



# The Bulletin

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## Soweto Community Activist Visits East End Organizations

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

For a young man from South Africa, a lifelong dream of coming to the United States began to take concrete shape last year, when he admired a visiting American's sneakers.

When Bill Cornell, a Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation board member and Penn Avenue resident, traveled to Johannesburg and Soweto in 2008, he found he needed a tour guide. He relied on the services of Corlette Nxumalo, a young man who works with Phaphama Initiatives, a local nonprofit (the name is a Zulu word meaning "awaken yourself"). Phaphama's mission is to "support the building of responsible individuals, communities, and organization." Among their many services is giving guided tours of Soweto and arranging cultural immersions and home-stay opportunities for visitors.

"We just hit it off," recalled Bill of

their time together. Corlette remembers admiring Bill's classic Chuck Taylor Converse All Star sneakers. "Come and get a pair for yourself," Bill said, extending the invitation. Corlette didn't think any more of it until he got an email from Bill at the beginning of this year, initiating the long process of making his U.S. trip a reality.

"I kept thinking about Corlette and the life he had made for himself," Bill explained. "I thought, 'I can make this guy's dream come true,' and called his boss at Phaphama to see if it was an appropriate offer to make. It was, I made it, and Corlette was thrilled to accept."

To get a visa, Corlette needed letters of invitation from American individuals and organizations to present at an interview at the U.S. Embassy in Johannesburg. His visa came through just three weeks before he was scheduled to arrive in Pittsburgh in mid-October.



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

CORLETTE NXUMALO OF SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA, WAS A VISITOR TO GARFIELD THIS FALL.

"Bill gave me a lot of options of what I could do during my visit," Corlette said. Because Corlette leads schools programs and conflict resolution groups for Phaphama, he was especially interested in visiting local schools to talk to young people about steering clear of violence and drug

use. "I experimented with marijuana when I was young," he said. "I wanted to tell them how I changed and what would have happened if I didn't."

One of his favorite places was The

**See SOWETO, page 12**



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

ATTENDEES CROWD THE PITTSBURGH FT. PITT ALA BOOTH AT THE BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION'S SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR.

## First Annual School Choice Fair Draws Parents and Students

"This is the biggest school fair I've ever seen," marveled Matt Fisher, a teacher/recruiter for Shady Side Academy. "There's something for everyone here." Shady Side Academy was just one of 51 diverse schools – private, public, magnet, charter, cyber, and parochial – that participated in the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's first School Choice Fair on November 10.

"I'm very excited about the turnout," said Joseph Breems, a program assistant with the BGC's Youth

Development Center who handled a lot of the daily contact with school officials. "The schools were very responsive and cooperative." Shady Side's Fisher noted that most of the fairs he attends – sometimes as many as three in a week – have an average participation of only about 20 schools.

"It's unusual to see so many different schools at a fair," commented Sherry Wolfe of the Kentucky Avenue School. "This is the first time we've

**See SCHOOL FAIR, page 11**

The deadline for all articles, ads, and Bulletin Board items for the January 2010 issue is **MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009**. For more information, call 412-441-6915.

## PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

### City's Youth Curfew Center Open for Business

The city's Youth Curfew Center is now open, and curfew laws are being enforced. The Youth Curfew Center commenced operations on November 4. Officially named Safe Haven, the center is run by Three Rivers Youth.

Youths aged 17 and under must now abide by the city's curfew ordinance (#604.01) or risk being taken to the center. Youths who are cited for violating the city's curfew ordinance will be transported to Safe Haven, which is located in Oakland at 200 I. Dithridge Street. Officers are not required to issue warnings and may pick up youths on a first offense. According to the Pittsburgh Police, the curfew times are as follows:

#### September 1 through June 30

- Sunday - Thursday: 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- Friday and Saturday: Midnight - 6 a.m.

#### July 1 through August 31

- Sunday - Thursday: 11 p.m. - 6 a.m.
- Friday and Saturday: Midnight - 6 a.m.

There are some exceptions for youths who are out past curfew. According to the curfew ordinance, the curfew does not apply to minors who are:

- Accompanied by the minor's custodian
- On a reasonable errand
- In a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel

**By Deadra Keener**  
*Public Safety Task Force Coordinator*

Engaged in an employment activity pursuant to a custodian's direction, or going to or returning home from such an employment activity without any detour or stop

- Involved in an emergency
- On the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence or abutting the residence of a next-door neighbor, with the next-door neighbor's consent
- Attending an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults or sponsored by the City of Pittsburgh or another public body, a civic organization, or other similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor; or going to or returning home from such an activity, without any detour or stop

If a minor in violation of curfew is taken to Safe Haven, a fine (not to exceed \$300) will also be incurred. For first and second offences, the fine may be suspended in lieu of 100 hours of community service.

Three Rivers Youth created Safe Haven to be more than just a destination for curfew-breakers. The organization is committed to providing not just a "safe haven," but also support services to youth and their families as needed.

Parents, guardians, and community members: Please take note of the youth curfew hours and make sure that young people under the age of 17 who live with and/or around you are also aware of the curfew - and the consequences for breaking it.

### Block Tours to Identify Garfield Residents' Priorities

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation will begin a new neighborhood

initiative to address the needs and concerns over the next few years of the residents who reside in the area between I. Atlantic Avenue and I. Fairmount Street, from Penn Avenue to Colombo Street. The initiative will be led by a steering committee of community residents, Garfield stakeholders, and community leaders. This effort will center on identifying residents' greatest priorities in their part of the neighborhood and how to best address them.

