



# Polish Hill Voice

*We are the community ... we are one voice!*

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## Together, They Made Pączki



*(l to r) Erica Moulinier, Suzanne Pyle, and Leah Durand prepare for a pączki-making lesson. Longtime resident Julia Sinicki taught Leah how to make pączki, and Leah is now teaching others.*

*These young women are faces of a new Polish Hill. None are Polish, but they are interested in neighborhood history and tradition. Erica is an accountant for Ketchum Public Relations, Suzanne is an Allegheny County health inspector, and Leah is a librarian and a registrar at the Mattress Factory museum. All three are Polish Hill homeowners.*

*by Myra Falisz*

**The setting is** a small galley kitchen in a red-brick house on Dobson Street. In the adjacent dining room, the table is spread with a bright white cloth. Ingredients are meticulously measured and arranged, all 14 eggs set to go. The younger guest describes the scene as “right out of a cooking show.” She is ready to learn, and her host teacher is willing and able to share her tradition.

For our two bakers that early morning, appearances could not be more diverse. One sports tousled curls, tattooed arm and tiny nose-ring ... the other wears her years with grace. The newer resident is a registrar at the Mattress Factory art museum and librarian at The Carnegie Library's downtown branch. The more established resident came here as a young bride in the 1950s, devoting her time to family and later working at Arsenal School on Butler Street.

Both women bought their first homes here. Leah Durand landed in Polish Hill just a year and a half ago. She knew the neighborhood from going to Gooski's and parking on Harmar. Encouraged by a friend, she ended up buying a place on that very street. Julia Sinicki arrived here 54

years ago with her husband, Red (Walt), and there was only one house she wanted. They waited three years for the home on Dobson to become available, and have lived there ever since.

From these contrasting ingredients of youth and experience -- blended well with a shared appreciation of Polish Hill -- a neighborhood friendship is born. And together, they are making pączki. After a full day of baking, lively conversation and loads of laughter, the yield is 12 dozen. Yes, that's 144 tasty treats!

For the uninitiated, Julia describes pączki (pronounced poonch-key) as donuts without the holes. Red, who handles the frying, chimes in with the varied ways to enjoy the results. He prefers rolling them in sugar, while others might spread some jelly, or cut in two and serve with a little cream cheese. Julia adds that toasting is another option.

Both teacher and student end up agreeing that the best way to eat them is “fresh and hot.” So how did we get to the finished product?

*(continued on page 2)*



## Brick by Brick: Community Bread Oven Update

by Leah Durand

**Good news on** the Bread Oven front! The PHCA was recently awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Ladies Hospital Aide Society for the construction of the Bread Oven! I would like to thank Susan Constance, Adele Towers, and Terry Doloughy for all of their hard work and perseverance while working on the grant application. Also, a giant thanks goes out the LHAS for committing such generous financial support towards our project.

We've had a few meetings with various City of Pittsburgh departments in order to make sure we have the proper clearances and are working within certain codes in order to get the oven built and fired. While at times these meetings can be frustrating, we left the most recent meeting rejuvenated and re-committed to the project. Our next steps are to get the back two lots of the PHCA consolidated and obtain updated oven plans and information.

Again, thanks and recognition are definitely in order to neighbors who have jumped on board the project; Suzanne Pyle and Yoko Tai have been invaluable during these meetings with the city. I'm very grateful to Suzanne for making time in her schedule to attend this past meeting as a representative of the Health Department. Her input and clarifications regarding what the Health Department will expect and require has done a lot to move the project forward.

Yoko Tai drafted site plans and brought photographs that were quite useful in illustrating our plans for the placement of the oven. She has been a helpful, professional voice throughout our discussions regarding construction of the oven. It is exciting and reaffirming to have so many people lend their expertise and time to help build the

Community Bread Oven. Even though it's still in the planning stages, the project is bringing the community together and I can't wait to eat delicious pizzas and breads with everyone!



*Making Pączki, continued*

Leah recalls lots of steps and lots of ingredients. "This is some serious mixing business. It's really physically hard. I thought I was in fairly good shape. By the end of the day, my arm was sore," she says with a hint of laughter. "We would let the dough rise, then punch it back down, let it rise again and repeat the punching process."

