

June 2012

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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A Letter from the President

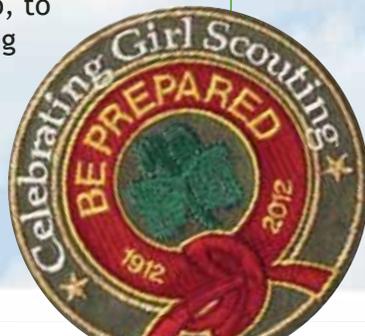
It's Memorial Day, and the house is quiet. My wife Sue and our boys, Alex and Ben, have just left for the Pirates game. My daughter Cleo is happily engaged playing a game on the computer. And I am stealing a few minutes to write to you. Later today, some neighbors down the street have invited us to a cookout; more friends will be coming with games in tow. It's shaping up to be a great day - and at the moment, a blissfully peaceful one.

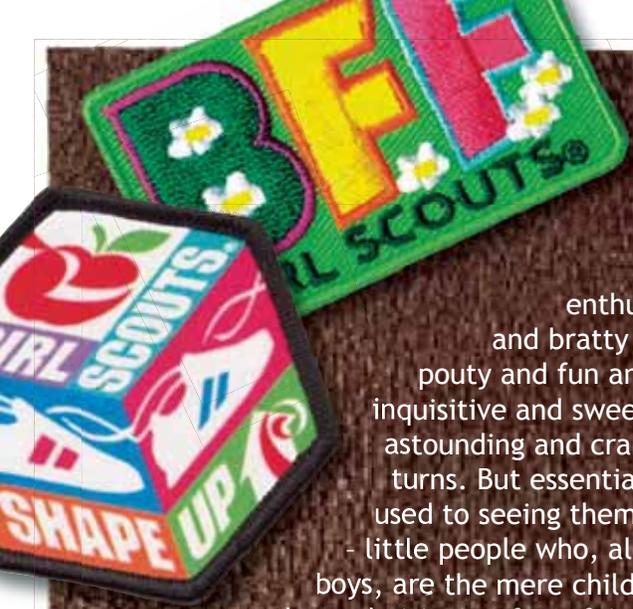
I found myself writing in my journal the other week that I was struggling to deal with one in diapers and two in Little League. That's no longer quite true today - Ben's team made it to the second round of playoffs this past weekend, but they're done now; Cleo is potty training, and doing a marvelous job. I love my children... and raising them is a ton of work. In the day-to-day rush of things, it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that I'm actually raising them, in the sense that they are growing up into adults.

I had a striking reminder of this the other week. Joan Soulliere, a Highland Park resident and local Girl Scout troop leader, came to the last HPCC meeting, with her troop, to talk about their efforts researching the history of Carnegie Lake (right next to our neighborhood swimming pool), cleaning it up, and learning about how to take care of the plants and

animals there. Most of the parents of the Scouts also came to the meeting, so the room was more crowded than usual. The Scouts were enthusiastic and well rehearsed. They had a great PowerPoint presentation (which by now should be on our website, highlandparkcc.wordpress.com) and they went through it in a smooth, timely manner. I learned, for the first time in my nearly 39 years on this planet, that feeding pieces of bread to ducks is, in fact, not such a good thing.

Now this is not just a random group of Girl Scouts. Many of them are local and I know at least four of the families. I see some of these girls on a regular basis outside of the HPCC, around the neighborhood, at church, during sports events. And for the most part, they are what you'd expect of pre-adolescent girls: sassy





and enthusiastic and bratty and pouty and fun and inquisitive and sweet and astounding and cranky, by turns. But essentially, I'm used to seeing them as girls - little people who, along with boys, are the mere children of the real citizens of our fair city. But

I saw the good work the Scouts had done making my neighborhood a better place. I learned some new things about lakes and ducks and hemlock trees and (like I said, these are pre-adolescents) poop. And at the end, I found myself walking up to them, shaking their hands, thanking them for their work, telling them they'd done a great job, asking about the patches on their sashes. And it was cool and a little weird. I'm not used to relating to these girls in this way. And neither were they, as some of the smiles on their faces made clear when we shook hands. They are used to seeing me as many things - neighbor and guitar player and babysitter and jokester and game player and friend's dad and parents' friend and no-fun disciplinarian and chauffer, by turns - but president of the neighborhood community council is not typically one of them.

