Progress on the Strategic Community Plan

In the last issue of the Voice, we introduced the community strategic plan initiative. The PHCA's planning team has been busy at work over the past three months. We've collected and studied data such as old neighborhood maps, city records, and past plans. We've had regular meetings with Pfaffmann + Associates, the firm hired by the PHCA to work with us on the community plan. We've done a couple of neighborhood walks to look at things such as buildings, vacant lots, infrastructure, and roadways. And we've begun to survey residents and stakeholders.

Getting information and opinions from neighborhood residents is one of the most important parts of this process. In the past, Polish Hill was a much more homogenous community: the majority of residents were of Polish heritage, attended the same church, the same schools. Now, Polish Hill residents have many different ethnic backgrounds, beliefs, educations, and interests. The plan that we create should reflect, as accurately as possible, what this variety of residents want for the future of their neighborhood.

To do this, we need your help. We will try to talk to as many residents as possible to get feedback on what would make this neighborhood a better place in the years ahead. You might have seen the brochures about the community plan, or heard that we'll be having public meetings. We hope that you will attend one of these community events (see sidebar for dates and times). And if you or someone you know would like to participate but would have difficulty getting to an event, please get in touch. We can get a survey and some information to you. Please help us make the plan for Polish Hill the best that it can be. We want to hear from everyone.
From our readers

Greetings:

I was born and raised on the Hill and always enjoyed its many friendly neighborhood people. It was on Bethoven St. that I spent my boyhood years in the 30's and 40's. I have never forgotten the friendliness of the people and the many shops that served us all. Many, many memories, all of them good.

Thanks to Mr. Terry Doloughty, who helped me in my search some time ago into a facet of the Hill. He was very helpful.

I would appreciate it if you could start my subscription with the February, 2011 issue of the Voice. Many of the pictures therein brought back the past. I am no longer in Pittsburgh, but my interest does not wane.

Thank you so much for past help via your association. Looking forward to many recollections via your publication.

Sincerely,
Frank Harnett
Las Vegas, Nevada

(Sent via email)

Terry et. al.,

Each and every time I read these things, I am utterly amazed and impressed. I am sure you receive your share of kudos and praise, but I feel compelled to chip in.

So please accept my meager offering. Moreso, my immense gratitude. It is incredibly heartening to see my birthplace so enlivened and vibrant. All through your collective efforts and love.

Leslie, we have met of course. Look forward to the next time. Terry, looking forward to the first time.

Adam Adams
(Judy Cain's brother down here in NC)

Help support the Polish Hill Civic Association!

PHCA Membership is just $5 per calendar year, and benefits include a subscription to this newsletter.

Membership form on page 11.

Presidents Message

Hello All,

Now that we are enjoying more daylight, I’m noticing more residents out and about, even on the grey rainy days. We seem to be defeating winter by just being outside. You may have noticed the many volunteers who were out in early spring, helping to clean up the neighborhood and fix up the green lots and gardens. This year we have the pleasure of working with the AmeriCorps Public Allies Pittsburgh, as well as resident volunteers.

The many friends, acquaintances and neighbors inspire me to keep finding ways to keep the momentum going. We’ve learned that to accomplish our goals with limited capacity, volunteers and budget, working smarter and not harder is the answer.

We are fortunate to have a small core group of volunteers who offer knowledge and experience combined with stubbornness and stamina. In the past few years volunteers have come and gone, but a few have stayed and taken on leadership roles. That is really the source of future growth for the PHCA and the neighborhood.

Polish Hill residents, I ask for your help. Please take a moment and consider thoughtfully what you would want the future of Polish Hill to hold: not just next week, but in a few years, or even five years from now. We are finally moving forward with a strategic planning process. We will need all of our residents to help make the plan a success.

Please attend one of the upcoming public Polish Hill Community Plan events. We will be meeting at West Penn Recreation Center on Monday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m., and there will be an all-day series of workshops on Saturday, June 4. You can also stop by the PHCA during the July festival weekend to learn more. I hope that as many of our residents as possible will give us ideas for our plan.

Terry Doloughty
PHCA president

An old memory from Mrs. Florence Kaczynski

This is me in the picture, Florence (Pinky) Pinkowski. I lived on Polish Hill till 1947 when I married and moved to Lawrenceville. People still only remember me as “Pinky.” I hope you can use this sometime.

The school is Penn School, nicknamed “Dinky School” and now is John Paul Plaza. What sweet happy memories.