In early January, the steering committee will begin hosting block tours for the residents of every block within the designated area. We hope to engage with the residents to learn

**By Kathryn Vargas**  
*Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation*

what they view as the most important issues and concerns in their particular block. We will then work to prepare a plan that will address them.

In early spring, we will engage in a number of beautification projects in this section of the neighborhood. Community participation will be key in driving this effort forward. We will count on community residents to be active participants in this process as we work to reinvest in Garfield.

If you are a community resident who is interested in this project and would like to be part of the steering committee or play an active role in the resident block tours, please call the BGC office at 412-441-6950 x 17, or email [kcvargas22@gmail.com](mailto:kcvargas22@gmail.com).

### Ft. Pitt ALA Benefits from School Greening Project



Paula Martinez/The Bulletin

Workers from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, a nonprofit conservation organization, were on site at Pittsburgh Ft. Pitt ALA in Garfield during the last week in October as part of the citywide "School Grounds Greening Project." The project is a partnership of the Conservancy, the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and the Grable Foundation.

The immediate aim of the project, said coordinator David Wilson, is to bring "low-maintenance, sustainable greenery" to the school grounds. According to the Conservancy's website, research shows that a green landscape helps children to perform better in school by reducing agitation, lengthening attention spans, instilling a sense of peace, and promoting awareness of how nature works.

Conservancy workers cleared out Ft. Pitt's 10-year-old garden, which sits to the right of the front entrance, removed old shrubs, and replaced them with azaleas and holly bushes. "These are tough to get out," remarked one worker as he almost fell over digging up the roots of a yew bush. Two large evergreens were planted to frame the front door of the building, and near the playground behind the school, workers put in flowering crabapple and redbud trees.

In coming weeks, the Conservancy will also create an outdoor classroom consisting of six stone benches to the left of the front entrance, providing a space in which students can learn about nature firsthand, outside the confines of their school rooms. Students will also be involved in tending the new greenery, an activity shown to promote physical exercise and spark creativity.

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## BGC Treasurer Honored with Fr. Henry Award

"Irreplaceable... a very special person... a bellwether in our community."

Those are just some of the words Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's executive director Rick Swartz used to describe Catherine Curry, the 2009 recipient of the BGC's Fr. Leo Henry Award. Given annually to a member of the BGC who "exemplifies commitment and dedication in working toward change in our neighborhoods," the award was presented to Ms. Curry at the BGC's annual meeting on October 26.

"This organization inspires me," said Ms. Curry, when accepting the award. "Helping people is very fulfilling to me." She said she was "blown away" when she learned she was receiving the award, which in earlier years had been presented to people she admires. "I said, 'Who, me?'" she laughed.

Ms. Curry moved to Pittsburgh in 1990 from Uniontown, ushered into an early retirement from her job with Volkswagen of America following its plant closure in Lew Stanton. She had been with Volkswagen for 11 years, starting out on the assembly line, but rising to become a quality control auto specifications engineer. In her new

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

life in Pittsburgh, she studied Clinical Administration at the Sawyer School and began another career as a medical office manager. When the company she worked for closed, she reinvented herself again, this time as the creator of rag dolls that she hoped would "enhance the pride and heritage of children of color." Although she no longer attends crafts fairs to sell the dolls, she still takes special orders.

Ms. Curry had her first contact with the BGC when she was living on South Millvale with her daughter and spotted an apartment building a few doors down that she liked the look of. "I saw the renovation going on, and I wanted to know who did it." It turned out to be a BGC building, so she met with Rick Swartz, who was "helpful in every way" in getting her an apartment in the building.

A few years later, Swartz found her a charming, cozy row house on North Millvale to buy and "walked me through everything I had to do to become a home owner. The people at the BGC have been so good to me." Ms. Curry said she loves her neighborhood, which she describes as "very peaceful... I've been blessed with excellent neighbors." A lover of the



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

CATHERINE CURRY  
HOLDS HER FR. LEO  
HENRY AWARD  
PLAQUE.

arts, she also noted Garfield's "proximity to downtown Pittsburgh... In seven minutes, I can be at Heinz Hall."

She came to the BGC board eight years ago after deciding that she wanted to be part of the good work that the organization does in the neighborhood. "Rick and Aggie [Brose] work tirelessly to help this community," she said.

Since joining the board, she has served on numerous committees, such as the Audit & Finance Committee and the Housing & Land Use Committee, and was elected as treasurer of the organization four years ago. Ms. Curry said what she likes best about her work on the board is

that "I seem to have a hand in bettering this community." She said she also appreciates the board's camaraderie: "The board members work together well, and everyone's opinion matters. We talk, we listen, and we come out with a good decision."

During her tenure on the board, Ms. Curry was diagnosed with a life-threatening kidney disease and had to undergo dialysis for two years. In July 2007, she finally was able to have a kidney transplant, and she described herself today as "on the rebound to a healthier me."

"I'm at a good point in my life," she said. "I'm happy, even if I were to close my eyes today."

### ENEC Helps Children's Hospital Fill Housekeeper Positions

On December 9, Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (EJ EC) will host recruiters from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh as they interview job seekers for housekeeping positions. Candidates need to complete paper applications for the contractor, Crothall, which manages the housekeeping function at Children's Hospital. Those applications are available for this recruitment at EJ EC at 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield during the hours of 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

EJ EC will screen applications to determine who will be given an interview on December 9 with the Children's Hospital recruiters. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications with resumes attached will be given preference in the selection process for interviews.

Once hired, new employees will go through orientation and have on-going training. Shift hours are 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 3 – 11:30 p.m., without exception. Scheduling for housekeepers will include working every other weekend. Those who are hired and successfully complete orientation need to show respect and compassion to patients and their families, hospital staff, co-workers, and supervisors. The ability to absorb constructive criticism as new housekeepers learn their duties will help in being permanently hired with benefits.

