonski. (Possibly I have the names reversed but that was such a long time ago to remember.)

goods, bread goods and a glass case with candy. He also sold ice cream. Children learn about the sweet things in life very quickly. From this store I would buy the frozen popsicles when I had two cents in my pocket — if I only had a penny the long pretzel stick would be my choice.

The Nalitz families were great storekeepers. On Brereton they had a shoe store and a variety dry goods store, and on Herron and Bigelow there was a car tire establishment. I loved the dry goods store since the items sold there were of a type that every lady would appreciate. My mom would buy material to make dresses. In addition they had purses, blouses and many feminine clothing items. When mom would say that she was going to the dry goods store I would usually accompany her.

Across the street from the Lyceum Building that is now a parking lot there was another candy shop. I believe that the store owner was Mr. Zimmer.

There was also a place where you could eat your ice cream. He had some tables and chairs and an ice cream counter. When we had recess or our lunch hour we students would run across the street to buy some type of treat. They also carried magazines. I believe that all of us girls knew all the movie stars of that era. There was no television yet, so we read fan magazines. By this time our dads were working very well at the mills, factories and on the railroads.

World War II, when it came, ushered in an era of prosperity. By the time we children were in the 7th and 8th grade our allowances had advanced to the lovely tune of a dollar from what before had been only nickels and dimes, and before that pennies.

There were two stores that sold fruits and vegetables only. One was located on Brereton and one was on Dobson Street. I loved the smell of barrels of fresh apples when you came into the place. Bananas were not that frequent an item until the later years, especially
After the war years. In addition, these two businesses would send their truck around the neighborhood selling to individual families. The men would holler out items as they drove by.

There were many other stores not mentioned, but here’s hoping that this will bring back pleasant thoughts about our old homestead Polish Hill.

**Façade renovation grants, from front page**

Renovations up to $35,000 or more for extra-large renovations. Façade renovations can include a variety of updates, from replacing sidewalks and adding new windows and doors, to painting a front porch or repointing brick. What project have you been dreaming about as you shovel the snow from your front steps?

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**Minimal renovation ideas:**

**Wood-frame building**

This is the same building type featured on the newsletter front, yet focused on a minimal renovation. The emphasis is on entrances to the building and the façade portion closest to the street. Small-scale improvements, such as lighting, a new door, breezeway entrance and perennial plants, can add freshness and value to the property. A projecting trellis creates an awning to shade the window and stoop. Below the window, a simple planting box softens the sidewalk edge.

Illustration courtesy of Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, from the Pivotal Streets Design Guide

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**Don’t forget to renew your PHCA Membership for 2013!**

Memberships are on a calendar year basis.

Pay at the PHCA office or mail in the form on page 11.

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**URA home improvement loan products help homeowners rehabilitate or renovate their property.**

(Borrowers must live in the home and meet income specifications to qualify)

- Pittsburgh Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (0% interest)
- Home Improvement Loan Program (5.99% interest)
- Keystone Renovation and Repair Program

Check [www.ura.org](http://www.ura.org) for loan programs and income guidelines or visit the PHCA office

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**Submissions for the Spring-Summer issue of the Polish Hill Voice**

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<th>Deadline</th>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Early May</td>
<td>May/June/July</td>
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Submissions of news items, articles or photos relating to the interests and concerns of Polish Hill residents may be emailed to phca@phcapgh.org, or by mail to the Polish Hill Civic Association, 3060 Breerton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Images may be JPEGs (200 dpi or higher) or camera-ready art.

Due to space and content constraints, we may not be able to accept every submission. If you have any questions, please call us at 412.681.1950.

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**Stores, continued from page 7**

Ting a Ling’s at 3060 Breerton Street sold candy and cigars. This is now the office of the PHCA.

(Photography courtesy of George Waksmunske)

Ting a Ling’s at 3060 Breerton Street sold candy and cigars. This is now the office of the PHCA.

(Walter (Red) Sinicki and friends in from of his Flower and Gift Shoppe at the corner of Herron and Melwood avenues, across from the Rock Room. The shop space is now an apartment.

(Photography courtesy of Red Sinicki)
Art project inspires lasting connection

By Leslie Clande

During the fall semester, a small Carnegie Mellon University art class met every Friday at Isaac Bower’s garage studio on Melwood Street. The class, led by Professor Jon Rubin, was an introduction to community-based art, a newer discipline in which artists go into communities to research and connect with people, then create work inspired by and based in the community. This artwork can take many forms, and is based on the idea that rather than working alone in a studio, artists should step out and engage with the world around them. Community-based artwork can be complicated. People don’t always react well to feeling as if someone has come to their neighborhood to study them. It takes sensitivity and an open mind to seek out what makes a place special and to find the areas of common ground.