Ultimately, it was a great opportunity for me to learn about not just Lake Carnegie, but also some of my own blind spots relative to the role children can and do play in our neighborhood. Next weekend, my next-door neighbor Melita and I are hosting the first planning meeting for our street's block party later this summer. Alex and Ben have some ideas about kid's events that could be held during the party. It remains to be seen how well their enthusiasm for these ideas translates into a willingness to work to

make it happen, but who knows? For one thing, my role as a parent is to encourage them to grow; and for another, Little League has helped reinforce the idea that worthy goals involve some up-front work.

All the best to you and yours as we head into glorious summer. And a tip of the hat to the Girl Scouts of Troop 54281, who have completed their Bronze Award process and project. Congratulations, and thank you!

Eric D. Randall,
HPCC President





HPCC May Meeting Minutes

Minutes of HPCC Meeting May 17, 2012

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm with a quorum present.

Eric reported that the HPCC May newsletter has been mailed out to all addresses in Highland Park. The City's Yard Debris pickup is Saturday, May 19th.

Paul Miller reported that planning for the HPCC Yard Sale is going well, but he still needs volunteers to assist with putting the packets together and distributing maps on the day of the sale (June 3rd).

Bob Staresinic reported on the planning for the Bryant Street Festival. Fulton School is not participating this year due to budget cuts, so there may be fewer activities for the kids at the event. The businesses on Bryant have almost all committed to being open or selling food at a table on the street. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up on Sunday, June 3rd.

The program for the evening is a report from Girl Scout Troop 54281 on their Bronze Award Project. Joan Soulliere, Troop Leader, introduced the troop as they presented their report on Lake Carnegie. The scouts (Abbey Parker-Blier, Anesa Reed, Chloe Matos, Eden Boyer, Eliana Gagnon, Katarina Mondor, Maeve Denshaw, Maighread Southard-Wray, Marie Van Haitsma, Tess Buchanan and Zoe Fuller) discussed the history of the lake, the vegetation and wildlife around the lake, and the results of the clean-up they did in April. Their report will be posted on the Highland Park website at highlandparkcc.wordpress.com.

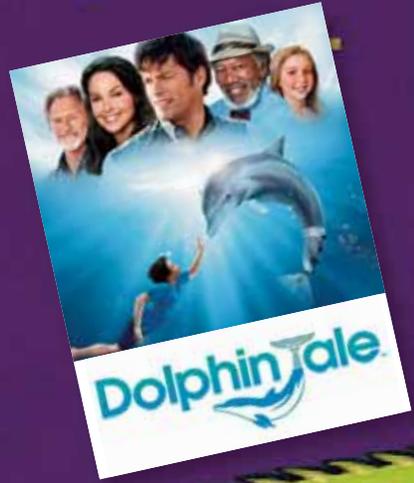
The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, June 21st, starting at 7:00 pm at St Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton St.



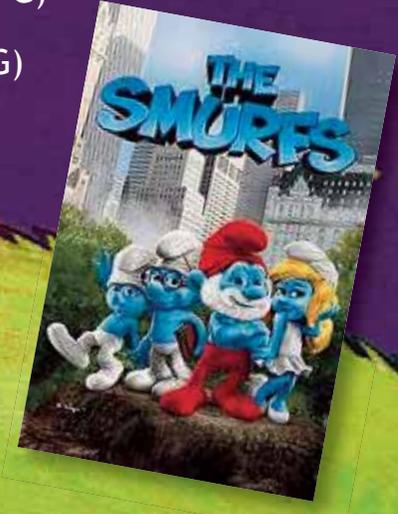


Cinema IN THE PARK

Grab your lawn chair and join your neighbors for a free family film under the stars. Shows start at dusk and will be held on 3 Mondays this summer. The films will be shown on the hill behind the reservoir at the north end of Reservoir Drive.



Date	Movie
June 18	Puss in Boots (PG)
July 16	Dolphin Tale (PG)
August 20	The Smurfs (PG)

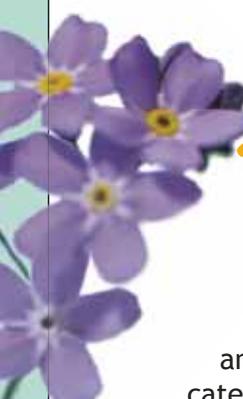


Union Project Presents

Ola Appetit Cafe at Special Donor Thank You Party

Thursday, June 21 at 6 pm

Courtesy of Union Project



Please join us for a very Special Thank You Dinner Garden Party: June 21st, 2012 at 6:00pm. Take your seat at the table with a donation of \$50 or more and enjoy a seated meal in our side yard catered by UP's newest entrepreneur tenant, Chef Olafemi Mandley of Cafe Olah Appetit at Union Project. Entertainment will be provided by student musicians of 'Steel Sensations', a steel drum group currently practicing at Union Project.