I just love your newsletter it brings back so many memories, and “God Bless You” for helping revive Polish Hill. Good, good work.

Mrs. Florence Kaczynski
Lawrenceville, Pittsburgh, PA

Greetings:

I was born and raised on the Hill and always enjoyed its many friendly neighborhood people. It was on Bethoven St. that I spent my boyhood years in the 30's and 40's. I have never forgotten the friendliness of the people and the many shops that served us all. Many, many memories, all of them good.

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Adam Adams
(Judy Cain's brother down here in NC)
Public Safety Report

As we noted in the last newsletter, Polish Hill has a very low crime rate. But occasionally crime does visit our quiet neighborhood. In March, residents were shaken by three armed hold-ups within the space of a week. For a couple of weeks, residents were on edge and there were dire mutterings that Polish Hill was no longer safe.

But these incidents proved to be short-lived, and not originating from Polish Hill. In late March, there were news reports of three teens arrested for similar incidents in the Hill District and Oakland. Shortly after that we got a confirmation from Officer Janine Davis, our Zone 2 Community Liaison, that the teens were identified as the same ones who did the hold-ups here. The culprits lived in the Hill and Lawrenceville, and the incidents in Polish Hill were crimes of opportunity on their path between.

Even with March’s mini-crime wave, Polish Hill is still one of the safest neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. We’d like to remind all residents that safety results from being aware and proactive. If you see something that doesn’t look right, call 911, don’t wait for someone else to do it.

In some situations, calling the police can be awkward. If a neighbor has a domestic situation or might be dealing drugs, it’s best that they don’t know who reported them. When you call 911, tell the operator your concern and provide your phone number. The reporting officers can call instead of knocking on your door or asking you to come outside. Another option is to file a silent complaint report. You can find forms online; we also have them at the PHCA office.

And if you do need to involve the police in a situation, be sure to tell the officers that you want to file a report. They don’t do it automatically. Without a report, there’s no official record of the incident, and no way to know if it’s part of a pattern of activity.

New Polish Hill Businesses celebrate first year

Last spring four new businesses opened in Polish Hill. The Urban Gypsy was first, opening in the building that once housed Jerry’s Meat Market. Paulette Still-Khour turned a narrow space into a jewel box of a gift shop, full of treasures and her own artful arrangements of fresh flowers. Paulette has hosted a number of lovely events at The Urban Gypsy, and in the past year she has also developed a thriving business as a wedding event planner and floral designer.

A short time after The Urban Gypsy debuted, three more new businesses opened at 3138 Dobson Street, at the corner of Hancock. This building was a shop long ago, and then a residence for many years. It now houses Lili Coffee Shop on the first floor, Mind Cure Records on the second, and The Copacetic Comics Company™, which also sells books and CDs, on the top. This corner is now a center of Polish Hill social life, bustling from early morning until well after dark (see photos from the Sunday brunch at Lili, on page 9).

Polish Hill is lucky to have these entrepreneurs who choose to invest their money and time into our community. These new businesses are a sign of the neighborhood’s resurgence. Happy first anniversary to all of you!

Art out of the Box

A few months ago Samantha McDonough, who had an interesting project called Art Out of the Box, approached the PHCA. Samantha was creating a mobile art studio, which would visit different Pittsburgh neighborhoods for a week at a time. There would be a different artist using the mobile art studio in each location, and Samantha hoped that Polish Hill would agree to be one of the neighborhoods the studio would visit. We thought this was a great idea.

Samantha has found a great group of artists. Deanna Mance is the artist who will be working in Polish Hill -- a good fit, since Deanna and her husband are new residents here. The Art Box, which is a modified trailer box, will be in Polish Hill starting on July 13, and it will be parked next to the PHCA office on Brereton Street. Stop by to say hello to Deanna, and stay a while to watch an artist in action. The last day the Art Box will be here is Sunday, July 17, the day of the Polish Hill Arts Festival.

The PHCA’s Pączki Fundraiser: Our best year yet

The PHCA’s Pączki Fundraiser got its best response yet this year, with orders for 96 dozen pączki. Many of the people who ordered were not Polish Hill residents, but had heard about the fundraiser and wanted to try this traditional treat. It was fun meeting everyone on pączki pick-up day, as they stopped in to get their orders.