Julia says it's this twice-mixed technique that creates the light texture. Her husband agrees, "It's a lot of work ... and the end-result is great!" Julia has been making pączki for at least 40 years. Another Polish Hill resident, Tootsie (Anna) Lewandowski, gave her the recipe. Julia personalized it by adding a bit more sugar. Tootsie got her recipe from an uncle who was a Catholic Brother.

Julia has passed on this baking tradition to two people -- first, her daughter, Julie Sinicki, and now Leah. As a young adult in the late 1970s, her daughter remembers pączki as the centerpiece for a lively celebration held just before Lent -- The Pączkowy Bal (pronounced Poonch-kovey Bül). This well-into-the night merriment featured a king and queen, polka dancing and Polish food, including its namesake. Now the recipe and its colorful history are in Leah's hands to share with others.

When Julia was growing up, Saturday was baking day. Cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes -- enough to satisfy a family of eight children -- four girls and four boys. Today, she says, "Baking is my relaxation."

Last year, Julia made 68 dozen pączki, her personal-best record, as a fundraising activity to support Immaculate Heart of Mary's summer festival. She paced her baking to satisfy her list of customers, beginning in late May and completing all requests in time for the July festival.

Leah's baking memories unfolded as holiday seasons. She fondly recalls her grandmother crafting Christmas cookies and her mom making Easter bread. Not surprisingly, Leah is leading an initiative to build a bread oven in Polish Hill.

Leah also hopes to begin sharing her newly discovered pączki skills with others who have expressed interest. She has Julia's encouragement and vote of confidence. Julia says Leah was a quick learner and a very good student. With fondness in her voice, she proudly stated, "Leah did everything exactly the way I showed her."

Eager to inspire the next generation of pączki makers, Leah sees our neighborhood as a little village of awesome people, young and old, who truly care about one another. She loves the community feeling and wants to carry it forward. Perhaps that's the most important ingredient Julia shared with Leah as the two women made pączki in the kitchen of her welcoming home on Dobson.



**Seeking Volunteers**  
for the third  
Polish Hill Arts Festival  
Sunday, July 18 12-8 pm  
(the day after the church  
festival)

For information on volunteering,  
being a vendor, or about other  
Participation, contact festival  
coordinator Leslie Clague at  
412.681.1950 or email  
phcapgh@gmail.com

## President's Message

We have finally emerged from one of the snowiest winters in many years. We send many thanks to the stair stewards and all the volunteers who got out and cleared sidewalks and bus stops so that our pedestrians would have safe places to walk. Now that we have a team of hardy volunteers on call, we will be able to respond in a quicker fashion in the years ahead. We can work together to keep our community pedestrian friendly for all four seasons.

Now, Polish Hill gardens and yards sprout and bloom. Windows and doors are open; residents are meeting and talking on their walks. As more activity moves outside, we have the chance to meet more neighbors.

The time for gardens has arrived. The Harmar Street community garden, founded in 2009, has more plots and more gardeners this year. Clearing and planting is underway here and at the Wiggins garden, established in 1979.

Cleaning up and getting our gardens ready is just the beginning of our project lists. Take a few moments and get your planters, flower boxes and tree pits ready for the season. If you have received a new tree in the last few years, keep watering it. The first two years are the most critical to make sure your tree remains healthy.

Our new trees do more than just add beauty to our streets; they help to increase the quality of life for all of our residents. The trees of Polish Hill reduce our heating and cooling utility bills, clean pollutants out of our air and water, reduce noise, promote a habitat for birds and wildlife, and promote community renewal. If you are interested in applying for a tree, come by the PHCA office for an application.

We have another kind of growth occurring in our neighborhood. As we go to press, four new businesses are poised to open: the Urban Gypsy craft and gift shop; Lili Coffee Shop; Mind Cure records; and Copacetic comics.

Opening a business is always a major undertaking; in Polish Hill the challenges are magnified due to factors that prevent many potential business owners from coming here. Polish Hill is quiet and off the beaten path, which is why residents like it so much. But that limits the number of potential customers.

This isn't a problem for a business that doesn't rely on walk-in traffic. But the places that will make a difference for this community are those that residents will patronize, or a destination that brings people into the neighborhood.