Spend five minutes in the new Ola Appetit Café at Union Project and it's obvious that the operator, Olafemi Mandley surrounds herself with memories of her upbringing and ancestry. There is always artwork from local artists on display that is authentic, hand-made, prepared with loving hands, like Olah's food. Just behind the register hangs a symbolic metal lizard painted turquoise, blue and gold. "The blue and turquoise are universal." Mandley instructs. "Sky and water... no matter where you are, you experience water and sky. The gold represents sun and sand. To me the sand is reflective of our leaving Africa." Olah considers herself African and American. "When we left Africa, the last thing we saw was the sand and when we arrived in the Americas, the first thing we saw was the sand. Again, it is universal. Gold also represents the sun that to me is a symbol

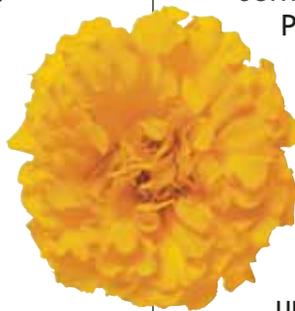
of expectation and hope. One of my sayings when things aren't going as planned is 'the sun will rise tomorrow.'"

Spend five minutes eating Olah's food (Note...you may need to wait as she prepares almost everything fresh to order!) and it's obvious she uses whole and organic ingredients from the places she has lived. "I was cooking food that was organic before it was in fashion." smiles Mandley. In her twenties, Olah spent six and a half years in Trinidad and learned to cook on three stones. She explains. "I would put three stones together like a triangle and set hot coals in the space in the center. Then I would prop my cast iron skillet or clay pot or metal platter on top of that and cook and bake everything." Her flavors draw from her roots with southern cooking, tastes of the islands, and vegetarian specialties mixed together like the colors of the islands at sunset.

Spend five minutes talking to Olah and it's obvious she cares about nourishing people. In fact her name, Olafemi, means "God loves me" and she draws on her faith as she lovingly prepares food for others. "Food nourishes the soul. I believe that everyone deserves a hand prepared meal; that people need to slow down and eat. Food is a blessing. Community is built through partaking in well prepared food."

Her café sign says "Coffee, culture, community." Three words that come to life when you spend just 15 minutes at Ola Appetite Café at Union Project. The name of the café is a play on the phrase, bon appetit which means good food. She inserted her name intentionally to mean love good food.

"And this is exactly why she is here," says Jeffrey Dorsey, Executive Director at Union Project. Some may remember that Union Project used to run the café itself (there were three different iterations, and names, from 2005-09 when the café first partnered with Peabody High School Culinary Students to train them in food service. But since 2009, when Dorsey was hired as executive director, UP has been undergoing an amazing organizational turn around which included closing their café for a

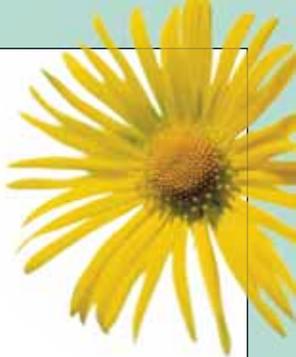


period while they completed their new strategic plan. (Check it out at unionproject.org/strategicplan).

“We took time to ask ourselves the really hard questions, including... Why a café at UP anyway? We were actually researching turning our café into a cooperative kitchen (based on our successful ceramics cooperative model) when we met Olah. She came through the Duquesne University Women and Minority Enterprise Program interested to use our space to bake cookies for her catering business,” says Dorsey. But after some time spent learning about UP’s mission she shared her business plan with them hoping to expand her business into their café location. The rest is history.

“Running a small business incubator in the rear of our building, we are accustomed at providing basic business development support to micro-entrepreneurs. But we wanted to make certain we found the right partner to re-open our café. It’s our front door to the community and its

important the customers have a good experience there as it may be their first time at UP. With Olah’s two decades of catering experience we also have the opportunity to grow together to provide additional services to our space renters year round.”