The most popular option was the mixed dozen, and the raspberry jelly-filled pączki seems to be a particular favorite. Although these pączki are not like the traditional item created by home bakers, everyone seemed well-pleased. We send thanks to everyone who ordered. The PHCA appreciates your support, and we hope that you will order again next year!

A new benefit of PHCA membership

There’s a new advantage to becoming a PHCA member. The PHCA has become a member of the Heinz History Center Affiliates Program. Now, any PHCA member can show their membership card at the desk and get free admission for themselves and up to three other people.

The Heinz History Center is an excellent museum devoted to the history and people of this region. There’s a particular reason for Polish Hill residents (and former residents) to go – there’s a large photo mural of a view of Polish Hill on the 4th floor of the museum.
Active Allegheny: a summary for Polish Hill

By Patrick Singleton

What is Active Allegheny?

Active Allegheny is the Active Transportation component of Allegheny Places, the Comprehensive Plan for Allegheny County. “Active transportation” is human-powered travel, most notably walking and biking. The Active Allegheny plan identifies desires, deficiencies, and opportunities for the bicycle and pedestrian networks in the County, recommends system improvements, and provides toolboxes and best practice guidelines to accomplish those improvements.

What active transportation desires are identified for Polish Hill?

Through public outreach and comments, the plan notes that “safe and convenient access” to Oakland, Downtown, and Frank Curto Park via Bigelow Boulevard is desired for bicyclists and pedestrians.

What active transportation deficiencies or challenges are identified for Polish Hill?

The plan identifies several barriers to getting around Polish Hill safely by biking or walking. It makes obvious but important observations that Bigelow Boulevard is inhospitable for bicycle traffic and pedestrians. It notes that average vehicle speeds are close to 55 mph, despite speed limits of 35 mph, and that Bigelow’s sidewalks are overgrown, intermittent, and terminate before reaching Downtown. Other important findings of Active Allegheny are that Bigelow Boulevard is the 15th highest roadway in the County for pedestrian crashes (15 crashes in five years), and that Bigelow Boulevard is one of the top 10 most-deficient roadways in the County for bicycling.

What active transportation improvements are recommended for Polish Hill?

The Active Allegheny plan targets several specific roadways in the County for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Bigelow Boulevard is one of 10 roadways recommended for further study and improvement related to bicycle facilities. Such improvements could include traffic calming measures, speed control measures, shared lane markings, or bicycle lanes. Bigelow Boulevard is also one of 18 roadways recommended for pedestrian enhancements, which could include sidewalk repairs, curb ramp installation, street furniture, or pedestrian-scale lighting.

Polish Hill isn’t the only place working on a plan. The City of Pittsburgh recently announced PlanPgh, a “game plan for growth” for the next 25 years. And Allegheny County’s Comprehensive Plan includes a recently released component called Active Allegheny, "a blueprint for improved access and choices to connect people to communities, works sites, transit, schools, attractions and residences."

Patrick Singleton, the vice president of the PHCA and a member of the PHCA’s planning team, is also a traffic associate at the Michael Baker Corporation, an engineering firm. Patrick took a look at the Active Allegheny Plan and did a summary on aspects of the plan as they affect Polish Hill.

According to the Active Allegheny plan, a road diet is typically “the conversion of a four lane cross-section to a configuration with two through lanes, one two-way left turn lane, and two bike lanes.” Benefits of a road diet include creating a designated facility for bicyclists, reducing pedestrian crossing distance, reducing left turn crashes, and reducing vehicular speeds where speeding is common.

More detailed information about flexible strategies, techniques, and benefits can be found in PennDOT’s Smart Transportation Guidebook (http://www.smart-transportation.com/guidebook.html) or on the National Complete Streets Coalition website (http://www.completestreets.org/).

How can these active transportation recommendations be implemented?

Although the Active Allegheny plan makes recommendations about active transportation improvements, implementation of the plan is the responsibility of PennDOT, Allegheny County, and local municipalities. Because Bigelow Boulevard is a state roadway, PennDOT must be involved in any

(Continued on page 5)
bicycle and pedestrian improvement process; however, they need not initiate or even fund the project.

One possible source of funding is Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grants. Several municipalities and organizations have received grants for Smart Transportation planning or construction projects that feature bicycle or pedestrian improvements. The Active Allegheny plan itself was funded through a PCTI grant.

