

the Bulletin

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*Serving Bloomfield, Friendship, Garfield,
East Liberty, and Lawrenceville since 1975*

Fire destroys Broad St. house; tenant left homeless

By Joe Reuben

Bulletin contributor

Garfield - A suspicious, early-morning fire on April 14 completely engulfed a single-family home at 5164 Broad St. The property is owned by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC); the organization purchased it from a private owner last fall.

The BGC's intent was to renovate the house and offer it for sale to a lower-income homebuyer. Now, that plan has been derailed by the fire, which apparently broke out simultaneously at both the front and rear ends of the structure.

"Some unknown person or persons used a highly flammable liquid to douse the front and rear entryways of the structure, or maybe the areas just inside those doors, and then set fire

See **Broad St. Fire** | page 5



ABOVE: During the PGH Fringe Festival on Saturday, Apr. 6., performance artist Mime Candy uses silent pantomime and lyrical techniques to engage crowds at Garfield's BOOM Concepts. See more of the PGH Fringe action on page 4. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: Named for its subject, "Kade" is one of many portraits currently on display in East Liberty and Downtown Pittsburgh. Local photographer Andrea London's "We Are All Related" exhibit tells many different, yet related stories in black & white. Read more at right. Photo by Andrea London.

'We Are All Related': local portraits celebrate equality, human condition

By Maggie Graham *Bulletin contributor*

East Liberty - At the corner of Penn and Centre Aves., a new public art installation is sparking conversations about perspective and inclusion.

Acclaimed Pittsburgh photographer Andrea London's *We Are All Related* explores notions of shared humanity via intimate black & white portraiture.

The installation, which runs in conjunction with a multimedia exhibit (located Downtown at 937 Gallery), features stunning black & white portraits of immigrants and refugees, people with differing abilities, members of the LGBTQ community, and others

facing discrimination. The nine foot, "larger than life" images - stretched across 53 windows above a busy East Liberty intersection - are paired with the words "We Are All Related," as translated in the 17 languages represented by the portrait subjects.

At the Downtown gallery (937 Liberty Ave.), a related multimedia experience provides documents and recordings of the subjects' personal narratives alongside their portraits.

"This body of work is my attempt to counter the ugly rhetoric of separa-

See **'We Are All Related'** | page 6

- PAGE 7 - LET'S TALK MEDICAL MARIJUANA:
NEW DISPENSARY IN E. LIBERTY

MILLVALE TOOL LIBRARY
EQUIPS EAST END NEIGHBORS - PAGE 10 -

Public or private: new street planned for Pennley Park South raises questions

By Rick Swartz Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

East Liberty - While the dust may have settled on the final site plan for commercial development at the former Penn Plaza site, fresh dispute is now bubbling up to the surface. A new street must be built to accommodate the retail/office project, and the issue of who will own the street has raised some questions.

The final plans call for the reconfiguration of Enright Parklet, which the city will retain ownership of - even as the developer, Pennley Park South Development, Inc. (PPSD, Inc.), pays for the work involved in transforming the public space. The parklet will extend from S. Negley Ave. on the west to S. Euclid St. (formerly Penn Circle West) on the east.

Accomplishing this will require taking out an existing roadway, Eva St., and replacing it with a new roadway, which will be shifted northward to ensure it does not cut through the middle of the park. The new Eva St. will run alongside the parklet, preserving access to the space for all park-goers.

According to several community residents who have been involved in the protracted dispute over the planned development with PPSD, Inc. since early 2016, the city conceded in early negotiations that the new version of Eva St. could be owned by the developer if new tax revenues spun off by the project were used in its construction.

This would effectively allow the developer to control the use of the street, supposedly to enhance the overall development of their adjacent site.

"We don't think the city can turn over ownership of a street that was public in its original conception to a private company without the approval of Allegheny County Commons Pleas Court," John Axtell, a Friendship resident, maintained at an early April meeting of various community stake-

holders. "This new street is replacing one that has always been city-owned."

"We [local stakeholders] feel City Council will not be able to give this deal their approval," he said, "if Common Pleas Court rules that it's unlawful for the City to deed it to a private, for-profit entity without just cause."

Axtell noted that further muddying the waters is the history of the entire site, which was assembled nearly 60 years ago through a public taking process known as "eminent domain."

Such a "land grab" allowed the original Penn Plaza apartment complex to be built on condemned parcels that were seized from their private owners in the name of a "public good."

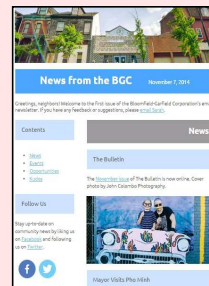
"That is certainly an issue we want the Court to examine. Is a public good being served by the proposed privatization of this new street? We have our doubts, as do others," Axtell related.

"We think Enright Parklet serves a broader public than just the people living within a stone's throw of it. Hindering access to it by privatizing this street would be, in our estimation, the loss of a public good." ♦

'Peace Walk' shines light on Garfield



ABOVE: Valley View Presbyterian Church members and local law enforcement officials from PGH Police Zone 5 join forces with Garfield residents for a "Peace Walk" through the neighborhood on Friday, Apr. 19. Pastor Chad Collins organized the walk to shine a light on all the great things happening in Garfield, engaging both new and longtime residents. Photo courtesy of PGH Police Zone 5.