In addition to fully completing the application, potential employees will be asked to pass both drug and tuberculosis tests. A background check will be completed, and past criminal episodes must match what is on the application and discussed in interviews.

If selected for an on-site interview, applicants are asked to dress appropriately for the interview. Please call EJ EC at 412-362-8580 for additional assistance.

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for all the latest news and events!

# The Bulletin

serving Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty,  
Friendship, and Lawrenceville since 1975



The Bulletin is published by the  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. to:

- serve the incorporated territory of the BGC and surrounding communities
- report on activities and ideas affecting those communities
- offer an opportunity to express opinions and exchange ideas

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and happenings!**

## SHOWCASE OF THE MONTH

### Lawrenceville's New Wild Card Is a Winning Hand

This month, our Showcase Property is Wild Card, an innovative new storefront located at 4209 Butler Street in Lawrenceville that stocks a number of goods made by more than 130 local vendors. The store celebrates the diversity of Pittsburgh's local art scene by carrying a range of items, including cards, clothing, bags, jewelry, housewares, crafts, and artwork.

This impressive shop is the vision of owner and Lawrenceville resident Rebecca Morris. She has made it a priority to personally know about 90 percent of the artists who sell in her space. In designing the storefront, special attention was made to keep the spirit of the original 19th-century building while also giving it a modern feel.

At the back of the store is a gallery space that features work by a new local artist every six weeks. Future plans include arts-&-crafts classes with local artists and custom-made invitations and wedding books. The store is always looking to expand its vendor base, so interested local artists should contact Rebecca at 412-224-2651 or email info@wildcardpgh.com.

Above the store sit two equally impressive new loft apartments designed by Rebecca's husband, Brian Mendelssohn, of Bolero Development in conjunction with Pittsburgh-based MossArchitects. Each of these innovative modern apartments features two bedrooms and two baths and a private rooftop deck with city views. Environmental sustainability is central to the design. Over 10 percent of the building materials were taken from the original building, and a number of large windows provide beautiful natural light-

ing throughout the space.

As with the storefront, Mendelssohn made it a priority to keep the roots of the building intact when designing the lofts. As a housewarming gift, Mendelssohn gives his tenants an old photo of the property when it was the site of Lawrenceville's Isaly's, the famous ice cream shop and deli. Each apartment rents for \$1,900 a month including utilities (except electric) and a parking space.

The combined efforts of Rebecca Morris and Brian Mendelssohn represent a true commitment and investment in the commercial and residential development of Lawrenceville. Residing on 46th Street themselves, they are a shining example of residents investing in and giving back to their local community. There is something for everyone at Wild Card, so stop in for your holiday shopping - you never know what unique treasures you might find!

*To nominate a property as either a showcase or an eyesore, please email Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org, or call 412-441-6950 x15.*



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

**WILD CARD OCCUPIES THE BUILDING THAT ONCE HOUSED LAWRENCEVILLE'S ISALY'S.**

**BELOW: A BANK OF WINDOWS AND A PRIVATE DECK ARE FEATURES OF THE BUILDING'S TWO LOFT APARTMENTS.**



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

## MEMBERSHIP IS NOW ONLINE!

Did you know that the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation is a membership organization, composed of people like YOU who want change and improvement in their neighborhoods? Now you can become a member of the BGC or renew your membership online! Just visit [www.bloomfield-garfield.org](http://www.bloomfield-garfield.org), click on "Donate / Become a Member" on the front page, and follow the easy process. If you prefer to donate by check, there is also a membership form to print out and mail in. Two options - two easy ways to support your community! We hope you will join us and your neighbors in our commitment to the revitalization of Garfield, Friendship, and Bloomfield.

## Presbyterian SeniorCare Leads Revitalization of Senior Housing

By Patricia Kornick  
Presbyterian SeniorCare

Presbyterian SeniorCare, western Pennsylvania's largest provider of eldercare services, and Affirmative Investments Inc., which facilitates financing and development of affordable housing nationwide, have paved the way for a \$20.5 million renovation project that has saved a senior apartment building in financial distress.

The eight-story Lambeth Apartments, located at 4003 Penn Avenue in Lawrenceville, has experienced less than 50 percent occupancy over the last few years, according to Jim Pieffer, senior vice president of Presbyterian SeniorCare. "Lambeth Apartments opened in 1972 and has become obsolete in meeting the needs of older adults," Pieffer said. "Older adults should not have to choose between affordability and quality, and now, they won't have to make that choice."

The renovation will convert 202

units, mostly efficiencies, into 102 one-bedroom apartments. The new apartments will provide affordable housing for low-income older adults. Each apartment will have a fully equipped kitchen, wall-to-wall carpeting, individually controlled heating and air conditioning, and an emergency call system. In addition to on-site laundry facilities, common areas will allow room for wellness programs, recreational activities, and resident and group meeting space.

The new apartment community will be known as York Commons. It will be managed by SeniorCare Network, the award-winning real estate management affiliate of Presbyterian SeniorCare.

David Ennis, president of Affirmative Investments, noted that community cooperation and a dedicated group of funding partners made this unique development a reality. Funding partners include National Equity Fund; Bank of New York Mellon; the Urban Redevelopment Authority; the

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh; PJC Multifamily Capital; the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; and UPMC.

State Senator Jim Ferlo joined Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, City Councilman Patrick Dowd, and other local officials at the commemorative sledgehammer ceremony on October 21. Residents, including Prudence Iavarro, the daughter of the apartment community's original builder, also were on hand. Ferlo joined Ravenstahl in presenting the 86-year-old Ms. Iavarro with a bouquet of flowers.