Some federal funding is available through programs like Transportation Enhancements, which is eligible for a wide range of projects including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic beautification, and removal of outdoor advertising. The distribution of these funds is administered by PennDOT and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

On a more local level, there are many things that Polish Hill can do to work towards making Active Allegheny recommendations a reality. The City of Pittsburgh could adopt an official Complete Streets Policy, like hundreds of jurisdictions across the country have already done. Recommendations about Bigelow Boulevard should be shared with elected officials and municipal planning partners.

Polish Hill’s upcoming strategic plan and planning process should address and could affirm specific bicycle and pedestrian improvements to Bigelow Boulevard and other public rights-of-way. Ideas and recommendations from Active Allegheny and the Polish Hill CommunityPlan could be included in MOVEPGH, the transportation component of the City of Pittsburgh’s Comprehensive Plan that is set to start this spring and summer.

Where can I find out more about Active Allegheny?

A Post-Gazette article on February 16 (find it online at http://postgazette.com/pg/11047/1125711-455.stm) discussed the release of Active Allegheny. Or, you can read the entire plan online at http://www.activeallegheny.com/.

Garden Thoughts

Article and photo by Terry Doloughty

Left: Bigelow Boulevard today. Although the posted speed limit is 25-35 mph, vehicles are typically going at much higher speeds. Bigelow has the 15th highest pedestrian accident rate in the county. Photo by Patrick Singleton.

In the abstract, residents could become more aware of active transportation issues and start to think about the use of streets and stairs in new ways.

The changing seasons make us take notice of the transitions occurring in our community. Even as grey and chilly as the days have been, we know spring has arrived. Working in the garden makes this more evident. Freshly sprouted asparagus and new green growth on the berry bushes are signs of hope for the harvest to come.

Over the decades, gardening has taught me great lessons in planning and cultivating patience. When I look at the asparagus and the berries coming to life in the new Harmar Street community garden, I remember that over four years ago I planted those crops in the Wiggins garden. As they have matured, separated portions of the original plants become the pioneers of a new garden space. Our creative re-use is not limited to the constructive things that can be crafted with a used tomato stake or a broken shovel. It extends to the way we share existing plants with the community to improve our green spaces and gardens.

As we look forward to planting days and community clean ups, we also begin the process of planning for perennial plant-sharing and seed-harvesting for the seasons to come. Having this free resource of plant life available to us is an incredible asset. Planning requires knowledge and experience. As we exchange information over the garden fences or trade plants with our neighbors, we share and grow our other valuable commodities.

When someone asks me what I’m going to plant this year, it takes me a while to ponder that question. It might be better to ask: what do you want to harvest, and how long will it take for it to be ready? Just a slightly different perspective on the way we are already thinking about our gardens and our community.

Citiparks West Penn Community Recreation Center
450 30th Street

Martial Arts
Instructor: DeWayne Adams
For kids: Mondays 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
For adults: Fridays 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
(adult class has a $10 monthly fee)

Hatha Yoga
Instructor: Ilona Auth
Thursdays 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
(for adults, $7 donation per class)

Ceramics
Instructor: Patti Dobies
Tuesdays 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Weight training
is available upon request and the game room is open each afternoon.

West Penn hours:
10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday – Friday
10 a.m. — 3 p.m. on Saturday
Closed on Sundays

For more information about West Penn, call 412-622-7353.
It is spring, a Sunday morning. The four bells of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, audible in every corner of Polish Hill, are calling the faithful to mass. The sidewalks are crowded. Men in suits, women in their best Sunday dresses, and children, hundreds of them, in scaled-down versions of their parents’ clothing, hold hands as they stream along Brereton Avenue and up the thirteen Indiana limestone steps into church. On the right, three extra steps account for the church’s siting on a steep hillside in 1904. For the least ambulatory parishioners there is a back entrance on Phelan, an alley whose rise allows easy entry into the church, directly from a car if necessary.

Another spring Sunday morning, similar, as the same church bells are ringing, but it is a few decades later and a boy, six years old, is wearing his Sunday best — dark slacks, a yellow and white checked shirt, a golden tie, and brown sports coat. He is motionless, in shadow. He may be joined by a buddy or two. All over the neighborhood at this hour small children sequester themselves like rabbits in dark places.

At seven years old, Sharon Manion (née Majewicz) is sent out with three dollars to buy a duck. Walking the neighborhood she explains, “Years ago, where I was born, above Lasky’s [beer distributor] an old lady lived there and she raised chickens and ducks. During the holidays, at Christmas and Easter, my parents made duck soup and the broth, the basis to the broth was blood, duck blood. So I used to go see this lady and she’d go, ‘Pick one and give me your newspaper and mayonnaise jar. Come back in an hour.’”