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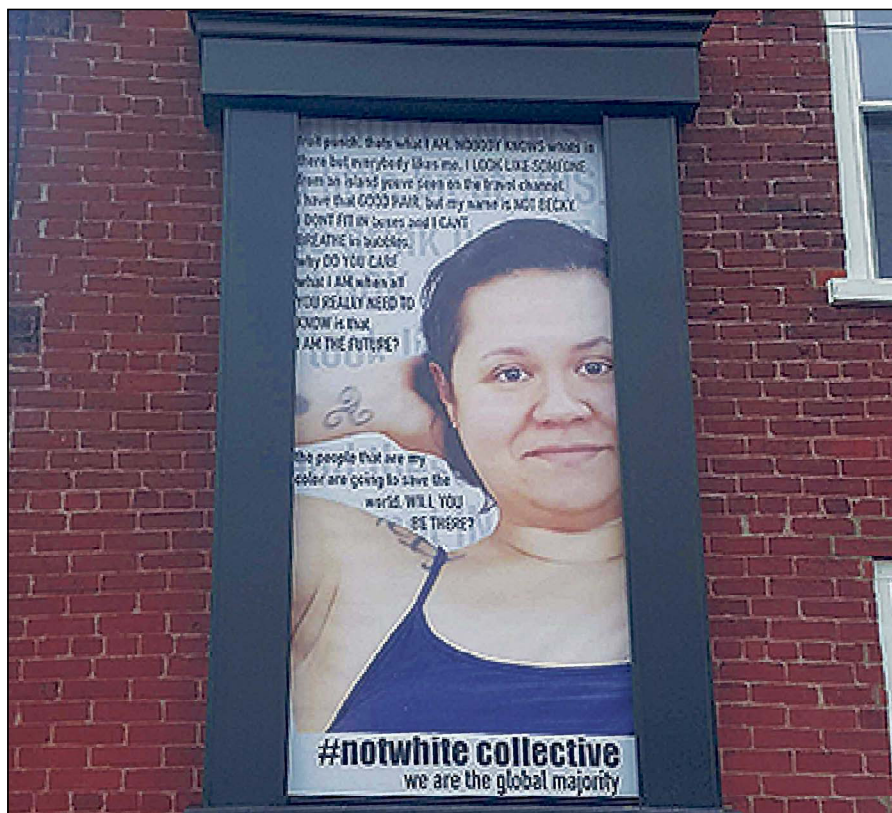
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BELOW: Amber Epps, COO of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, is featured on an art installation at Sidewall - a highly visible, Millvale Ave. space that displays thoughtful artwork on the side of a Bloomfield building. Epps' image is accompanied by her personal reflections on identity politics, a theme central to the "#notwhite collective" exhibition at Sidewall. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



the Bulletin

**Serving Pittsburgh's
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since 1975**

with the mission of reporting on issues affecting underserved communities and facilitating local residents' exchange of ideas.

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Board Meetings are held by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, at the BGC Community Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.), and are open to the public.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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Bloomfield biz opportunities in full bloom

By Sam Spearing Bloomfield Development Corp.

Bloomfield - As the weather warms and flowers begin to bloom, so do the opportunities for local businesses. West Penn Hospital (WPH) recently launched a program that features Bloomfield restaurants in its cafeteria as part of the hospital's "Community Connections" program.

The program, which WPH plans to make a monthly event, helps promote the neighborhood's business district to hospital visitors and employees. To kick things off, on Apr. 23, WPH hosted Azorean Cafe (4715 Liberty Ave.), which specializes in cuisine from a group of volcanic islands known as "the Azores."

The menu sampling included vegan *feijoada* - a vegan, red bean casserole with vegetables - and *bifana* sandwiches, with pork loin and island peppers. Azorean Cafe owner Elsa Santos even utilized some of the specialty spices that she orders directly from the Azores.

Santos was excited to prepare her food in a kitchen that serves hundreds of customers every day; she ended up dishing out 125 sandwiches to hospital visitors and employees on Apr. 23.

"Most important is how nice, helpful, and supportive everyone at the hospital was," Santos noted. "Since day one, when we first started planning this event, everyone has been just amazing to work with."

Just down the street from the hospital, the Bloomfield Saturday Market offers local residents and visitors another great opportunity to connect with new businesses on Liberty Ave. The weekly market regularly brings more than 1,800 visitors to the neighborhood to shop around and visit more than 45 vendors.

In order to increase its connection with the Bloomfield business district, the market is now offering free vendor space for neighborhood businesses - a great opportunity for local entrepreneurs to connect with the market's regular shoppers by offering a sampling of their products and services.

On May 18, the Bloomfield Saturday Market will return to 5050 Liberty Ave. for a new season. The available vendor space is limited throughout the market season; interested business owners may contact the market coordinator at market@bloomfieldpgh.org. ♦

Fringe Festival performs feats on Penn Ave.

BELOW: Performers from "Ignight Entertainment" strike a Penn Ave. pose during the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival on Saturday, Apr. 6. Photo by John Colombo.



ABOVE: Pianist/storyteller Cynthia Shaw performs her solo show, "Velvet Determination ~ A Young Pianist's Journey to New York," at the Irma Freeman Center during the Pittsburgh Fringe Festival on Saturday, Apr. 5. Photo by John Colombo.

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Broad St. Fire continued from page 1

to them. We haven't completed our investigation just yet," Detective John Gilkey, of the city's Fire Bureau, commented on April 16.

"We brought an arson dog to the site," Detective Glikey added, "and he detected the presence of an accelerant at the front and back of the property."

A tenant was living at the property, according to Rick Swartz, executive director of the BGC, but neither she nor her two young children were home at the time.

"For her, it's a total loss, financially, since she did not have renter's insurance," Swartz recently told *The Bulletin*. "The Red Cross has put her up in a hotel temporarily, but she has no family members who are able to take her in at this time. It's a tragedy that's repeated itself too often in the neighborhood."

As for the house itself, Swartz said it is likely to be demolished as soon as the insurance company completes its own investigation.

"We're estimating a renovation cost of between \$225,000 and \$250,000 in order to put the house back together," he shared. "That puts it beyond the range of someone who earns less than

\$55,000 annually, which has always been the targeted buyer for the houses we develop."

Those who would like to make a donation to help the fire victims can do so by sending contributions to the BGC at 5149 Penn Ave. / Pittsburgh, PA / 15224, and marking "5164 Broad St. fire" on their check or money order. ♦

BELOW: Burned-out house at 5164 Broad St. in Garfield. Photo by Andrew McKeon.



