

Letter from the Editor



We missed you at the "50 Ways to Survive Winter" Sing-A-Long. We were a small and enthusiastic group. After the singing, we had beer and burgers in the **Brookline Pub**. You should have come. It was just before Snowmeggedon. Last month we thought we ended up in an episode of the "Twilight Zone" with never-ending snow.

Snow Begone! We are looking for crocus. At the end of the month we will welcome spring with the annual Spring Fling. Join us at **Magistrate Jim Motznik's** office. Meet your neighbors. Check out the new stores on the Boulevard.

We are particularly pleased with the addition of **Cannon Coffee** which promises to be a great place to meet and greet friends and neighbors. We will be featuring **Cannon Coffee** and **Vinny's Pizza** in upcoming issues. **Vinny's Pizza** is in the old Pizzarella location. Vinny's makes seafood pizza so you can continue to order pizza on Lenten Fridays.

Don't panic. **Boulevard Ice Cream** is NOT gone. We heard from **Michael Whitlinger** and **Lois McCafferty** that **Chuck Bader** is renovating with an all new look. The Boulevard is blooming just as we had hoped!

Since we believe this winter was Mother Nature's doing and not Rod Serling's, we expect spring to arrive shortly. In anticipation, we are ordering our Jimmy Nardello pepper seedlings and some new lettuce seeds. The snow has to melt eventually, and we want to be ready.

ITALIAN SPECIALTY GOURMET CATERING



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www.is-catering.com

Long time residents will remember **Bill Blefere** behind the counter at the Beechview Butcher Shop. In 1990, he opened **Italian Specialty Gourmet Catering** in Brookline, but Bill has been a resident of Brookline for 32 years.

Corporate catering is roughly 80% of Bill's business, and his customers include the City of Pittsburgh and the Board of Education. He has also assisted with UPMC events. A caterer doesn't keep high profile clients unless he knows food, and like Bill's business slogan says, "Our clientele tells it all." **Italian Specialty Gourmet Catering** can handle groups of 10 or a crowd of 5,000, and they cater breakfast, lunch or dinner. They also prepare box lunches for meetings or hoagies for school functions and fundraisers. Plus, you can pick-up trays for your event at their location.

All of the food is homemade. Bill uses quality ingredients including California based Stanislaus Food Products whose tomatoes are fresh packed and not from a tomato concentrate. Another staple ingredient is Breadworks' bread. Any Pittsburgher can attest to the quality of Breadworks. A hoagie made with Breadworks' bread and quality meat would be a big seller for any organization.

Check out the website for the picnic or fancy cocktail party menus. This is not just the typical cole slaw and potato salad menu. How about Roasted Peppers & Potatoes or a Caesar Salad? Instead of cheese cubes and crackers at your fancy shindig try Scallops & Bacon or Artichoke Purses.

Italian Specialty Gourmet Catering is associated with 26 banquet halls, and they have access to many others. They will handle your wedding right down to wrapping up the leftovers. Ferns and Italian candy provide the final and distinctive **Italian Specialty Gourmet Catering** touch on every buffet.

A family owned and operated business serving quality homemade food. Now isn't **Italian Specialty Gourmet Catering** the caterer you want at your next event?

-Pamela Grabowski





Counting Down The Brookline Print Edition



Four months and holding for the print edition of **The Brookline**. We have increased our advertising which is wonderful, and we thank the merchants for their support. More advertising will eventually mean the addition of another page which means higher printing costs. That means we are not out of trouble yet. We continue to search for a permanent way to support the print edition of the newsletter. If you have any ideas on how to fund the newsletter, send them, email them or call us with your ideas. Our readers and the merchants have told us they like what we are doing. Now just support us—PLEASE!



LOOKING FOR FLAGS

A reader has suggested an article on the many residents of Brookline who fly the flag daily. We are looking for pictures, names and stories. Why do you fly the flag? We want to feature these stories along with flag etiquette in the May, June and July issues, but we need to hear from you. Please contact us.



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THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

Clint Burton has agreed to archive past issues of **The Brookline** at www.brooklineconnection.com. If there's an article you want to revisit or one you want to pass on to a friend, you will soon be able to find them at Clint's site.

Bookmark **The Brookline Connection** along with our site to keep up with local events and local team scores.

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Check out **The Brookline Connection** www.brooklineconnection.com.

CONTACT THE BROOKLINE

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We want to hear from you. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail. April issue's deadline is March 10. May issue's deadline is April 10.

The Brookline by email is in **FULL COLOR!**
 The Brookline is available by mail. One year subscription \$25.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org or mnp.grabowski@verizon.net
 Telephone: 412-343-2859
 Mail: The Brookline c/o SPDC, PO Box 9606, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

ADVERTISING RATES

Contact Pamela Grabowski at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We now have over 1,200 readers.

Year
 SPDC Members \$280
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Three Months
 SPDC Members \$100
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ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL ONE MONTH RATE!

Annual SPDC membership dues are \$10.00. Do the math!

Funding for newsletter by Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

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Pick up **The Brookline** at a Boulevard merchant. Look for "The Brookline Available Here" sign in the window.



**SENATOR
WAYNE FONTANA**

April 15th will be here sooner than you think. If you're in the process of getting ready to file your annual tax returns, my office can help!

Pennsylvania uses three primary tax forms: the PA-40 Income Tax Booklet, the Fast File Booklet, and the payment voucher letter. All mailed state tax forms were scheduled to arrive at households in early February, so if you haven't received yours, simply visit or call one of my offices for what you need. I also have federal forms such as the 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ and the PA-1000 Property Tax and Rent Rebate Application.