Another issue is that buildings here tend to be old and not in the best condition. Renovating properties for commercial use can be prohibitively expensive. In decades past, zoning was changed to residential as former storefronts were turned into apartments, and it can be very difficult to revert to commercial or mixed-use. Any building that will contain a business that involves the public must have fire escapes, handicapped bathrooms, new utility lines, and other modifications that add many thousands of dollars to the project cost.

New businesses are an essential part of the revitalization of Polish Hill. Paulette Still-Khoury, Rob Levkulich, Mike Seamans, all new business owners, have put their dreams, money, and hard work towards this goal. Bill Boichel of Copacetic Comics has chosen to relocate here. And Mark Knobil and Catherine McConnell have spent years, and far more money than anticipated, to renovate the building that will hold the coffee shop, record store, and comics shop.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals. It takes a lot of faith to start a business in this economy. We are grateful to these determined people who are helping Polish Hill to grow again, and I would like to express my wholehearted support for their efforts.

*Terry Doloughty*  
PHCA president

## The New G2!



by Patrick Singleton

The Port Authority has begun a series of route and schedule changes as part of a comprehensive system overhaul called the Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP intends to make our region's public transit system more efficient by trimming underutilized routes, increasing service on high-ridership routes, and adjusting the system to reflect current travel patterns, including increased service to Downtown and Oakland.

Polish Hill will benefit from these changes, including a new route G2 that started running on April 4. Now, one bus route can take you directly to Oakland (in 10 minutes), Downtown (in 5 minutes), or Robinson shopping (in 40 minutes). Catch the G2 at the East Busway Herron Avenue Station; it stops every half hour on weekdays (every 10 minutes during rush hour) and every hour on weekends. Just pay cash or show your pass, and you are good to go! Remember, senior citizens always ride free with a Medicare ID. Visit [www.PortAuthority.org](http://www.PortAuthority.org) or stop by the PHCA office for a G2 schedule.

The next round of changes will occur on June 13. While the Port Authority hasn't announced which routes will see changes at that time, be assured that the 54C is safe, and that its frequency will only increase.

**Need another copy of the  
City recycling and trash  
pick-up schedule?**

**Stop in at the PHCA office to  
pick one up!**

# Polish Hill spring and summers past



Judy Adamiec rollerskating on Harmar Street, 1948. The intersection of Harmar, Wiggins and Pulawski is in the background. (Photo courtesy of Judy Adamiec Cain)



Baseball team on West Penn Field, 1950's. (Photo courtesy of Loretta Burek)



A family visit on Leander Street, 1940's. Bigelow Boulevard is visible below. (Photo courtesy of Loretta Burek)



Girls hanging out at West Penn Field, 1920's. (Photos courtesy of Josie Ejzek Ramsey.)



The old West Penn Pool, late 1950's. (Photos courtesy of Terry Doloughy)



"Baleeya beach, 326/328 Harmar St July 1950". Judy Adamiec's grandmother would drag out all her washtubs ("baleeya" is Polish for washtub), and fill them with the hose, one for each grandchild. (Photo courtesy of Judy Adamiec Cain)

## Pennies in the Rain Barrel

by Terry Doloughty

**Over the years** at the Wiggins garden I have had many treasured moments. On days of hard labor these garden moments carry me through and make it all worthwhile. Here is one to share, a small tale of garden magic.

Each spring I would prepare the garden plots, gathering up the remnants of the fall and winter to make way for a new year. A mother with her small girl and boy would occasionally come to walk the pathways of the garden. I never wanted to interrupt their visits, so they never saw me. The children would run up and down the paths with their arms out and pretend to fly all around the garden while their mother smiled and looked on. She lifted them up one at a time to look in the rain barrel near the swing frame. Then they would wave goodbye to the garden and be on their way.

The children would return with their mother during the summer when the garden was in flush with life, flowers in full bloom, vegetables ready for harvest, and the smell of fresh herbs in the air. The children would seem awestruck. The young boy wandering slowly up to a giant sunflower, reaching out to touch it to make sure it was not a dream. The young girl talking to the butterfly bush and telling it how beautiful it was. They did not run the paths now, but walked slowly, quietly taking in all that had changed since their last visit. They would leave the garden clutching their prizes, handfuls of flowers.