Her mother’s recipe contained prunes, duck blood, water, sugar, carrots, onions, and celery. Sharon confesses to never liking the soup, though her sister still does and buys it at a Polish restaurant in Chicago. In addition to czerina, Sharon also admits to not liking another childhood delicacy, jellied pigs’ feet.

It is the flock of ducks and chickens behind a Polish Hill house that now seem incredible, noisome quacking and clucking things, in pens or coops, and then loose, kicking up clouds of dust in their scratching, prey to hawks and small children. Because of the terrible choosing, Sharon, a seven-year-old-Lord High Executioner via the flock’s landlady, always had to choose the bird, “So I’d pick a duck and then go back and she’d hand me the blood in my mayonnaise jar and the duck for my mother, all cleaned and wrapped, and ready to go for the soup.” And on these same sidewalks Sharon would carry home the newspaper-wrapped carcass and the jar, warm still, sloshing with blood.

After five years in Polish Hill I am still amazed at how the neighborhood reveals itself. When city work crews strip the road on my street, they reveal bright white Belgian blocks, too expensive to replace or maintain, so the workers recover the past with hot black asphalt. The rusted shape nailed above Happy Dingus Day and Rabbit Chasing A Palimpsest of Childhood

By Mark O’Connor

Children on these pages:
George Waskmunski, on Brereton Street
Jane Pelczarski with Herky
Boys in a courtyard (Burek family)
Buzzy and Carol Doloughty, Paulowna Street
Charlie Doloughty in Indian costume
Boys in a May Day procession, Brereton Street
Judy Adamiec, skating on Harmar Street
the garage door of the old truck repair shop on Dobson is suggestive, hinting at something familiar until a neighbor remembers a bear, the yellow and black mascot of a wheel-alignment company. Across the street a fire burns a three-story building to the ground, revealing an advertisement for Ward’s Mother’s Bread painted on the apartment building next door. The advertisement is patriotic, everything red, white, and blue on wood siding, though the words are fading. Large letters, each with a drop shadow for emphasis, point neighbors to Wisniewski’s Fine Grocery (long gone), promising bread that is “100% Pure.”

The Ward Baking Company out of New York baked bread in Pittsburgh on Liberty Avenue, between 31st and 32nd Street. A newspaper advertisement from 1904 brags the bread is, “the ideal loaf, white, light, tasty, palatable, and nourishing.” Apparently Ward’s Mother’s Bread was so popular the company suffered imitators, for the advertisement also cautions, “If you are a discriminating buyer you have observed that every Red, White, and Blue label attached to WARD’S MOTHER’S BREAD bears a serial number different from all the others. We have learned of many cases where people have been imposed upon, and given a substitute for WARD’S MOTHER’S BREAD, and led to believe it was genuine. Your best safeguard is to scrutinize the label.”

After founding a Baking Research Fellowship at Mellon Institute in 1909, a few mergers, and eventual dissolution by the Justice Department in 1926, Mother’s Bread disappears, though one offshoot company marketed Tip Top Bread, the first nationally distributed enriched loaf. That the words of the Ward’s Mother’s Bread advertisement are painted on the side of a building that still survives, tells us the building that burned was a relative newcomer to the site. And now that it is gone, what was once there for all to see is revealed again.

Marian Sarnowski (née Clement Sarnowski, before he entered a Franciscan monastery), late of Polish Hill and currently living in Los Angeles tells me via cassette tape, “Whenever we had a big thunder storm, lightning, my mother would, we were all just these little kids, bring out holy water and we would hear her walking, blessing the house. And praying so that we could be safe. It worked. Our house was never struck.”

The six Sarnowski children and their parents lived on Harmar Street in a home which overlooked a ravine. A perfect place for viewing the world for, as Marian remembers, “One afternoon my brother and I were sitting on the swing on the back porch and a lightning bolt came down and through the roof of a building, through the porches. You could see the stream of light and fire going all the way down the hill. It was quite, quite an experience. My mother was in the house washing clothes at the home.”

This compelling image, the first touch of danger and raw power returns to him from across sixty plus years. He survived, of course, and how he speaks of the past is familiar. This aura of safety that mothers (and fathers) seem to have provided soaked in over the decades, abetted by the church, the school, neighbors, and tradition. It is part of an identity I keep encountering when speaking with long-time residents and former residents of Polish Hill. But there seems no one cause of this surety about the world. I am beginning to think it may be an ignis fatuus, sending me chasing after that which is long gone, or maybe was never here.