And on Thursday, June 21st, 2012 at 6:00pm, this partnership will be on full display as Union Project welcomes community members to meet Olah, enjoy her food and support Union Project as they begin to implement their new three-year business plan at a special Donor Thank You Dinner to be held in the future courtyard space just outside UP’s building. The Menu, prepared by Cafe Ola Appetit at Union Project, includes:

Soup:

Cold Avocado Soup with Spicy Plantation Chips OR Gazpacho Soup with Parmesan Peppercorn Crisps

Salad:

Asian Shrimp Salad OR Stacked Heirloom Tomato and Cucumber Salad

Entree:

Steak Chimichurri with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Onion OR Grilled Portobello Mushroom ChimiChurri with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Onion

Sides:

Lemon Broccoli OR Roast Corn on the Cob

Dessert:

Frozen Dreamsicle Cake - Vegan OR Non-Vegan

Entertainment will be provided by student musicians of SOUNDWAVES, a steel drum ensemble that recently received in-kind space to train local teens at Union Project.

Union Project is located at 801 N. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. For more information about UP, Ola Appetit Café, or this dinner, please call 412-363-4550 x 21.

Ola Appetit Café regular business hours are: M, T, Th, F, S - 8a-3p & W: 8a-7p

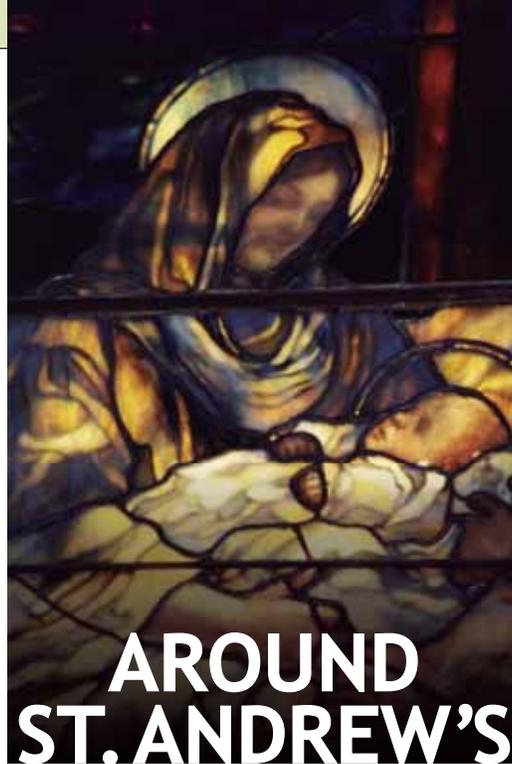
To receive updates about UP and events taking place monthly, sign up for their e-news blasts at www.unionproject.org



June, July, and August tend to be somewhat quieter times around the St. Andrew's scatter. The Summer Book Sale continues until Labor Day, with a great selection of gently used books in just about all the Dewey Decimal System categories - and at unbeatable prices! Stop in weekdays or Sunday mornings - or whenever the Hall is open, and feel free to look through the selection. (Contributions, by the way, are gladly received throughout the summer.)

Our Sunday morning services in June continue at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with Choir at the later service. In July and August we move into our "Summer Schedule," with services at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Nursery Care at both services continues through the summer. Although our dedicated Church School/Youth Group/Adult Ed. hour won't resume until 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 13, children in attendance at later-morning services on most Sundays will be dismissed for a time of Children's Chapel, stories, music, and fun activities.

Every summer at St. Andrew's we select a book to read together, scheduling a couple of neighborhood "Cottage Meetings" for those who would like to

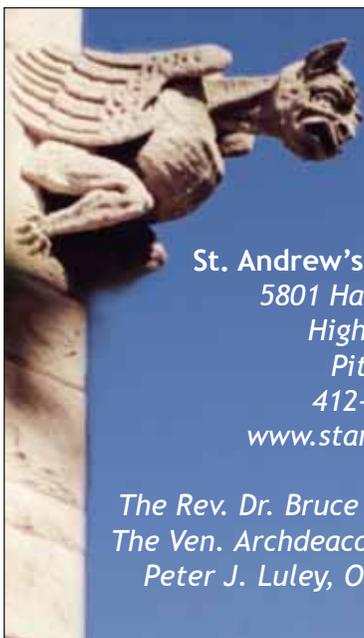


AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

get together for a discussion. This year we've selected a book by the poet Kathleen Norris, "The Cloister Walk." It's a wonderfully written and thoughtful series of short essays, meditations, and poetic reflections on the nature of the spiritual life set in the context of time she has spent on retreat at a Benedictine monastery near her home in Western South Dakota. The book is widely available new and used, in brick-and-mortar and online bookstores, and our discussion evenings will be Tuesday, June 26, and Thursday, August 9. Please call the Church Office if you're interested in coming.