Presbyterian SeniorCare and Affirmative Investments also have completed several other innovative housing communities for income-eligible older adults, including Fairmont Apartments in Garfield; Silver Lake Commons in Homewood; and The Commons at North Aiken in Stanton Heights.



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**LAMBETH APARTMENTS IN LAWRENCEVILLE WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO "YORK COMMONS."**



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## Workshop Teaches about Building Ownership along Penn Avenue

In November, Penn Avenue Arts Initiative (PAAI)

By Sarah DiLeo  
Friendship Development Associates

REI -Program by the Community Design Center of

hosted its ninth annual Building Owner Workshop. More than twenty people signed up for the workshop, which educates those interested in purchasing a building on the avenue about the resources and programs available.

This unique opportunity allowed workshop attendees to speak with Penn Avenue Arts Initiative staff, bankers, architects, business development specialists, as well as artists who have already tackled the process of purchasing and rehabilitating buildings on Penn Avenue. The workshop armed attendees with the resources and programs available and allowed them to determine whether building ownership and Penn Avenue are right for them.

Following introductions and refreshments, presenters spoke about the various programs available. The resources discussed included Penn Avenue Arts Initiative's Artist Loan and Grant Fund; Small Business Program by the Urban Redevelopment Authority; Friendship Development Associates Business Assistance;

Pittsburgh; Small Business Development Assistance by the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center; and the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Housing Recovery Program. Various conventional lending products were also discussed.

During the workshop, several real estate projects of Friendship Development Associates were also discussed, such as 5000 Penn, three townhouses located on the corner of Penn Avenue and Gross Street; two of the townhouses are still available. The Penn Fairmont retail space is available for rent and located next to Volutto Coffee. The Glass Lofts, a mixed-use building currently under construction on the corner of Penn Avenue and I. Fairmount Street, includes 18 for-sale loft apartments as well as restaurant space, artist studio space, and office space. Several other properties were also discussed.

Workshop attendees left armed with a plethora of tools and information. Watch *The Bulletin* for news of next year's workshop.

## Employment Center Expands Services

Additional employment and education services are now offered for those with physical, mental or emotional disabilities at the Eastside I neighborhood Employment Center.

A representative from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is available for consultation at E.I. EC, 5321 Penn Avenue, on the first and third Monday of every month. The counselor will do an hour intake session to determine an individual's needs, interests, aptitudes, education, and work experience to best assist in his or her employment search. OVR serves those with disabilities (physical, mental, or emotional) that create barriers to finding employment, and helps them prepare for and connect with employment opportunities.

"I'm really looking forward to this relationship with the Eastside I neighborhood Employment Center," said Jodie Hnatkovich, OVR counselor. December appointments are now filling up.

Services available to those who participate include: diagnostic services, vocational evaluation, counseling and restoration services, training, and placement services. Placement services include counseling, job seeking programs, and job development.

There is no cost to apply for OVR services, or for diagnostic services, vocational evaluation, counseling, or job placement assistance. If an individual is eligible for services, a counselor may ask for documentation of income and expenses, and he or she may be asked to contribute to the cost of OVR services, depending upon income.

For more information or to set up an appointment with Hnatkovich, please contact the Eastside I neighborhood Employment Center at 412-362-8580 or at enechelps@yahoo.com.

# Light-Up Night Christmas Festival



New for '09.... Urban Impact Choir!

## Saturday, Dec. 12th, 6-8pm

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## Exhibit Showcases History of East End



Courtesy East End/East Liberty Historical Society

Following up on the successful publication of its book, *Pittsburgh's East Liberty Valley*, the East End/East Liberty Historical Society sponsored a free exhibit on November 1 in the Trader Joe's building, which housed the East Liberty Post Office prior to the urban renewal efforts of the 1960s. The event showcased old photos, postcards, artifacts, and other memorabilia about East Liberty and Highland Park (see photo above). Long-time East End residents exhibited some of their unique collections, which were viewed by about 125 people, including former Steelers Franco Harris and Andy Russell, and Jack McGinley, owner of Village of Eastside mall and part owner of the Steelers. Photos of the post office building before and after renovation were also on display.



## Meet the Board



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has a new board of directors for the 2009-2010 term. Eleven of the 15 directors are pictured here. *Front row, from left:* Brad Hlavach; Catherine Curry; John Florio; Jamita Poston; Laura Staniland; and Eileen Kraus Dobratz. *Back row, from left:* Freddie Croce; Bill Cornell; James H. Moore; P.J. Maloney; and Jeff Joyce. Missing from the photo are Kenya Boswell, Jim Maloney, Felisa Preston, and Jason Wilburn.

## Penn Avenue Arts Initiative Hosts Holiday "Unblurred"

The holidays are right around the corner, and the Penn Avenue Arts

District is the place to shop for unique gifts. As part of the December 4th "Unblurred" event, several venues will showcase not only large, beautiful artwork, but also more easily transportable, unique, one-of-a-kind gifts perfect for the holidays.

Unblurred is a monthly art event during which various galleries in the Penn Avenue Arts District (4800-5500 Penn Avenue) open their doors and showcase a variety of artwork and performances in a wide range of mediums. Guests experience new art and meet the most eclectic array of art makers, old and young, modern and classical, famous and amateur, emerging and veteran, all within walking distance of each other.

The evening brings people of all backgrounds together to socialize, mingle, and enjoy the art and entertainment around them. Unblurred is not your ordinary art walk. In the Penn Avenue Arts District, people not only get to enjoy art, they get to witness art being created, and speak to the artists who produce it.