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'We Are All Related' continued from page 1



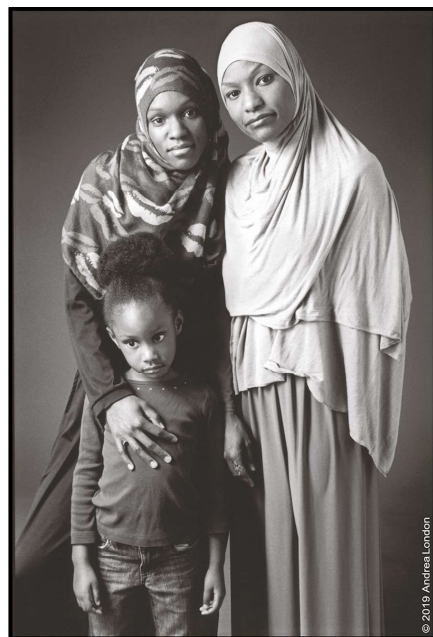
photographer has formed a unique connection with her subjects; it has helped her gradually thread the connections between these different stories to eventually create *We Are All Related*.

"My hope," London told *The Bulletin*, "is to convey that - no matter our race, religion, culture, birthplace, gender identity, age, or ability - we are all connected by shared experiences of struggle, oppression, triumph, love, or loss."

The installation at the corner of Penn and Centre Aves., in addition to the multimedia exhibition at 937 Gallery, runs through May 12.

A book (by the same title) of the portraits and narratives will be available at 937 Gallery, in book stores throughout Pittsburgh, and online. To learn more, visit andrealondon.com. ♦

BELOW: "Nurideen and Baiyinah with Sumaiyah" is part of the "We Are All Related" exhibit currently on display in East Liberty and Downtown Pittsburgh. Photo by Andrea London.



tion and racism exploding all around us," London said. "I decided to bring forward my portraits of both the marginalized and mainstream to show the interconnections among people that I observe every day."

At its core, London's work is a collection of compelling images and stories of the human experience, and the civil rights struggles of individuals and families living in the southwestern PA region.

Select subjects in the full exhibition include a Bhutanese family that survived 20 years in a Nepali refugee camp; a 94-year-old peace activist and Holocaust survivor; a transgender man; and a woman, blind since birth, whose parents fought for her ability to attend a public grade school.

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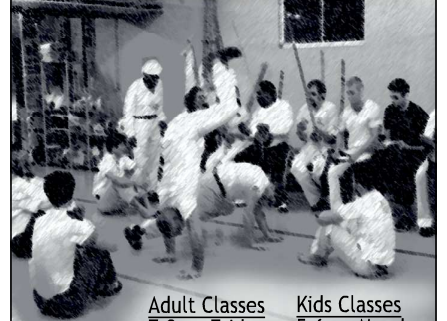
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In conversation with Corinne Ogrodnik, CEO/Co-founder of Maitri Medicinals

Interview by Andrew McKeon *The Bulletin*

East Liberty - Maitri Medicinals, a medical marijuana company based in southwestern PA, opened a new dispensary at 5845 Centre Ave. on Jan. 26. The first dispensary located in *The Bulletin's* immediate coverage area, Maitri's new facility has earned high praise from the PA Dept. of Health and Google reviewers alike.

Maitri CEO/Co-founder Corinne Ogrodnik has been carefully studying the world of "canna-business" for years. A southwestern PA native, she joined the industry when the state legalized medical marijuana in 2016, and opened Maitri's first dispensary last year in Uniontown, PA. In April, Ogrodnik fielded some [frequently asked] questions from *The Bulletin* about the medical marijuana industry and Maitri's new dispensary.

Bulletin: Among the public misconceptions about medical marijuana products, which ones do you most frequently encounter?

Ogrodnik: "There are so many myths and stigmas surrounding cannabis consumption that this is a tough question to answer briefly.

I'll start with the patients. We often say that cannabis is like sports - it brings together people from all walks of life. People are often surprised to hear that many of our patients are elderly, or parents, or young professionals - you name it. We see people of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds in our dispensaries, because disease and illness affect everyone.

There is also a lot of misunderstanding about how our dispensaries fundamentally operate. We work in a highly secure and regulated environment, maintaining the utmost level of professionalism. Patients are checked in at a front desk, similar to a doctor's office, and we have licensed pharmacists on site at all times to conduct private consultations with patients looking for therapeutic and dosing guidance. There is no consumption allowed on site by patients, and in fact, we are not even permitted to have open product on the floor, even if a patient wants to see what it looks or smells like...

I think many of our patients are also surprised when they learn about how many different types of products there are that can be administered at different times of the day in a variety of applications - whether its pills and capsules, or oil that's applied under the tongue, or even topical patches. We generally have several hundred products on our menu at any time, which is why a top notch staff that studies the menu and the products intensively is critical to our work."

Bulletin: What medical conditions and diseases would qualify a patient to receive a medical marijuana card?

Ogrodnik: "There are 21 conditions that qualify patients in PA, and you can view the full list at maitrimedicinals.com/qualifying-conditions. Some of the more common conditions we see are chronic pain, PTSD, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and opioid use disorder."

Bulletin: Could you explain the licensing process for Pennsylvanians looking to obtain a medical marijuana card?

Ogrodnik: "The process involves creating a patient profile on the Department of Health website, scheduling an appointment with one of the state's participating physicians to get your official recommendation, and paying the registration fee. The Department of Health maintains an updated list of participating physicians

on their website (medicalmarijuana.pa.gov/), and the list is growing every month. Here in Pittsburgh, we are fortunate to have many physicians who are certified to recommend medical marijuana to patients, across a variety of specialties."

Bulletin: Could you describe the "Operation 1620" initiative and "Breakfast Buds" program that launched on Apr. 20?

Ogrodnik: "Operation 1620 [Op1620] is an organization founded in Illinois by veterans seeking to utilize medical marijuana as an alternative to pharmaceuticals. We have a really amazing combat-wounded veteran in Uniontown who engaged the Op1620 leaders to launch a PA chapter. He approached us about the idea and we were thrilled to support such a meaningful effort. Breakfast Buds is one of Op1620's key programs. The concept is actually fairly simple: a dispensary or grower sponsors a monthly breakfast and educational talk for the vets, the vets meet like-minded peers who have lived through similar challenges and experiences, and they build a community that empowers them to be open about their challenges and successes in a safe space."

Bulletin: How has the East Liberty neighborhood welcomed Maitri's new dispensary?

Ogrodnik: "We've received a warm welcome from local community groups such as the Baum Centre Initiative, our elected officials, and local law enforcement. Part of our job is to educate and engage with our neighbors about how to access the program, the regulations within which we operate, and the science behind how medical marijuana actually works in our bodies. We've enjoyed these conversations with local residents and businesses, and are eager to continue this outreach."