The children kept coming to the garden until they were tall enough to look in the rain barrel by themselves. I always let them enjoy the garden on their own, having their own private time with the soil and the plants. In the fall I would turn over a few of the rain barrels; in the bottom of the barrel I would always find two pennies. I came to understand that this barrel was their wishing well. I hope their wishes came true. I still have those pennies; kept them



*Sunflowers in the Wiggins garden, 2009.*

every year. They were the best reward I could have asked for, to have provided a place where these young visitors could find a bit of magic in the world.

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## Green Bank In Your Yard

by Terry Doloughty

**Some of us** are lucky enough to have perennial plants in our gardens. Over the years we have discovered how valuable they are. Plants grown locally are perfectly adapted for our soil conditions, and weather patterns. In most cases these plants can be divided, or their seeds can be saved. These can be planted in other parts of your garden or shared with our neighbors. Since these transplants travel short distances, transplant shock is reduced and a better survival rate can be expected. Another benefit is that these plants and seeds can be free. Trade some hostas for some irises, or black eyed susans for lilies.

The annual plants that we enjoy can also provide us with seeds for the next year. As you deadhead flowers, save the seed heads. Perhaps a neighbor or friend would like to plant them next year.

We can improve our yards and gardens by sharing what we already have in abundance. If you plant the right variety of sunflowers a tasty treat will be waiting for you and the wildlife of Polish Hill at the end of the season.



## Trees and Tree-tenders

by Terry Doloughty

In the past two years, close to sixty new trees have been planted in Polish Hill. The tree planting initiative, Treevitalize, is a partnership between the non-profit organization Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forrest and the City Urban Forestry Department. The Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest has a tree-tender program to train volunteers to assist with plantings and pruning. Tree-tender volunteers are also responsible for the long term care of our trees. Cleaning and clearing tree pits, and reminding the building owners to keep their watered are also part of the basic duties.

The number of trees that will be given to the neighborhood depends on how many tree tenders there are in the community. There must be a tree-tender for every ten new trees, and we are almost at the limit. I have taken the training and hope to see more of our residents participate in the program.

The new trees provided in the Treevitalize program are placed within the communities only after physical site visits to assess, soil conditions, sidewalk width, and utility locations. After the assessment is made the proper tree species is chosen for the site. This assessment and planning process has been a great improvement over past tree planting efforts. It allows for a more diverse tree population, and future utility issues are eliminated or minimized. The proper sized tree pits, 30 square feet, also help with storm water management. Our residents can also plant in their tree pits. We were pleasantly surprised last fall during a tree pit cleaning to find a resident had planted an entire herb garden in their tree pit.

If you are interested in becoming a tree-tender, visit the Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forrest website (<http://www.pittsburghforrest.org/Home>) for more information.

# A Festival Weekend in Polish Hill



*Carley and Gaia Parrish dance to the music of Tim-beleeza at the 2009 arts festival.*

throughout the neighborhood. There will be a film series and readings at Lili Coffee Shop. A group of church volunteers will make and serve traditional Polish food (and some all-American basics). The musical programming will be by Joy Toujours of Project 53. Joy was granted a Sprout grant to do a two-day music festival in Polish Hill, and he realized that if it was held on the same weekend as the arts festival, Project 53 and the PHCA could maximize their funds and share audiences. This collaboration will increase the number of musical performers and venues during the festival. Project 53 will also present music workshops during the weekend.

The arts festival is still developing, and we are excited to see what will come. We hope that the arts festival will become a new neighborhood tradition alongside the church festival. Together, these two events showcase what those who live here already know: Polish Hill now has many different people, but almost everyone comes out on festival weekend. We hope to see you there, too.

The PHCA is seeking vendors, artists, and volunteers for the arts festival. To find out more, contact festival coordinator Leslie Clague at 412.681.1950 or email [phcapgh@gmail.com](mailto:phcapgh@gmail.com).

**The third annual** Polish Hill Arts Festival will take place on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, the day after the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church festival, which has run for almost eighty years.

Each city neighborhood gets a grant and street closure permit to do one community festival a year. In 2008, the PHCA noticed that the City crew didn't pick up the tent, the street barriers, or the tables and chairs from the church festival until Monday morning. Reasoning that there was no reason to let those items sit unused for a day, the PHCA initiated an arts festival. Although the first festival was interrupted by a hurricane-level rainstorm, it was nonetheless a rousing success, drawing craftspeople, artists, performers and visitors from around the region.