Several art spaces, businesses, and restaurants are participating in the December 4th Unblurred, including Pittsburgh Glass Center, Garfield Artworks, Dance Alloy Theater,

**By Sarah DiLeo**  
*Friendship Development Associates*

Modernformations, ARTica, and Most Wanted Fine Art, among others.

The Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC), located at 5472 Penn Avenue, will hold its monthly Hot Jam, where glass artists captivate audience members by creating riveting pieces in their state-of-the-art studio. PGC will also host a holiday glass sale, featuring an assortment of glass art, including jewelry, sculptures, and unique pieces by artists from around the region and in all price ranges.

ARTica, located at 5110 Penn Avenue, features a holiday exhibition showcasing art by local artists, fabulous vintage hats, clothing and jewelry, amazing furniture pieces, mirrors, orange chairs, and toy collectibles.

During Unblurred, visitors can also experience a diverse assortment of fine cuisine. From Italian to Indian to Vietnamese to African-Caribbean, there is something for everyone's taste buds. Vegetarian and vegan options are also available at several of the eateries.

December's Unblurred makes the Penn Avenue Arts District the destination of holiday shoppers in search of the perfect, unique gift. For a complete listing of participating venues, please visit [www.pennavenuearts.org](http://www.pennavenuearts.org) and click on the Unblurred sign.

## BGC Luncheon Honors Two Community Advocates



All photos by Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

On November 6, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation held its annual luncheon, this year titled "Advocate," at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (*top photo*). State Senator Jim Ferlo (D-Highland Park) received the BGC's Distinguished Public Service Award, which was presented to him by BGC executive director Rick Swartz (*center photo*). Henry S. Beukema, the executive director of the McCune Foundation, gave the keynote address (*bottom photo, right, pictured with Scott Brown of Citizens Bank*). About 125 people attended the event, which was generously sponsored by Allegheny Valley Bank, PNC Bank, BNY Mellon, Citizens Bank, First Commonwealth Bank, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, Steve Catranel Construction Co., and the Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

### UPCOMING COMPUTER CLASSES AT EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC) is conducting free computer classes at its offices at 5321 Penn Avenue in Garfield. Computer equipment used in these classes has been supplied by the City of Pittsburgh's Operation Weed and Seed. The class schedule in December includes:

**Tuesdays:**

Intro to Excel  
Intermediate Excel  
Intro to Windows  
Intro to the Internet  
Intro to Computers  
Intro to PowerPoint

**Wednesdays:**

Intermediate Word  
Intro to Access

**Thursdays:**

Intro to Word  
Intermediate Word  
Working with E-Applications  
Intro to the Internet

For class times, descriptions, and pre-requisites, or to register for a class, call ENEC at 412-362-8580 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Maximum class size is 10, so register early! No admittance to class if more than 10 minutes late. Classes are **FREE** to Allegheny County residents.

## Instructor Finds Therapeutic Yoga a Successful Health-Care Strategy

By Paula Martinac  
The Bulletin

Lilith Bailey-Kroll came to Pittsburgh from San Francisco eight years ago to attend graduate school at Carnegie-Mellon University, and decided to stick around. She got her MFA in art, and worked for a short time in the museum field, but eventually found that yoga – which she had been practicing since she was 17 – “was way more satisfying” as a career. “Yoga won out,” she said.

In April 2006, she opened Pratique Yoga in a storefront at 4027 Butler Street in Lawrenceville. The mission, as stated on her website, is “to help students maintain health and well-being”; she chose the name “Pratique” because it means “clean bill of health.” That same year, she also launched the studio’s slogan, which she recently trademarked: “Yoga Is My Health Insurance.”

Unlike other yoga studios, which tend to concentrate on group classes for exercise or weight control, Bailey-Kroll’s studio is geared toward private sessions that emphasize the healing benefits of the ancient practice of yoga. “We’re not trying to be your

only therapy,” Bailey-Kroll clarified, but “a complementary therapy” that can help people manage many different ailments, such as back problems, sciatica, high cholesterol and blood pressure, loss of bone mass, and high glucose levels.

“People report feeling lighter, having more energy,” said Bailey-Kroll. “They say it’s easier to move in their bodies.”

As an example, Bailey-Kroll pointed to an instructor who teaches at her studio. “Kris is a walking billboard for yoga,” said Bailey-Kroll, noting that proper diet and a regular yoga practice have kept her from being debilitated by kidney disease and diabetes. Bailey-Kroll turned to yoga herself because she was diagnosed with scoliosis, or curvature of the spine, as a teenager.

To fulfill her mission, Bailey-Kroll partners with various nonprofit agencies in the city to bring yoga to their clients. Her collaboration with Bloomfield’s Cancer Caring Center, for example, enables her to offer free, ongoing private sessions for people

with cancer and their caregivers. This past summer, she provided free outdoor yoga classes for the public in Schenley Park, thanks to a relationship with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

One of her goals is to increase the number of partnerships with local

nonprofits, including schools and organizations serving at-risk youths, and to eventually

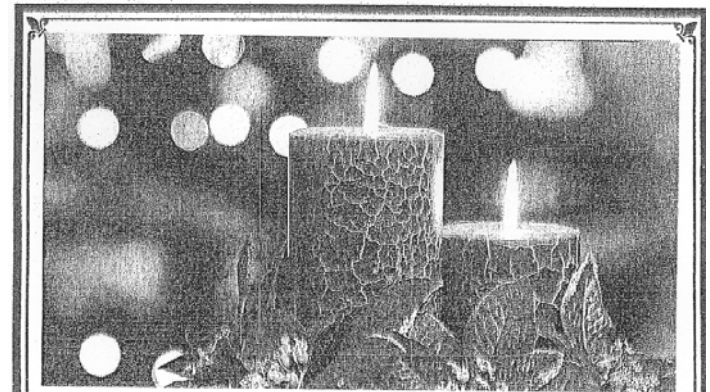
achieve nonprofit status for Pratique. This year, she taught yoga to at-risk young people at the Community School East, bringing her own background of being raised in a low-income family

to the experience. “When I was growing up, yoga was great for my mental clarity,” she observed. “It kept me sane during crazy periods. You don’t have to be what you were born into.”