During our interview George describes the West Penn Recreation Center as it was then. As he was then: “When I was a little boy my dad would take me down to the park at night, during the evening hours, the sun was going down, to chase rabbits up behind the pool. It was an open meadow back there, where, along the edges of the meadow, going into the trees, there would always be the rabbits coming out. They would play all through that meadow if nobody was there. But if people came, they started to head for the perimeter. So my dad would take me up there just to see the rabbits. And then as I got better able to run, it was chase the rabbits. [I] tried to chase the rabbits, but never did catch one.”

That sense of play, of running through childhood to the edge of danger is often ameliorated in these interviews. Children experienced the world in safe bites, constrained by the geographic boundaries of the neighborhood, the community, and tradition. The dangers of childhood of course were always present, but somehow social structures buffered the larger

Continued on page 8
world. Sharon tells me, “Everybody would run around in the streets, playing, kids from different blocks — playing Hopscotch, Rover Rover, Red Hot Beans, and Ghost-Ghost-Ghost in the Cellar...we’d play games for hours.” Red Hot Beans involves circling a child who holds a switch or belt. The child in the center screams, “Red Hot Beans” and the rest of them scatter to hiding places, else they get beaten.

**Red Hot Beans** is just a simplified version of an older courtship rite — Dingus Day, carried over from Poland. Sharon again is instructive here: "We have a holiday up here after Easter, the day after Easter, Monday and Tuesday, boys’ Dingus and girls’ Dingus. It was from anytime in the morning until twelve o’clock at noon. And there would be a whistle somewhere that blew, from one of the factories, you could hear it up here twelve o’clock every day. What would happen would be the day after Easter the boys were allowed to beat up on the girls. They do stuff like get squirt guns and squirt you with water, throw eggs at you, and they would pound on you like groups of them.” But complaining about neighborhood boys on Dingus Day was futile: “…that went on until I was in eighth grade. The stores around here would sell something called skunk perfume and it was some stinking yellow stuff in a bottle and they would throw it on you and make you stink...Our parents would laugh because they did the same thing. They thought it was fun. They thought it was keeping that tradition alive.”

**Beaten** might be a bit hyperbolic. At that age, play is partly about socialization, an unconscious impulse perhaps to see the larger world, satisfying a need to get out, to run about like a wild thing, even if it is only within sight of your house, down the block, the edge of a meadow. Sometimes though the wildness came to you.

The 1936 Pittsburgh flood is still fresh in Marian’s memory, “One of the first things I remember...[people] coming up onto the high ground on both sides of the river. The only thing you saw of the trolley cars was the roof. It was a very difficult time.” A few years later World War II starts and he became a messenger boy for the neighborhood air raid wardens. He recalls “…the threat of wars, of being invaded. We had air raid drills, where we would observe blackouts. The sirens would start to scream and everybody ran home, blackened your house, you closed the windows, you pulled down the shades. I was just a young teenager then, and of course I wanted to be part of what was going on.”

**Traditions are just one part** of identity construction, customs passed down along with language and religion. It is the intersection of Polish Hill’s (née Herron Hill) relative physical isolation, along with the presence of the Immaculate Heart of Mary church and school that helped form this elusive idea, what it meant to be from here. When I try to grasp it, listening to hours and hours of these amazing stories, I am frustrated.

Marian Sarnowski has been of great help in all of this. His voice came to me through surface mail, on obsolete technology, and from across the country. And yet he so easily recreated the past before my ears, a magic trick of the highest order. He reveals a possible answer to all my noisome questions: “When I was going to school as a child, there were at least two or three movies that came to Pittsburgh that were made in Poland in the Polish language and we were taken for a matinee showing. We would walk from the Immaculate Heart School... we would form this long line, 300 or 400 kids. And we would walk down Dobson, down the stairway, down to the bridge, to Liberty Avenue, Penn Avenue, down to Butler Street in Lawrenceville. And what was interesting for me was turning around and seeing this long line of the older kids behind, they would go all the way over the bridge and all the way up the steps. To me that was, it was really exciting to see that all these kids were all coming. All going to the same theater.”

It is this wonderful image he gave me, that long line of children bright as a lightning bolt in his memory, wending their way towards the future. Some of the names survive, on plaques or on buildings, or in stories. Some of these children’s descendants run about these same streets, building lives in echo of what came before.
Community & Event Calendar
May/June/July

May 3 | PHCA Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Ctr.