Bulletin: What's next for Maitri Medicinals?

Ogrodnik: "We were awarded a Grower/Processor license by the Department of Health in the Round Two application process. Our 50,000 square foot cultivation facility is in RIDC Park in O'Hara Township, and we anticipate launching our own line of products by early next year." ♦

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Neighborhood FOCUS

GA/GI: Penn Ave. swan song exalts local arts & science

By Nina Gibbs Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - For the last decade, the annual Geek Art/Green Innovator's Festival (GA/GI, pronounced "GAH-gee") has focused on providing a public forum for arts education along Penn Ave.

A celebration of the ecological, arts, and technology industries, GA/GI has continued engaging audiences in the Penn Ave. business corridor since 2010, when founder Christine Bethea inaugurated the festival in concert with World Environment Day.

Bethea remembers GA/GI's origin story as a gesture of support for folks, like herself, who felt caught between two worlds that were soon to converge. "I started this festival because of the tension that was arising in the arts world about 'science' usurping 'art,'" she said.

"It was inspired by a conversation I had with artists from an organization known as 'Hack Pittsburgh,'" Bethea explained. "I was amazed to learn that many people didn't see it as a 'science vs. art' debate; they saw both fields as equal, creative entities."

"I started this festival because of the tension that was arising in the arts world about 'science' usurping 'art.'"

— Christine Bethea, GA/GI Festival founder

Ten years on, GA/GI has increasingly marshaled participation from a variety of universities, artists, inventors, and designers. Some of the recent highlights include: Carnegie Mellon University's "Cooking with Science" demonstration, which included making actual green eggs & ham, "nitro" ice cream, and a non-alcoholic Bloody Mary that was deemed "A Bloody Shame"; The University of Pittsburgh's "Science Mobile" - a traveling science show housed in a 40-ft trailer that made its first off-campus debut at the Penn Ave. festival; and a crew of firefighters sourcing new recruits with the help of some

fire-wielding performers.

This year marks GA/GI's final incarnation, and the festival intends to go out with a big bang on Friday, June 7, from 6 to 11 p.m. Hoisting a new banner ("Marvel@us"), the 2019 festival is designed to showcase some of the amazing things that people regularly perform in their everyday life.

Moving forward, Bethea acknowledged, GA/GI will morph into an academic series. "I thank every business and organization on Penn Ave.," she said, "especially the ones that supported [GA/GI] from the beginning: the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Artisan, Most Wanted Fine Art, Assemble, the International Children's Art Gallery, and the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination. This festival would not have lasted so long without their extraordinary support."

To learn more about the final GA/GI Festival, and how you can participate, visit facebook.com/gagifest. ♦

BELOW: The tenth and final GA/GI Fest goes down in Garfield on Friday, Jun. 7; the theme for this year's festivities is "Marvel@us." Graphic courtesy of Nina Gibbs.



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Activists ask City Council why developers need tax benefits for market-rate housing

By Joe Reuben *Bulletin contributor*

Downtown - During a post-agenda session at City Council chambers on Apr. 24, housing advocates restated their concerns about the city's awarding of tax breaks to developers building housing for middle- to upper-income renters.

The program, which is administered by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, offers abatements on real estate taxes over the first ten years of a project's lifespan. It has been operating for several decades without much attention from City Council.

In recent years, though, housing activists have begun questioning the need for such a benefit, which can mean up to \$150,000 in relief from real estate taxes levied by the city, and another \$250,000 by the city school district.

"There was once so little housing development in many of our neighborhoods that one could accept the need to incentivize this activity," Celeste Scott, a community organizer with Pittsburgh United [nonprofit advocacy organization], told *The Bulletin*.

"But, that is hardly the case today. We have more market-rate developments than you can shake a stick at," Scott

noted. "What is the tax abatement really buying us? If there's going to be a tax incentive aimed at new or renovated housing projects, it should be for those that are serving working-class people earning under \$35,000/year."

Although the city's awarding of 10-year tax abatements requires no formal approval by City Council, this is not the case with the city school board.

Developers are required to appear before the school board and make their case for why granting abatement is critical to their projects. Ed Nusser, a staff member with the Lawrenceville Corporation [community development group] is familiar with the sales routine that certain developers employ when pushing for the abatement.

"I've tried to keep a straight face over the years while some developer doing a project at the South Side Works - or in Oakland, along Forbes Ave. - tells the city or school board how critical this tax abatement is to the viability of their deal," he explained.

"I've had to look around the room to see if it's just me, or if anyone else is finding their pitch a bit hard to swallow." ♦

'Pandemic' dance party pushes global agenda at Brillobox

By Tiffany Parker *Bulletin contributor*

Bloomfield - On Apr. 5, the first Friday night of the month was bustling with the Unblurred sounds of music, art spectators, and street performers along Penn Ave.

As has become tradition for some Unblurred enthusiasts, a late-night venture to Brillobox (4104 Penn Ave.) usually involves some serious dancing. Enter: Pandemic, a monthly dance night that delivers funky hybrids of traditional folk music and contemporary club tunes from around the world.

The event's deejay/founder, Pandemic Pete, concocts an array of sounds for his loyal revelers - from Bhangra to Russian folk, Bollywood to Afrobeat, and everything in between. Every month features something new, whether it is a band from far away or a guest deejay, to keep folks coming back for more.

Pandemic's special guest on Apr. 5 was a Toronto-based band known as "Battle of Santiago." The upstairs at Brillobox was jammed with audience members swaying to the band's hypnotic beats as the performers blended classic, afro-Cuban rhythms and vocals with its own Canadian spirit. Thanks to Battle of Santiago's excellent percussion section, just about everyone in attendance was hot, sweaty, and ready to dance.

For well more than a decade, Pandemic has been moving the needle on Pittsburgh's party scene at venues and festivals throughout the city (The Carnegie International, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Carnegie Museum of Art, and the Three Rivers Arts Festival, to name a few).

Judging by the crowds' jubilant response to global immersion every month, Pandemic will have no trouble furthering its progressive agenda in the local party scene for years to come.