This month, Bailey-Kroll will study at the Iyengar Yoga Institute in Pune, India, where she will take classes and participate in a medical clinic that uses yoga therapeutically. When she returns, she will be looking to purchase a building in Bloomfield, Garfield, or Polish Hill; her current studio is a rental, and the owner has other plans for the space starting in the spring. “I want a little brownstone I can outgrow,” she said.

Pratique Yoga can be reached at 412-728-2625 or at [www.pratiquespace.com](http://www.pratiquespace.com).

**“People report feeling lighter, having more energy.”**



### Our Remembrance Candle

*During this Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts and prayers turn to those who have lost a loved one this past year. We are lighting a candle in our funeral home in remembrance of all the families that we have been privileged to serve. And it is in this spirit that we simply, but sincerely say... May the Peace and Joy of the Christmas Season be yours throughout the New Year.*



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## Former Coro Fellow Focuses Career on Education Equity

By Paula Martinac  
*The Bulletin*

Although still in her twenties, Bloomfield resident Mayada Mansour has an impressive list of awards to her name – for example, being named as a Coro Fellow and, most recently, to the PUMP/Pittsburgh Magazine “40 Under 40” list. Her passion is not to reap honors for herself, however, but to empower communities to improve the educational system in Pittsburgh.

Mansour majored in biology at the University of Pittsburgh, but figured out early on that the life of a solitary researcher “was not the best fit for me. There wasn’t enough social interaction.” That led her to talk her way into a job with the Carnegie Science Center, presenting public programs and “engaging people in physics and how sports work.”

The families she met at the Science Center, however, were “primarily upper-middle-class and white,” said Mansour. “I thought that other kids could benefit from the programs, and that it was a missed opportunity not to

engage them.” Her interest shifted from simply teaching to figuring out “what impacts education,” she said. “I was just treating symptoms, but I wanted to get at the problem of why education was not equitable for all students.”

Mansour once again talked her way into a job, this time as education coordinator for Mission Discovery, a Carnegie Museum-based afterschool program and summer camp at Hill House. It was a job she held for three years and loved.

But then people in her life began suggesting that she apply to the Coro Center for Civic Leadership’s prestigious Fellows in Public Service program. Coro’s program accepts 68 young people a year from around the country to undergo a rigorous, full-time leadership training program in one of its five centers: Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, or St. Louis. “The program really resonated with me,” explained Mansour, so she applied and was placed in the Pittsburgh fellows program, from which she graduated in 2008.

**MAYADA MANSOUR  
DEVOTES MUCH OF HER  
TIME TO EDUCATION  
ADVOCACY WORK.**



Paula Martinac/The Bulletin

Part of her fellowship entailed doing month-long consulting projects with different organizations in government, nonprofit, and business sectors. Mansour focused on education, taking placements with such organizations as the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

She said that the most important lesson she learned during her nine months as a Coro fellow was how to approach what seems like an overwhelming problem, such as improving the quality of education for all children. “I learned how I can chip away at influences that affect the problem,” she explained. “I don’t have to tackle everything at once.”

Through her Coro connections, she became plugged into a network of experts to turn to for help with different facets of a problem. She routinely calls on that network in her current job as program director of A+ Schools, a nonprofit organization that advocates for improvement of the public school system. The position, which she has held for a little over a year, is “perfect” for her, she said, because “I love people and data and advocacy.... There are no education police. Effecting change [in education] depends on how informed people are.”

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### What Does Your Child Think About Movies?

The RAND Corporation in Pittsburgh is conducting a research study to learn about what children (ages 11-14) think about movies. Participation requires two 90 minute visits to the RAND offices. Children who complete the study will be compensated for their time and effort with up to \$40 in gift certificates. Parking and travel compensation will be provided. If you are interested and want to learn more about the study please call: 412-683-2300, ext. x4444.

*The Rand Corporation is a non-profit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.*

PHOTO

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

**The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events and classes, announcements, fundraising events, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Send announcements to [Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org](mailto:Bulletin@bloomfield-garfield.org) or mail to The Bulletin, 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, by the 15th of each month. We do not accept listings on the phone. Information is published on a space-available basis.**

## GARFIELD HEIGHTS RENTALS

Garfield Heights Townhomes is accepting applications. Interested applicants can contact Janice White, Property Manager, at 412-661-0416, Monday-Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call today to get more information; we look forward to hearing from you. Garfield Heights is an Equal Housing Opportunity Provider. Some Income restrictions apply.

## COUNCILMAN DOWD'S "COUNCIL TO GO"

Meet Councilman Patrick Dowd at Council to Go, his mobile district office. Councilman Dowd and his staff will be available to hear your concerns, provide news on issues in Council, and help you access city services. In December, a special Council to Go will be held during the Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Perk Me Up, 4407 Butler Street in Lawrenceville. Regularly scheduled sessions will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Morning Glory Coffeehouse, 1806 Chislett Street in Morningside, and on Friday, Dec. 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. in Lawrenceville, also at Perk Me Up. For a full schedule as well as more information about Council to Go and Councilman Dowd, visit [www.pgh-gov.com/district7](http://www.pgh-gov.com/district7) or call 412-255-2140.