The second year, hands-on art activities were added, and many performers and vendors returned from the first year. Both participants and visitors agreed that the festival had a relaxed and friendly neighborhood vibe that was quite different from other arts festivals they had attended.

This year, the arts festival grows to include more sites



*Volunteer Red Sinicki mans a booth at the church festival, July 2009.*

## Seeking articles and ads for The Polish Hill Voice!

Submission Deadline	Publication Date	Months Covered
July 15	Early August	August, September, October

The *Polish Hill Voice* is published quarterly.

Advertisers/Photographers: Acceptable formats include:

- Black & white camera-ready art
- PC-based JPG, TIF or PDF (300 dpi or higher)

Editorial: Contributing writers, artists, poets and historians welcome! Please submit content via email at [phcapgh@gmail.com](mailto:phcapgh@gmail.com), or send to the PHCA office at 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

# A Silly Little Talent Show



*Wearing her special birthday girl hat, Erin Peepels presides over the judging segment of the talent show.*

were impromptu performances sprinkled among the programmed performers, touting talents from singing to magic.

And there were winners: Victoria Arshan, who sang Cyndi Lauper songs; the trio Coaltown Noir, playing old-timey folk music complete with washboard. First place winners The Hulaj Yinzers, led by Ken Haney, found sheet music from 1900 in the attic, put that to a dance beat, and won over the audience.

And there were moments of delightful strangeness. There was dancing. A lady waltzed with a sock monkey. The comic in the umbrella hat cut in, and waltzed with the lady. A big man swooned, calling out for the Hulaj Yinzers to come back and do more songs.

And did we mention that this event was also Erin’s birthday party? Hence the fancy hats, and the cake, and presents.

Other fundraisers will make more money (this event netted \$50), or draw more people. But on a snowy cold night, the spirit of fun was infectious and much needed. It was a wonderfully silly, funny, strange place to be.

A cold Friday evening in late February saw what was surely the most surreal PHCA fundraiser ever. Resident Erin Peepels conceived of A Silly Little Talent Show and Other Shenanigans as a fun way to raise some money for the community bread oven. Gooskis donated their back room; Erin recruited participants and spread the word about the event. It snowed a lot, and still the people came.

Josie Ramsey was the Mistress of Ceremonies, shepherding acts great and small onto the stage for the amusement, and sometimes bemusement, of the patrons. There



## Community & Event Calendar May/June/July

**May 4 | 6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center**  
PHCA Monthly Community/Membership Meeting

**May 12 | 6:30 p.m. | PHCA office**  
Council to Go with Councilman Patrick Dowd

**Jun 1 | 6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center**  
PHCA Monthly Community/Membership Meeting

**Jun 5 | 3:00 p.m. | Immaculate Heart of Mary Church** | Flea Market

**Jul 6 | 6:30 p.m. | West Penn Recreation Center**  
PHCA Monthly Community/Membership Meeting

**Jul 18 | 12-10 | Intersection of Dobson/Brereton**  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Festival

**Jul 18 | 12-8 | Intersection of Dobson/Brereton**  
Polish Hill Arts Festival

## Programs at West Penn Recreation Center 470 30th Street @ Paulowna Street

**Food Program** for kids 18 & under  
Monday-Friday each week through June  
Snacks 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., dinner 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Summer Food Program** for kids 18 & under  
runs June 21-Aug 20

**Weight training and physical fitness**  
Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30–6:30 p.m.

**Mixed martial arts** (ages 5-11)  
Tuesdays 7:00–8:30 p.m.

**Mixed martial arts** (for adults)  
Mondays 6:00- 7:00 p.m.

**Hatha Yoga** (for adults, \$7 donation)  
Wednesdays 7:15-8:15 p.m.

**For more information about activities at the West Penn Recreation Center, call 412-622-7353.**

## A Saturday in February



by Jennifer Kirk

I met five of my neighbors on a Saturday in February. Never mind that I had lived in this cozy neighborhood for 10 months and walk several of its streets on a daily basis. Or that I ride the bus. Or that I wave, nod, or smile to people I encounter on the street. Save for my next-door neighbors and one across the street, I had only met three of my closest neighbors until a Saturday in February.