St. Andrew's has been at the heart of the Highland Park neighborhood for more than a century. If there is a pastoral need that we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, a sick or shut-in friend or neighbor to be visited, a family to support at the time of a death - please feel free to be in touch. Or if you need to find some space for a meeting or family gathering, or to borrow a few chairs: we'll be glad to help if we can. Call us at 412 661-1245, or check us out on the web: www.standrewspgh.org.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park
Pittsburgh
412-661-1245
www.standrewspgh.org

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector
The Ven. Archdeacon Jean D. Chess, Deacon
Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster

Sunday Morning Services

9 a.m. In the Chapel
11 a.m. Choral Service in the Anglican Tradition
Nursery Care, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Church School, Youth, and Adult Programs,
Sunday Mornings, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Service

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Rector's Bible Study 11:15 a.m. - Noon

Choral Evensong

First Thursday of the Month, 8 p.m.
Third Sunday of the Month, 4:30 p.m.

Park Bruges Blossoms

Compliments of Park Bruges

It was a long and anticipated wait to open Park Bruges in Highland Park. Our first anniversary on Bryant St. passed on February 1st. As it approached, we reflected how our neighbors, our patrons, and our community have warmly welcomed us as a Highland Park “neighborhood spot”.

Park Bruges collaborated with Highland Park resident Jenifer Schweitzer, designer at One Girl’s Graphics, to extend the community of Highland Park a very special thank you.

In sustainable fashion, Jenifer created a universal holiday decor. The restaurant interior was illuminated like a European bistro. Outside, rooted juniper trees were planted for the winter. They were chosen with the intention to gift them to Highland Park.

Now that winter is behind us, the care of the trees has been transferred from Park Bruges to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Horticulturalist, Angela Masters, transplanted them to Highland Park greeting visitors in the entryway urns. Angela will arrange them seasonally for two years before permanently establishing them in grounds at Highland Park.

Thank you for accepting us into the community. Your acceptance encourages us to keep connecting with you.

Gratefully,
Park Bruges

Additional thanks to Councilman Patrick Dowd and his staff and Nancy Levine-Arnold (Chair of the HPCC Beautification Committee) for introducing us to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

HPCC Officers

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Vice President

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

HPCC Directors

Dave Atkinson

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

Al Mann (412) 661-5947

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Nancy Schultz

Glenn Schultz

Laura Smith

Sarah Trbovic

HPCC Committees

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Nancy Levine-Arnold

Children’s Events -

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Education - Dave Atkinson

House Tour - OPEN

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Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

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Reservoir of Jazz - Tania Grubbs

Super Playground -

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 &

Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

Yard Sale - Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

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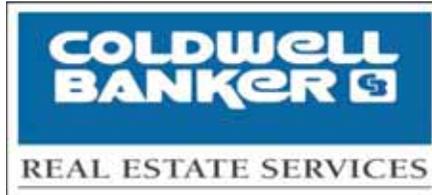
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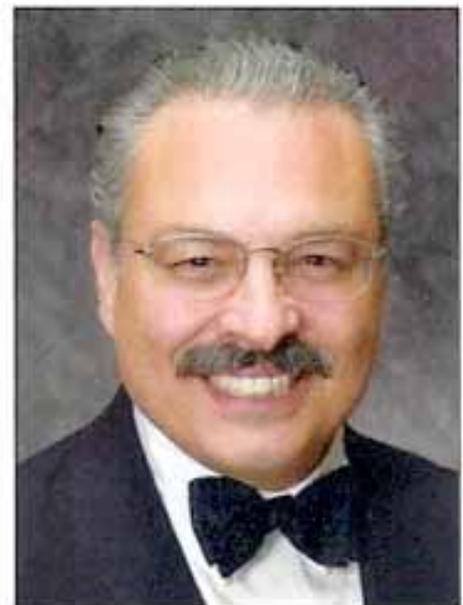
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