The class began by meeting with the PHCA board and staff to learn about the neighborhood. Next, they explored Polish Hill, walking around and talking to anyone who would make time for them. After that, the students branched out on their own. Some began making regular visits to John Paul Plaza, interviewing residents and asking about their life experiences. Others learned about the history of the neighborhood, and went on solitary hikes to find the more hidden parts of Polish Hill. After a few weeks, the students began to form ideas for their projects. One student did portrait drawings of people she met; another created a series of urban myths which she printed on signs, and posted on vacant lots and in green spaces. Two students worked together to create a short film on the theme of childhood in Polish Hill, featuring four residents of different generations recounting experiences of their youth.

One student went even further. Lee Parker, an exchange student from New Zealand’s Auckland University of Technology, had sung in church choir as a child. During her initial exploration of Polish Hill, she became fascinated by the mix of cultures: the old Polish Hill represented by the church and the many residents of Polish heritage, and the new, which includes many young people, artists and musicians. For her project, Lee decided that she would explore the different cultures in Polish Hill through participation in music. It took a while before she found a band that would allow her to join, but eventually connected with a group of musicians who had Polish Hill ties. The group practiced through the fall and performed at Mr. Small’s in Millvale in December.

To be a part of a more traditional musical culture, Lee applied to and was accepted as a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church choir. She so enjoyed the experience that she has continued to sing with the choir even after the class ended in December. Not only that, but Lee’s husband Greg and children Jay, 15, and Olivia, 13, who moved to Pittsburgh to join her for her semester abroad, liked the city so much that the family decided to move here permanently. They are now looking for a house near the kids’ school in Shadyside. Lee will continue her studies at Carnegie Mellon, and plans to sing with the choir and be involved in Polish Hill where she has made many friends. Lee was a big part of our Light Up the Street event. She helped us decorate and also brought in talented musicians to perform.

The class projects were presented during the Community Potluck on December 4. It was wonderful to see how -- in just a few months -- a group from outside the neighborhood came in, got to know Polish Hill and its people, and responded to their experiences with such interesting and varied projects. We enjoyed working with the class, and hope that these young artists will have some good lessons and great memories from their time in our neighborhood.
As I write this, the holidays are a month past, and the cold and snow of January seem to close around us. Around Polish Hill, the last of the holiday lights have been removed as the neighborhood hunkers down for the rest of the winter. While the winter is long and cold, the season starts with warmth, lights, and good cheer.

On December 4, the Holiday Potluck followed the monthly community meeting. Attendees enjoyed a variety of great homemade food while they visited and socialized.

That Friday, Light Up the Street Night festivities included the blessing and lighting of the monument tree, caroling, refreshments and photos at the PHCA office. Later, at Sarney’s, a performance by guest musician Joel Lindsay of the band Boulevard of the Allies turned into an impromptu singalong that had bar regulars and new arrivals smiling. The mood was enhanced by Sarney’s holiday light display, with thousands of lights creating a warm and welcoming glow. Patrons could pay $1 to guess how many lights there were, and the proceeds were donated to Children’s Hospital.

The next day, former PHCA Vice President Patrick Singleton stopped in to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for a visit and took some very beautiful photographs, some of which you see here. At the time of his visit, only some of the holiday decorations were up, but the church still looked ready for the holidays.
Polish Hill Civic Association Membership Application

Membership term is by calendar year.
Just $5 makes you a PHCA member through December 2013!

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

NAME: ____________________________________________

(Street Address) ______________________________________

(City) (State) (ZIP)

PHONE: ____________________________________________

EMAIL: _____________________________________________

☐ I’m not currently subscribed to the PHCA e-blast which comes out every other week — sign me up!

REGULAR MEMBER ~ Or ~ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER

_____ (Polish Hill residents) ~ Or ~ _____ (Non-residents)

_____ New Member ~ Or ~ _____ Renewal

For office use only:

REC’D BY: ________ DATE: ________ GOT CARD _______ LOGGED _______

Make checks payable to the Polish Hill Civic Association and mail with this application to:
Polish Hill Civic Association, Membership Chair, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh PA 15219

Polish Hill items benefit the PHCA—order here!

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Postcard .50 ea.
A colorful sunset view of Brereton Street by Mark Knobil

TOTAL

Make your check out to the Polish Hill Civic Association.

Ship to:

Name

Address

Phone, email

Benefits of membership

A free subscription to the Voice
(4 issues a year)

Free courtesy admission to the Heinz History Center for yourself and up to three others
(Show your PHCA membership card at the front desk)

Members who are also Polish Hill residents may vote to elect PHCA board members
The PHCA’s mission is to respect and preserve the sense of community in Polish Hill while promoting economic and housing development opportunities, and improving the quality of life for our community.

Upcoming Community Meetings:
March 5
April 2
May 7

Community meetings are open to all residents of Polish Hill — you do not have to be a PHCA member to attend!

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center on the lower level of the West Penn Recreation Center, 450 30th Street at Paulowna Street.

The United Way of Allegheny County has a payroll deduction campaign for donations to your favorite local organizations. Please consider supporting the Polish Hill Civic Association — our organization number is 258.