We all recall that Saturday, when 6-8 inches somehow blossomed into 20-22 inches. The roads were covered, and so were the steps up to my front door. Opening it revealed a drift that had to be shoveled immediately, lest it invade my entryway.

I live with a non-native Pittsburgher, so the sheer wonderment of “Snow!” led us out early that morning. Armed with a camera, good boots, and warm pants, we wandered out into a neighborhood that was peaceful, quiet, and utterly devoid of traffic. Before we could even reach the street, we were forced to dig out a sidewalk pathway 18 inches high on each side. That’s when I made the acquaintance of neighbor #1, who had moved in next door. We, along with another neighbor later in the day, were able to connect a good stretch of sidewalk to the snow-packed road.

After shoveling that small path, my companion and I set out for the streets. Some other explorers joined us on the sidewalks (and in the middle of the road) that morning, and we all took in the scenes of our neighborhood bedecked with historic levels of snow. We talked with friends up on Brereton and watched trucks with four-wheel-drive struggle to make it to the top. We debated whether the utility poles ever leaned “quite that much” and decided that indeed they had. We trundled up Phelan and made snow angels behind the church.

Upon our return home from our childlike adventure, we found that other neighbors had emerged into the snow drifts as well. That’s when I met neighbors #2 through #5.

One was digging out his car in hopes that a plow would come through and let him get to work. Our next door neighbor was helping a neighbor from up the street widen the path we had already started. Two neighbors were just standing in the street marveling at the magnitude of the storm. Neighbor #5, who I had seen working in his garden throughout the summer, was also digging out the sidewalk. We had a nice, though ironic, discussion about our gardens. As a group, we worked to dig out our small portion of Polish Hill, and by and large we succeeded. Over the course of the next few days, all of our work would be for naught as more snow moved in, but by then I knew my neighbors and cheerfully waved hello as we all shoveled more snow.

Yes, those snowstorms were pains, but they gave me a Saturday (and several more days in the weeks that followed) when I could get outside, enjoy my neighborhood, and finally meet my neighbors.

## Winter and Spring

Photos by Myra Falisz



*A magnolia tree on Phelan Way behind the Immaculate Heart of Mary School, covered in snow on February 6th, and covered in blooms on April 7th.*

### Lend your voice to the Voice!

Submit articles, photos, event listings,  
or announcements about Polish Hill people,  
places, or happenings.

Publication guidelines and deadlines on page 6.

# Winter and Spring, 2

by Myra Falisz



The winter of 2009-10 turned out to be one of the heaviest and most unrelenting snow seasons recorded since 1884. Two weeks and several storms later, some folks were still homebound and mounds of snow remained. By February's end, the tally was 48.7 inches of the white stuff. Yet in early April, spring was everywhere -- from magnolia trees in full bloom, to color-popping tulips, to splashes of green underfoot and overhead. Quite the change in scenery over two month's passing.

Left: the back yard of the PHCA building. Winter photo taken on February 6, spring photo taken on April 15.



## Polish Hill items benefit the PHCA—order here!

**Polish Hill falcon t-shirt \$12**  
Available in red or black. Adult or child's sizes.



**Pierogi pins and ornaments \$5**  
Handmade from felt



**Polish Hill cookbook \$5**

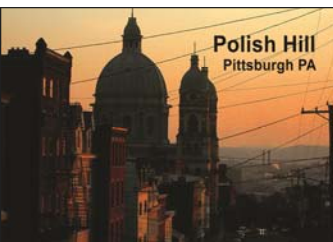
**Button .75**  
Falcon on red background



Item	Qty	Cost	Total
<b>Red t-shirt</b> Circle size(s) desired Children's <b>S M</b> Adults <b>S M L XL XXL</b>		12.00 ea.	
<b>Black t-shirt</b> Circle size(s) desired Children's <b>S M</b> Adults <b>S M L XL XXL</b>		12.00 ea.	
<b>Polish Hill button</b>		.75 ea.	
<b>Pierogi pin</b>		5.00 ea.	
<b>Pierogi ornament</b>		5.00 ea.	
<b>Postcard</b>		1.25 ea.	
<b>Cookbook</b>		5.00 ea.	
		<b>Shipping</b>	5.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	

Ship to:

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	



**Polish Hill Postcard \$1.25**  
A beautiful sunset view of Breton Street by Mark Knobil

**Make check or money order out to the Polish Hill Civic Association and mail to the PHCA, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh PA 15219.**



Dear Neighbors,

With the smell of spring flowers filling the air these days, many of us are focusing on what we can do to help improve the environment. We celebrated Earth Day and Arbor Day with festivals, clean-up events and by planting trees. But with these yearly events over for another year, we must continue to "think green."