May 11 | Council-to-Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd
7:00 p.m. | Lili Coffee* Shop
3138 Dobson St.

May 16 | First Public Meeting for the Community Plan
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center (Senior Center, lower level)

Jun 4 | All-day workshop for the Community Plan
10:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center (Senior Center, lower level)

Jun 7 | PHCA Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Ctr.

Jul 5 | PHCA Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Ctr.

Jul 13 | Council-to-Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd
7:00 p.m. | Lili Coffee* Shop
3138 Dobson St.

Jul 16 | Immaculate Heart of Mary Church festival
11:00 a.m. — 10 p.m. | Brereton St

Jul 17 | Polish Hill Arts Festival
12:00—9:00 p.m. | Brereton Street

Aug 2 | PHCA Monthly Community Meeting
6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Ctr.

Sunday Brunch at Lili Coffee* Shop

Photos by Mark Knobil

Sunday brunch at Lili Coffee* Shop, located at the corner of Dobson and Hancock streets, has become a beloved neighborhood tradition and a place to see neighbors and friends. Above, Blythe Bort, the cook and hostess, and her daughter Muriel. Blythe’s cooking has become legendary in the neighborhood — she also does the amazing baked goods for the coffee shop.

Above and left: brunch, yum. Each Sunday, one breakfast is offered, with either meat or a vegetarian option, plus juice and coffee or tea.

Left: Resident Karen Lillis is ready to eat!

Sunday brunch at Lili starts at 9:00 a.m. and lasts until the food runs out. It’s best to come earlier. Seating is limited, and people like to linger!

To find out what’s being served, call 412.682.3600, or check the Lili Coffee* Shop Facebook page.

Are you online? Then check out

BLOGSKI
The PHCA’s online bulletin board and the most up-to-date source of news and information for residents and friends of Polish Hill.

Just type in this address: http://blogski.phcapgh.org/
Memorial Day Observances

Each Memorial Day in Polish Hill, veterans have participated in a ceremony to honor their fellow service-men, a tradition that continues to this day.

Toni (Wojciak) Gizzi brought in the above photo of a past Memorial Day parade. Toni told us a little bit about the people in the photo, and about Memorial Days past.

In the center of the photo is Toni’s father Joseph Wojciak playing the drum. Joseph was a veteran of the Mexican Border War and World War I. Just behind Joseph is Michael Avon, who was in China, Burma, and India during World War II.

A Memorial Day parade would be about fifty veterans. They would march from the Veteran’s Club on Brereton Ave. just a few doors down to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for a Mass. After Mass they would have a memorial service at the World II Memorial in front of the church, and then returned to the Veteran’s Club for refreshments.

The monument at the church commemorates those who served in World War II. The next time you are passing by, take a moment to look at the names of the Polish Hill residents who served with honor. Also notice across the street in front of the evergreen tree, the monument that honors those from all wars.

Seeking submissions for the August issue of the Polish Hill Voice!

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<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Publication Date</th>
<th>Months Covered</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Early August</td>
<td>Aug/Sep/Oct</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 phcapgh@gmail.com, or by mail to the PHCA office, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh PA, 15219. Images may be JPEGs (200 dpi or higher) or camera-ready art.

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

The URA helps low and moderate income homeowners rehabilitate, renovate, or improve their property. You must live in the home to qualify. Check the URA website for loan programs and income guidelines: [http://www.ura.org/pittsburgh_residents/pittsburgh_residents.php](http://www.ura.org/pittsburgh_residents/pittsburgh_residents.php) or visit the PHCA office for forms and information.
Polish Hill Civic Association of Pittsburgh
2011 Membership | Dues $5
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

NAME: ____________________________

(Street Address)

(City) (State) (ZIP)

PHONE: __________________________

EMAIL: __________________________

☐ Yes, I would like to receive the PHCA email newsblast every other Thursday

REGULAR MEMBER ~ Or ~ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER
____(Polish Hill residents) _____(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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Ship to:

Name ____________________________

Address ___________________________

Phone, email ____________________________

All members get a free subscription to the Voice (4 issues a year)

Members who are also Polish Hill residents get an invitation to the monthly community meeting and a vote on neighborhood issues

Help build the neighborhood you want to live in!
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:

May 3
June 7
July 5

PHCA 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 @ Paulowna Street.