For a full list of upcoming events, visit facebook.com/PandemicDanceParty or find "PandemicPgh" on Instagram. ♦



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for the latest neighborhood information and community updates



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Millvale Tool Library equips East End neighbors

By Dan Malakoff *Tool Library volunteer*

Millvale - The Maria Mongelluzo Tool Library, a project of the Millvale Community Library, provides Pittsburgh residents with a valuable tool-lending resource right over the 40th St. Bridge.

The tool library at 213 Grant Ave. has an inventory of over 500 hand and power tools for construction, home maintenance, gardening, plumbing, cars, bikes, and more.

The list of available tools includes power saws, sanders, drills & bits, car jacks, a dolly, drain snakes, shovels, a pole

pruner, and a carpet shampooer. Any adult with a City of Pittsburgh or Allegheny County library card can borrow up to five tools at a time for free.

"Last year, I signed up to receive a free quarter-ton of mulch," Erika Hedin, who is fixing up a house in Garfield, explained. "I was also able to borrow a wheelbarrow. Normally, I wouldn't have a need for a wheelbarrow but, in this instance, it was a life-saver. I love being able to borrow a tool that I only need to use once."

The tool library aims to help people maintain and improve their homes by equipping them with the necessary, and often expensive, tools for the job. Members have used the library's ladders to clean their gutters, borrowed the pressure washers to clean their siding, and cut their grass with its "loaner" lawnmowers.

As Susan McClellan, director of the Millvale Community Library, noted: "So many [people] defer home maintenance because they don't have access to, or can't afford to, purchase a tool. Our goal is to provide access to these tools as the growth of the sharing economy continues. The Tool Library builds community connections, promotes sustainability, and saves money for many residents."

Along with those doing home repair, many skilled laborers involved in landscaping, carpentry, painting, or other trades, also regularly borrow tools from the library in Millvale.

Bloomfield native Maria Mongelluzo founded the tool library to provide resources for a wide range of people. "It contributes to local communities' sustainability efforts by reducing our need to purchase tools that are expensive,

or that won't be used much," she said. "The tool library benefits everyone."

The Millvale Community Library is planning free workshops to educate the public about its tool library and teach useful skills - like how to properly maintain older homes, or how to build duck-nesting boxes that can be installed along the Allegheny River.

For more info, and a complete inventory, call 412-822-7081 or visit millvalelibrary.org/millvale-tool-lending-library/ org. ♦



ABOVE: Tools ready for the taking at the Maria Mongelluzo Tool Library in Millvale. Photo courtesy of Dan Malakoff.

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Volunteer Voices: Minette Vaccariello

Interview by Sarah Nielsen Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield - In the first installment of a column entitled "Volunteer Voices," *The Bulletin* is proud to profile local green-thumb Minette Vaccariello.

A Garfield resident, Vaccariello focuses her volunteer energies on beautifying the neighborhood by picking up litter and transforming neglected lots into public green spaces. An all-around team player, she is quick to credit her fellow volunteers with the progress of green-scaping the neighborhood.



ABOVE: Minette Vaccariello enjoys a spring day in Garfield. Photo courtesy of Minette Vaccariello.

BGC: When did you first get involved as a neighborhood volunteer?

Vaccariello: "I first got involved with the Garfield Community Action Team (GCAT) in 2011. GCAT was doing several grassroots projects organized by neighbors, which I thought was a great way to meet people and work on neighborhood improvement projects. GCAT would take on projects like litter pick-ups, neighborhood safety walks, park revitalization, green-scaping, and family-friendly events to get neighbors more involved in their community."

BGC: Why do you volunteer?

Vaccariello: "So many great things can be accomplished when we all come together and volunteer. I have worked on many projects that, alone, wouldn't have happened without the help of volunteers. We've created flower and vegetable gardens out of overgrown or neglected lots and parks. When neighbors and volunteers work together, we can take on these big projects and create beautiful spaces for everyone."

BGC: What contribution, when you look back on things, inspires the most "volunteer pride" for you?

Vaccariello: "Litter has always been a problem in the neighborhood. Several times over, GCAT tried to advocate for more trash cans in the neighborhood, however, we found that it was a bigger logistical problem than just getting more trash cans. We learned that the city didn't have the resources to add an additional route to empty more trash cans beyond Penn Ave. So GCAT came up with an idea called, 'Adopt a Trash Can.' With a grant from the Sprout Fund, GCAT was able to purchase 12 trash cans that Garfield residents then 'adopted' by putting the cans on their block for public use and maintaining them. The cans were painted by local artists, with the help of Most Wanted Fine Art, so that each one was special and very noticeable to passersby. Three years later, I still see a few of these trash cans being utilized. It's great to see that this project has been sustainable in combating litter in our neighborhood."

BGC: Which fellow volunteer most inspires you to keep contributing your time and energy to the neighborhood?

Vaccariello: "Gary Cirrincone is a longtime friend and GCAT volunteer. He always comes to every meeting/project with enthusiasm. None of our projects would have gotten done without his work finding volunteers, making connections to other neighborhood organizations, and dedicating countless hours to all the green projects we've accomplished in Garfield."

BGC: How have GCAT's achievements influenced your neighborhood over the years?

Vaccariello: "I've lived in Garfield for 12 years and have been volunteering for about 10 years now. GCAT has accomplished several green projects where we've cleaned up neglected lots and parks, then added gardens. Over the years, I've seen that these green spaces can be contagious in some ways, as more neighbors take heed and begin gardening as well. The change has been gradual, but you see it little-by-little when you walk through the neighborhood." ♦

PPS yet to respond to Fort Pitt proposal

By Joe Reuben Bulletin contributor

Garfield - Aiming to find new use for a portion of the vacant Fort Pitt School complex (empty since 2011), a coalition of Garfield community groups submitted a proposal to the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) back on Feb. 13.

Two months have passed without a response from the superintendent of schools, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, but one could reportedly be in the works.

Rick Swartz, executive director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), said that on Apr. 19, Pamela Capretta, chief operations officer of PPS, sent the BGC an e-mail stating that the coalition's proposal was going to draw a "point by point" response from the district - once that response has been reviewed and approved by the school board's Executive Cabinet.