With that in mind, the City of Pittsburgh has created our first *Green Guide*, a tool to help you take advantage of the environmental resources that are available in our community all year long. This directory-style guide provides information on how to live more sustainably. The *Green Guide* includes information on:

- ✦ How to properly dispose of paint, household chemicals and motor oil;
  - ✦ How to get an energy audit of your home;
  - ✦ How to obtain a permit to install a solar panel;
  - ✦ How to purchase and install a rain barrel; and
- How to get involved in volunteer activities like tree planting, litter clean ups and river trail maintenance.

To save on resources, the *Guide* has been made available electronically at <http://green.pittsburghpa.gov>. Citizens who do not have internet access can call 311 to obtain a copy.

Pittsburgh has been chosen as the North American host city for the United Nation's World Environment Day (WED) on June 5<sup>th</sup>. This honor is a testament as to how far our City has come in terms of environmental protection, and the continuing efforts to become a more sustainable city. More than 65 events are already planned and I encourage all residents, especially those in the inner city, to take

advantage of the events during the weeks leading up to WED.

Many of the events planned will be one-of-a-kind. *ORSANCO* will bring its 200 gallon fish tank, filled with water and fish from our three rivers. In an attempt to break the world record for the largest flotilla of kayaks and canoes, downtown Point State Park will highlight the final WED event, "Paddle at the Point." To date, the record is 1,105 canoes and kayaks. Imagine, if you can, this flotilla rowing on the Allegheny, the Monongahela and meeting at the Ohio.

For more information on World Environment Day, please visit [www.pittsburghwed.com](http://www.pittsburghwed.com) for the complete list of events as well as contact information for getting involved. Once known as the "Smoky City" - filled with black soot and bad air, Pittsburgh now the Black and Gold and GREEN City - boasting showcase lawns, clean, fresh water and air and is a national leader in green building. Pittsburgh continues to exceed all expectations - and we're just getting started.

Sincerely,

**Council-to-Go  
in Polish Hill**

**Wednesday May 12  
6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday July 14  
6:30 p.m.**

Come share your concerns and questions with District 7 Councilman Patrick Dowd and his staff.

**The May CTG is scheduled be held at Polish Hill's new coffee shop, Café Lili, at the corner of Dobson and Hancock. To confirm meeting locations, call the PHCA at 412.681.1950 , or check Blogski.**

BUILDING PITTSBURGH WITH



**The Urban Redevelopment Authority has programs to help low and moderate income residents buy, rehabilitate, renovate, or improve homes.**

**New at the URA:** the Pittsburgh Home Rehabilitation Program (PHRP) has been enhanced to promote energy efficient improvements to owner occupied homes in the City of Pittsburgh.

**Check out URA programs and income guidelines on their website**

[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.

**Did you renew your PHCA membership?**

Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Have you paid your dues for 2010? It's still just \$5!

One reason to renew: to keep receiving this fine newsletter!

The Voice is mailed to current PHCA members.

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

# PHCA Membership Application 2010 (still only \$5.00)

*Memberships are for the calendar year and on an individual basis. Please include names and \$5 for each person in your household who wishes to become a member of the PHCA.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street Address) (City) (State) (ZIP)

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEMBER (Polish Hill resident) Or \_\_\_\_\_ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER (Non-resident)

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 the membership application to:*

PHCA membership chair, 3060 Brereton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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

Members who are also Polish Hill residents get:

Free notary service

An invitation to the monthly community meeting and a vote on neighborhood issues

An invitation to the bi-monthly Council-to-Go sessions

A voice on community issues

**Help build the neighborhood that you want to live in!**



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## **POLISH HILL VOICE**

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*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:**

PHCA Community meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Senior Center on the lower level of the West Penn Recreation Center, 470 30<sup>th</sup> @ Paulowna Street.

**May 4**

**Jun 1**

**Jul 6**

**Aug 3**