## FREE "HEALTHY VIEW" CLASS FOR SENIORS

Vintage Senior Community Center, 401 North Highland Avenue, East Liberty (across from Home Depot), will offer a FREE 6-week "Healthy

View" Chronic Disease Self-Management Course designed by Stanford University. The course is designed to help self-manage ongoing health conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, chronic pain, high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, asthma, cancer, or any other condition that affects your daily life. Few classes start in January 2010. Space is limited. Preregistration required. Please call 412-361-5003 x106.

## BASKETBALL CLINIC FOR AGES 9 TO 14

The Kingsley Association and Pittsburgh Belles Girls Basketball present a **Winter Skills Clinic for ages 9 to 14**, focused on fundamental basketball skills (dribbling, passing, shooting, and movement). Instruction will be conducted by local AAU youth coaches, and high school and college players. The clinic will also feature Sports Performance Training instruction by the Premier Sports Team. Saturday, December 5, 12, and 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. (registration starts at 8:45). Sessions take place at the Kingsley Community Center, 6435 Frankstown Road (corner of East Liberty Blvd.). Cost: \$5 per session. For pre-registration, pick up a form at the Kingsley Center or call Keino Fitzpatrick at 412-661-8751 x133. Walk-ins will be accepted.

## CAREER TRANSITION CTR. SPRING PROGRAMS

Community College of Allegheny County will include 11 certificate programs in its Career Transition Center for Dislocated Workers for the spring 2010 semester. The center provides **tuition and fee waivers to laid-off workers** in Allegheny County. For the spring term, participants can enroll in the following programs:

**Allegheny Campus**  
EMT Basic Training Course  
EMT-Paramedic  
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**Boyce Campus**  
Accounting

**Downtown Pittsburgh Center**  
Nurse Aide training program

**North Campus**  
Information Technology Support

**South Campus**  
Medical Assistant  
Early Education and Child Development  
Basic Computer-Aided Drafting

For more information: 412-788-7351.

## ART UNDER \$50

Starting Dec. 4, **Rebellious Nature**, 104 E. Graham St., will be hosting artists from around the Pittsburgh area selling **original art** for \$50 and under. Find one-of-a-kind holiday gifts that won't empty your wallet - unique crafts, paintings, photos, drawings, and more. First come, first served - items will be taken out of the show as they are purchased! Contact 412-362-1686 or [www.rebelliousnature.com](http://www.rebelliousnature.com). Exhibit runs throughout December.

## LIHEAP OPENS

**Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program** (LIHEAP) will run through March 15, 2010. LIHEAP provides cash grants to help low-income households pay for home heating fuel, and crisis grants to address heating emergencies. For the upcoming heating season, the crisis portion of the program will open on Jan. 4, 2010, and not simultaneously with the cash grant program.

Cash grants are based on income, family size, type of heating fuel, and region. Crisis grants are provided to resolve heating emergencies, such as furnace failures or unexpected fuel shortages. In addition to proof of income and household size, applicants must provide a recent bill or a statement from their fuel dealer verifying their customer status and the type of fuel that they use.

Applications are available at county assistance offices, local utility companies, and community service agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging or community action agencies. More information and applications are available online at <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/LIHEAP>. You can also contact the Allegheny County LIHEAP at 412-562-0330.

## "PUPPETS FOR PAGES" EVENTS

Puppets for Pages is a volunteer-supported campaign in response to the first time the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has ever closed any of its branches. We are doing **free puppet shows** and workshops at each library scheduled to close. All of our experiences are documented on our website, <http://www.puppetsforpages.org>. *Upcoming events:* On Saturday,

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**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville Branch**  
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### Super Science Saturday

For children 3 and up. Build! Investigate! Get messy! Explore your inner scientist! Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.

### Preschool Storytime

Ages 3 to 5; Thursdays, December 3, 10, 17, 10:30 a.m.

### Adult Book Discussion

Monday, December 14, 5 p.m.  
*The Paper Bag Christmas*, by Kevin Alan Milne

### Baby/Toddler Storytime

Ages birth to 3; Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, at 11 a.m.

### Family Storytime

For all ages. Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m.

### Family Fun Event: Holiday Art

For children 3-9 and their families. Saturday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.

### East Liberty Branch Events @ Borders EastSide Storytime

Ages 3 to 5. Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 16, 10:30 a.m.

### Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main PC Center

4400 Forbes Avenue  
<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/pccenter/main/>  
For more information about all our free computer classes, call the PC Center-Main Library at 412-578-2561.

## STAY FIT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT EASTMINSTER CHURCH

"Wow, this is amazing," and "It's only \$15 each month?" is the typical response when folks first walk into the **Eastminster Presbyterian Church Fitness Center**. The center is an outreach of the church and its nonprofit corporation, Household Outreach Ministries of Eastminster (H.O.M.E.), and has been in operation since 2004. The center boasts an amazing number of treadmills, elliptical machines, steppers, free weights, universal equipment, and some I autilus-type equipment. Gospel music fills the air as C! I , ESPI , and the Fitness Channel play on three flat-screen TVs. Please come check it out and stay fit through the holidays.

The Fitness Center is staffed and open to the public from 3 to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Eastminster Church is located at 250 I orth Highland Avenue in East Liberty; however, to enter, please come in the back door (off Penn Circle I orth) and follow signs to the lower level. You can sign up and pay at the Fitness Center desk during the above time slots. For more information: 412-361-7788.