The coalition is seeking the district's cooperation in allowing it up to 3.5

years to plan and fundraise for the re-use of the building's annex section.

The two-story annex houses a gymnasium/auditorium, along with a range of classrooms that could be utilized for recreation, cultural, arts-related, and vocational training programs. Swartz said one party has shown interest in bringing a health & wellness center to the site, should the community-planning process move forward.

"I think we're grateful that the proposal didn't find its way into a trash bin in someone's office," said Bob Jones, Jr. of Brothers& Sister Emerging (BASE), a member of the ad hoc coalition.

"But we're sitting in a state of suspense," Jones continued, "waiting to hear if their response completely rejects our ideas, or instead lays out the terms and conditions for a genuine partnership with the district." ♦

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We promise not to overshare!

Pittsburghers ditch cars, find common ground at 'OpenStreetsPGH'

By Alexandria Shewczyk *Bike Pittsburgh*



ABOVE: OpenStreetsPGH 2018 overtakes East Liberty. Photo by Murphy Moschetta.

Pittsburgh - In partnership with UPMC Health Plan, Bike Pittsburgh (BikePGH) will celebrate the fifth anniversary of OpenStreetsPGH this summer, anticipating over 100,000 participants at the series' three events.

According to Mike Carroll, BikePGH's events director, OpenStreetsPGH "invites Pittsburghers to reimagine their streets as places for people, not just cars."

The event series has grown from 44,000 participants in 2015 to 113,000 participants in 2018. "This year," Carroll explained, "we'll be opening streets in 14 neighborhoods by temporarily closing them to cars - inviting people

to explore their community streets in a safer, healthier, more livable way."

The series aims to offer something for everyone: fitness workshops, kids' activities, shopping, brunch, community arts projects, and special promotions presented by over 100 local businesses & organizations.

Three event hubs will be located along each event route; two hubs will feature free fitness classes by the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and one hub will feature BikePGH's "Kids Bicycling Education" classes.

"These events encourage Pittsburghers of all ages to get physically fit while exploring communities throughout

the city," said Dr. Michael Parkinson, senior medical director at UPMC Health Plan. "We're often referred to as the 'City of Bridges,'" he continued, "and OpenStreetsPGH helps to build a bridge between physical activity and overall health."

By design, each event in the series does not necessitate a completely continuous street closure; motorists will be able to cross at a dozen intersections along each route.

On Saturday, May 25, OpenStreetsP-

GH will loop through 4.4 miles of Homewood, Larimer, East Liberty, Shadyside, and North Point Breeze. The following month, a route encompassing Downtown, the Strip District, and Lawrenceville will come to life on Sunday, June 30. To close things out, OpenStreetsPGH will run through Downtown, Uptown, and South Side on Sunday, July 28.

For more info about the event routes, visit openstreetspgh.org or follow "OpenStreetsPGH" on social media. ♦

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2019 Cops And Kids Summer Camp Program

Our Vision

Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Cops and Kids Summer Camp Programs deliver a high quality experience grounded in the guiding principles of character, community and leadership while fostering positive relationships between youth and law enforcement officers.

The summer camp program is for youths residing in the city of Pittsburgh between the age of 8 and 12. Transportation and meals are provided. There is no cost to attend. The maximum allowance for each camp is 50 campers. Applications are accepted on a first-come basis.

Session #1 - University of Pittsburgh - July 8th thru 12th

Session #2 - Duquesne University - July 15th thru 19th

Session #3 - Duquesne University - July 22nd thru 26th

Session #4 - CCAC - Allegheny Campus - August 5th thru 9th

Applications can be mailed to Youth Programs, 1203 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. 15233 or faxed to 412-323-7830.

Campers who attended a Cops and Kids summer camp session in **2017 and 2018** or **do not reside in the City of Pittsburgh** will be placed on a waiting list. If a session **does not** reach maximum capacity we will notify the Parent of the availability.

Applications are available at police stations or download at:
<http://pittsburghpa.gov/police/community-policing/cops-kids.html>

If you have additional questions please contact Youth Program at 412-323-7821/ 412-323-7853 or 412-295-4890

Send emails to: PBP_youthprograms@pittsburghpa.gov

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS: May 31, 2019....NO EXCEPTIONS

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOCAL REAL ESTATE BLOTTER?

[Ed. Note: The Local Real Estate Blotter, a Bulletin feature regularly found on this page, is on hiatus for yet another month. Allegheny County's online real estate portal, where the blotter's listings are sourced, has not been updated in months.

The Bulletin will resume publishing real estate listings as soon as the County website is back up and running. Until then, readers can look to the Sunday edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for updated listings.

The Bulletin encourage readers to contact their elected Allegheny County Council members, like District 13 Councilperson Denise Ranalli Russell (412-350-6490, Denise.Russell@alleghenycounty.us), and ask why the real estate portal is still not up-to-date.]



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WE'RE HIRING AT YORK COMMONS!

York Commons in Lawrenceville is looking for a self-starter who enjoys painting, minor electric, plumbing and other maintenance work to fill a **Maintenance Technician II** position at our community.

This is a **full-time position** that offers the opportunity to **make a difference** in the lives of our residents.

APPLY NOW: **CareersAtSrCare.org**

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Spring update: 'growings-on' in Garfield

A Message from Garfield Community Farm

Garfield - The 2.5 acre urban farm, sitting under the water tower at the top of the neighborhood, is called "Garfield Community Farm." The farm exists to serve the people of Garfield by restoring our once-abandoned land into a thriving ecosystem that provides healthy produce for us all.

Come up to the farm any Thursday evening, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and get your hands dirty helping us do all the things that need to get done each week. We'll plant, weed, water, and harvest together, along with other general farm work.

Spring Farm Day & Plant Sale, May 19

Want to check out the farm? Maybe get a tour, meet some neighbors, see the gardens and possibly buy your own garden plants? Come up to the farm on Sunday, May 19. The Open Door Church will have its annual spring worship at the farm at 10:15 a.m. (all are welcome), followed by open hours from Noon to 3 p.m.

Farm Market Open, Wednesdays 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

One of the ways we get our food to the people of Garfield is our farm market. Garfield Community Farm's market will be open every Wednesday evening, June through September, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please, come up to the farm on Wednesday afternoons and evenings; take your pick from our diverse offerings of fruit, vegetables, honey and eggs. At the market, you can pay with cash, check, credit card, or EBT. All of our produce is sold at a "pay-what-you-can" price. Choose full price to support the farm, or less, depending on your budget.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA):

CSA stands for "Community Supported Agriculture." CSA members are those who want to make a commitment to eating local, organically grown produce all season long. Full-paying members greatly support the farm by committing to purchase from us all season long. Members will receive seventeen \$20 vouchers at the beginning of the season (one for each week of the summer). Each member will have access to anything at the market totaling \$20; of course, you can share your vouchers with friends and you can purchase more produce with cash any week. We accept EBT payments for CSA purchases; we can also offer vouchers at a reduced cost, meaning that you'll get a \$20 voucher for less than \$20. The full-price costs are listed below, but please don't let cost get in the way. We want you to have access to what we grow. Email us at garfieldcommunityfarm@gmail.com with any questions, including inquiries about reduced rates.

17-week Standard CSA: \$340

10-week "Half Share": \$170

22 shares (used in 17 weeks - for those who are canning, or feeding lots of people, and want a double share): \$420. ♦



Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation wants to help homeowners stay in their homes!

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- Demonstrate financial need
- Be of low to moderate-income
- Live with in Garfield neighborhood

Matching Grant assistance
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This grant will match homeowner's
repair funds up to \$1,200.



Applications at BGC Office
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THE BULLETIN WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

This publication begins and ends with you, our community members, so we respectfully invite your opinions & insights.

Please email our tip-line/suggestion box:

Bulletin@Bloomfield-Garfield.org.

the BulletinBOARD

Local Events Classes Gatherings Fundraisers

Sorry, but we do not accept listings by phone.

The Bulletin Board publishes listings of volunteer opportunities, free or low-cost events & classes, fundraisers, and services that are of particular interest to our neighborhoods. Listings are published on a space-available basis; we cannot guarantee placement or thorough edits of any listings. **Announcements for the June 2019 issue are due by Monday, May 20.** Please submit listings using the online form at www.bit.ly/bulletin_submit.

MAY 2 - THURSDAY

EAST LIBERTY

'Fatal vs. Living Fabric'

Join designer and Pittsburgh native Tereneh Idia of Idia'Dega - a global, eco-design collaboration - for a discussion about the way fashion has become one of the most polluted industries on the planet. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library's East Liberty branch (130 S Whitfield St.), learn how to help reduce the hazards of fashion pollution while enjoying what you wear. Call 412-363-8232 for more info.

MAY 3 - FRIDAY

GARFIELD

Supper Club

Supper club is back at Morningside Church of God In Christ (5173 Dearborn St.) and Pastor Lamont & First Lady Mary Shields are hosting. On Friday, May 3, enjoy live bands, anointed choirs, and comedy from 7 to 10 p.m. Delicious food will also be available for sale; admission is \$5 per person. Come out and join us for a great Friday night hangout. Call 412-361-9865 for more info.

MAY 4 - SATURDAY

GARFIELD

Homebuyer Workshop

On Saturday, May 4, Neighborworks Western PA and PNC Bank will host a free homebuyer workshop in partnership with the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC). The workshop, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.), will feature presentations by loan officers, real estate agents, home inspectors, and insurance representatives. A "Homebuyer Education Certificate" will be awarded upon completion. Lunch will be provided. For a full list of workshops, or to register, call 412-281-9773 or visit nwwpa.org/workshops.htm.

MAY 9 - THURSDAY

EAST LIBERTY

'Vertical Gardening' Workshop

Come out to the Carnegie Library's East Liberty branch (130 S Whitfield St.) on Thursday, May 9, for a 6:30 p.m. presentation by the PennState Master Gardeners' Program. Although the concept of

vertical gardening is thousands of years old, an increase in urban living has created the need for new and efficient ways to grow vertically. Living walls, tuteurs, pergolas, and wall pockets can be utilized to maximize space. For more info, or to register, call 412-363-8232.

MAY 10 - FRIDAY

BLOOMFIELD

'Blooming on Baum' Plant Sale

Pittsburgh Mercy Alternative Training & Employment Center (4749 Baum Blvd.) will hold its fourth annual "Blooming on Baum" plant sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, May 10 & 24. A donation of \$1 to \$6 is suggested for each plant; all proceeds help people with disabilities. Among the plants available are tomatoes, herbs, basil, coleus, spider plants, geraniums, and air plants. To learn more, email ZDudiak@pittsburghmercy.org.

MAY 11 - SATURDAY

FRIENDSHIP

Flower & Folk Festival

This year's Friendship Flower & Folk Festival (F4) will be held on Saturday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baum Grove. Expect plants & flowers, folk music, vendor tables, a book sale, and more. This is the one-and-only fundraiser for the upkeep of Baum Grove - the community green space at the corners of Roup, Harriet, and S. Fairmont Sts. For more info, check out friendship-pgh.org/f4.

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Document Shredding Event

Join Reps. Innamorato and Ravenstahl, along with Sen. Fontana, for a free document shredding event held in the Busy Beaver-Lawrenceville parking lot (4743 Plummer St.). Destroy all those old tax returns and important papers that you've been holding onto - papers with personal information including Social Security, credit card, or bank account numbers. Protect your identity and come shred your stuff on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to Noon.

LCAN Monthly Meeting

Join Lawrenceville Clean Air Now (LCAN) for its next monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 11. This meeting will be held at Goodwill's office at 118 52nd St. Hear updates from the leaders of LCAN's various committees: public health, industry, traffic, air monitors, advocacy, and community engagement. Bring your concerns, questions, and ideas about how to address the neighborhood's significant air pollution. Contact LCANpgh@gmail.com to learn more.

MAY 13 - MONDAY

EAST LIBERTY

STEM: Discover Geodes

Join the Carnegie Library's East Liberty branch (130 S Whitfield St.) at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 13, to crack open a geode and learn some interesting facts about this type of rock. The STEM workshop is recommended for children in grades K-5. Call 412-363-8232 for more info.