December 5, 9 p.m.-closing in the Shadow Lounge's Blue Room, 5972 Baum Blvd. - Grown-Up Dance Party; dance like it's 1890 and Andrew Carnegie's very first library just opened! Dress as your favorite literary character. On Sunday, December 6, 12-3 p.m. at The Union Project, 801 I . I egley Ave. - free Family-Friendly-Finale Party featuring puppet shows, a giant craft workshop, and a exhibit of children's art.

## STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

Artwork by The Neighborhood Academy's Arts Connection students will be on display as part of December's Unblurred: First Fridays on Penn. Fashion design students crafted each piece of art from recy-

cled materials and creatively explored issues of waste and resources. The I eighborhood Academy is a faith-based, independent college-prep high school for Pittsburgh's low-income youths. The artwork will be on display December 4 through the month of January in storefront gallery space at 5013 Penn Avenue.

## "BABES IN TOYLAND"

Pittsburgh Dance & Theatre Arts Jr. Theatre presents an updated version of **Mother Goose** and the gang with a mostly-kids cast. Sunday, December 13, 3 p.m., Kelly -Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue. Also, register for **dance classes** for kids and adults at our 4765 Liberty Avenue studio. Visit <http://www.pgh-dance.com>.

## SCHOOL FAIR, from page 1

been together with public schools at such an event. It's a great service to the community."

The School Choice Fair "arose out of an idea raised by the Peabody Stakeholders working group," according to the BGC's Youth Development Director, Rick Flanagan. That group, made up of parents and other concerned East End residents, began meeting early in 2009 to address the future of struggling Pittsburgh Peabody High School. "If Peabody closed, what would happen to its existing students?" said Flanagan. "There was no plan. But the fact is, we have amazing school options here. The fair was a creative venture on the part of the BGC to help inform the community about school choice options, not just at the high school level, but from kindergarten on up."

About 140 people attended the fair at St. Lawrence O'Toole's Activity Center, many with children in tow, seeking information about educational opportunities. "This was a very efficient way for me to investigate schools," said Amy Lewis, a parent of two from Point Breeze. "I saw the list of schools attending, and that made me want to come. There was a good representation of schools."

Although the 2010-2011 school year seems to be a long way off, application deadlines are rapidly approaching. For example, students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools system who would like to attend one of the district's numerous magnet schools - that is, those offering special programs of study, such as technology or business - must apply by December 12, 2009 (except for Pittsburgh CAPA, where the deadline has already passed). If they choose not to apply to a magnet program, students will be assigned to a neighborhood school based on their street address, which might not be the best fit for their specific needs.

In the future, Flanagan said he hopes to be able to reach parents and guardians through a multi-pronged campaign that would include individual counseling, door-to-door outreach, and large events, like the fair, all aimed at keeping the community informed about education options. "I'd like to see the BGC as the go-to organization on the issue of school choice," he said.

The School Choice Fair was supported by The I eighborhood Academy, P! C Bank, and St Lawrence O'Toole Church.



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Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship..... 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Prayer ..... 12:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Evening Prayer ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Evening Bible Band .. 7:30 p.m.  
Friday Evening-YPWW (Young People Willing Workers) .. 6:00 p.m.  
Friday Evening Evangelistic Service .... 7:00 p.m.

*"For with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27*

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### SOWETO, from page 1

I neighborhood Academy, a private, faith-based school in Garfield that provides college-prep education to low-income youths. "I fell in love with that school," Corlette said. "With an opportunity like that I would have been a different person." Corlette made several visits to the school, where he noted that "the last talk I had with the boys and girls was the best. We talked about what it means to be raised by a single parent, how mothers are playing the role of father and mother."

"The kids lit up every time Corlette came into the building," said Bill. "One day over lunch, there was a spontaneous conversation between Mr. Ray, a retired Marine who is the cook at the school, talking with Corlette about growing up during segregation in the American South and all that he and his family endured, with Corlette describing his life under apartheid. The kids sat spell bound, like listening to living history."

Corlette also had meetings with groups like the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the MGR Foundation, whose programs in com-

munity and youth development serve at-risk communities. In addition, he was the featured speaker at a symposium at the Mentoring Partnership on "ways to address violence" and the challenges of dealing with "young people who are in conflict with the law."

In his two weeks in the city, Corlette said he learned that "the challenges we face at home are the same as here. We could learn a lot, but people could learn a lot from us, too."

Living on Penn Avenue for a couple of weeks as Bill's guest was very different from his life in Johannesburg, Corlette noted. "Back home, parking the car on the street isn't safe," Corlette said. "Here, Bill parks his car right out in front of the house. I took a photo of his car at night and then again in the morning, because I couldn't believe it was still there!"

Bill said he will remember fondly the time he spent with the young man from Soweto. "I, as well as many others in Pittsburgh, look forward to Corlette's return and hold him in our hearts and memory in the meantime."



THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

## REMINDS YOU TO STAY SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Protect yourself and your loved ones from burn injuries by following these tips:

- Stay nearby when frying, grilling or broiling food; unattended cooking is a leading factor in kitchen fires.
- Keep young children three feet away when hot food is being prepared or carried.
- If a fire does happen, "When in doubt, just get out."
- If you use a fireplace, always use a mesh metal screen and leave glass doors open.
- Use only seasoned hardwood to make a fire, never soft, moist wood or other materials such as cardboard boxes or trash.
- Put candles in stable holders, and never near holiday decorations. Never leave the house or go to sleep with candles burning.
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires, bare spots, cracked sockets and excessive wear.
- Never place your tree close to a heat source, or smoke near a tree. Toss out a live tree after two weeks, and keep it well-watered while it is in your house.
- Keep your smoke detectors in good working order and keep a fire extinguisher in your home.

Happy Holidays from West Penn Burn Center!



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