MAY 15 - WEDNESDAY

LAWRENCEVILLE

Free Lecture: Magicians of Lawrenceville

On Wednesday, May 15, the Lawrenceville Historical Society will host local historian Jude Wudarczyk's "The Magicians of Lawrenceville" lecture. Learn about local magician Ray S. Sugden - also known as "Tampa the Great" - who rivaled Howard Thurston, Ray Kellar, and other leading magic performers of his era. As a special treat, Lawrenceville magician Joe Geever will be on hand to demonstrate some slight-of-hand tricks. This magical event takes place at 6:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library (279 Fisk St.). It's free to the public; no reservations required.

MAY 17 - FRIDAY

EAST LIBERTY

'Sound + Noise' Learning Party

Learn all about beat-making, explore how you can use ordinary objects to create sounds, and use patterns to create

Board Election: Bloomfield Development Corp.

Bloomfield Development Corp. is now accepting applications for new board members. A Registered Community Organization, Bloomfield Development serves to support, promote, and enhance Bloomfield. We accomplish our mission through small business support and promotion, housing support, community process for new development, and the Bloomfield Saturday Market. For more info, visit www.bloomfieldpgh.org. To apply, send a resume and brief bio to board@bloomfieldpgh.org. For inquiries, contact the previous email or call 412-681-8800.



ABOVE: West Penn Hospital (WPH) hosts its annual rose garden event to recognize National Donate Life Month. Hospital employees, representatives from Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), and community members honored those who gave the gift of life by planting a ceremonial rose bush on WPH grounds on Monday, Apr. 15. Photo courtesy of Allegheny Health Network.

Volunteer Opportunities Announcements Shout-Outs

Services Open Calls Classifieds

rhythms with local experts on Friday, May 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. Meet musicians, technologists, and scientists at Assemble's "Learning Party for Remake Learning Days" at Assemble's 4824 Penn Ave. headquarters. To learn more, just visit assemblepgh.org/learning-parties/.

MAY 18 - SATURDAY

GARFIELD

Community Cleanup

Join the Community Ambassadors and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) as we take to our streets for a cleanup on Saturday, May 18. Sign up to volunteer through Involvement (involvement.io) and earn credits for your volunteer hours. The cleanup's areas of focus are determined at the Community Ambassador meetings. Volunteers will meet at the BGC Activity Center (113 N. Pacific Ave.) at 10 a.m. and spruce up the neighborhood together until 2 p.m.

BLOOMFIELD

Saturday Market Returns

Beginning on May 18, the Bloomfield Saturday Market returns for the summer open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday at 5050 Liberty Ave. Offerings include local businesses, community groups, and over 40 vendors with everything from fresh produce to prepared foods and baked goods. Join your neighbors for some outdoor summertime fun, with activities and live music every week.

MAY 22 - WEDNESDAY

EAST LIBERTY



ABOVE: Bloomfield resident Layla Holland is one of 7 Nazareth Prep high school students selected to participate in the Youth Fellowship for Social Change program. Holland will work alongside volunteers to help design and launch youth-driven, social change initiatives. Photo courtesy of Liz Fetchin.

Investing 101

Understanding the stock market and investing can be crucial to creating diverse income streams, planning for retirement, and building legacy wealth. Circles Greater Pittsburgh would like to invite you and your family to join us at Gallery on Penn (5937 Penn Ave.) to learn from investment broker Micke Hacke, of Steel City Capital Investments. This free, two-part series consists of Wednesday sessions on May 22 and May 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info, find "Gallery on Penn" on Facebook.

MAY 27 - MONDAY

LAWRENCEVILLE

TransPride PGH: Gender Queer Meet Up

TransPride Pittsburgh will start working on non-binary monologues on Monday, May 27, from 6 - 9 p.m. at Persad Center (5301 Butler St., Ste 100). Please come ready to think about how we would like to tell our stories and share your expertise and lived experiences (as much as you are comfortable sharing). GQ, a gender queer meetup, is a monthly gathering of like-minded folks. Free to attend, open to all ages. Find "TransPride Pittsburgh" on Facebook to learn more.

MAY 30 - THURSDAY

EAST LIBERTY

Sirens & Queens: A Recital by Anqwenique

Join Chamber Music Pittsburgh and Boom Concepts on Thursday, May 30, for *Sirens & Queens*, a recital by vocalist Anqwenique. Held at Hotel Indigo (123 N Highland Ave.) in Wallace's Whiskey Room + Kitchen, the concert will celebrate the works and lives of black women composers. All ages welcome, and tickets are "pay-what-you-wish" (suggested admission price is \$15). Purchase tickets online at ChamberMusicPittsburgh.org or by calling 412-624-4129. Any remaining tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at the door, subject to availability. The box office opens at 6:30 p.m.; concert begins at 7 p.m. Cash bar.

- ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES -

GARFIELD

Career Certification/Diploma Program

Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA) is accepting applications for youths (16 to 24 years old), who want to pursue their high school diploma, GED, or certification

for: customer service & sales, certified nursing assistant, or construction. To register, stop in GJA (5323 Penn Ave.) between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. GJA is located behind the Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center. For more info, call 412-665-5200 or email connie.taylor@garfieldjubilee.org.

FRIENDSHIP

Education: Adults Achieve

Earthen Vessels Outreach (EVO, 250 S. Pacific Ave.) is offering a high school education to any individual, age 18 yrs. or older, without a diploma. Enroll in a program and begin online classes right away. EVO staff will provide supports to help each participant get to the final graduation ceremony. To learn more, email marilynchaney@gmail.com. ♦

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Reflecting on Mother's Day

Mother's Day can be a sad time for those whose mothers are no longer living.

Whether this is your first Mother's Day without your mother or if it has been years since she has died, there are many ways to honor your deceased mother or grandmother on Mother's Day.

We would like to offer the following suggestions:

- **Talk about your mother with people who remember her.**
- **Bring out pictures of your mother, and show them to other family members.**
- **Consider taking flowers to the cemetery.**
- **Do something your mother would have enjoyed.**
- **Give a Mother's Day donation to your mother's favorite charity in her name.**
- **And finally, bring back the tradition of wearing a single white carnation in memory of your deceased mother.**



WALTER J

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