You may want to consider filing electronically this year. Both the federal and state governments are offering free e-filing for taxpayers. The IRS Free File program is a system that offers 98 million Americans a fast, free and safe way to do their federal taxes online. If you make less than \$57,000, visit www.irs.gov to use the industry's top tax preparation software free of charge. Pennsylvania offers two, free electronic tax filing options – TeleFile (1-888-4PAFile) and pa.direct.file available at www.revenue.state.pa.us.

For more information on services and programs, including i-CAN! E-File and free tax preparation services, please visit my website at www.senatorfontana.com. Tax season can be a frustrating time for many Americans. Remember, my office is working for you to make this process as painless as possible. Please don't hesitate to drop in or give me a call.



**CITY
COUNCILWOMAN
NATALIA RUDIAK**

This spring, as happens every spring, many Pittsburghers will open their basements, garages, and homes and begin their spring cleaning. It is important to know how and when you can put refuse at the curb and what is accepted by the City.

Refuse is picked up curbside once a week, while recycling is picked up once every other week. Residents are allowed to leave two bulk items, such as furniture or non-Freon appliances, at the curb every week. Also, up to five bags of leaves will be accepted curbside every week.

Other debris, such as grass and tree branches, or tires and Freon containing appliances, must be taken to one of the City's drop off locations. The drop off location for Pittsburgh's southern neighborhoods is at the 5th Division Public Works building next to Herschel Field in the West End, located at 1323 Hassler Street.

Finally, the City collects a wide variety of items for curbside recycling, but its good to know what they are before you put them in the blue bags. The City accepts glass jars and bottles, aluminum cans, most types of paper and paperboard, cardboard (if it has been bundled), and plastic #'s 1 through 5.

For every ton the City recycles, it saves taxpayers \$23 in landfill fees and generates \$45 in revenue. Last year alone, the City saved more than a quarter of a million dollars by recycling! In Pittsburgh's southern neighborhoods, we have some of the highest rates of recycling in the City. In most of our neighborhoods, more than 65% of households take advantage of the free curbside recycling offered by the City!

If you have any questions about recycling and refuse pick-up, please don't hesitate to call my office at (412) 255-2131 or visit the City's recycling website at green.pittsburghpa.gov.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHELSA WAGNER**

By now you may have already received your 2010 U.S. Census Questionnaire in the mail. I cannot stress enough how important it is that all households complete and return this form. The

Census count helps to determine how legislative districts are drawn and how much financial aid our communities receive from the state and federal governments. The only way to ensure that we get our fair share is to stand up and be counted.

My office at 900 Brookline Blvd. will be serving as a Questionnaire Assistance Center for the 2010 Census. A representative of the Census Bureau will be on hand to answer any questions community members may have. For specific times when this service will be available you can call my office at (412) 343-2094.

If you do not return your Census Questionnaire, you will likely receive a visit from a Census employee who will ask you the questions. I urge all of my constituents to be cooperative with these workers. But it is also important to be sure that someone who comes to your home is who they say they are.

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a Confidentiality Notice. Ask to see their Identification and their badge before answering their questions. You should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit for donations. Anyone asking for this type of information is not with the Census Bureau.

At some point Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at your home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by e-mail. Be aware of e-mail scams impersonating the Census Bureau. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that is supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

By following these tips we can all remain safe while also doing our duty for our community and our country. I thank all of my constituents for participating in the Census, and remember to stop by or call my office with any questions or concerns.

JOANNE'S CORNER

Things that aren't here anymore - Part Thirteen

The January 2010 column about the history of the Brookline Journal generated a great deal of interest. I received the following letter from **Ernie Galko** who was involved in the printing of the Journal for many years. It will answer any questions that you might have.

-Joanne Fantoni

Dale Noah, publisher of the Hill Top Reporter (South Hills Area: Allentown, Arlington, Mt. Washington, Mt. Oliver) in 1933. The Brookline Shopper was published in 1947, changed the name to The Brookline Journal. Owners of the Journal was Jack Kennelty, Loyd Green and Sam Selickson, all of Brookline. We were located on McNeilly Road, and published the Journal for about three years from 1947-48-49, then moved to Emerson Press, at 5th and Hamilton on East Liberty for 23 some years.

I, Ernie Galko was the Linotype Operator, Hank Hunziker was the Pressman and Dick Dobbs was the Floorman. We all worked together until we retired in 1985.

The name of our Printing Shop that published The Brookline Shopper and then The Brookline Journal was called The Franklin Press until we moved to 5th and Hamilton Ave. in East Liberty at Emerson Press for 23 years.

Dale Noah came to The Brookline Journal some time

(Continued on page 5)



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South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

Readers' Response

Just want to let you know how impressed I am with what is going on in Brookline. New business, Sing-a-Longs, great things going on in the library and everything! Your paper is great. Keep up the good work on your paper and bringing Brookline back!!!!

-Tess Eggert

I did not know how to contact Joanne. I wanted to give her the correct information regarding her story about the man she called "The Cowboy."

The man's given name was Earl Edmonds (not sure of the spelling of his last name) his nickname was "Indian." He did live with his parents on Dunster Ave. Earl used to "hang out" at the southern portal of the Liberty Tunnels for years and was befriended by the police that were stationed there. They would give Earl their old uniforms. It was this that had Earl wearing police uniforms and directing traffic at Pioneer and Brookline Blvd.

Earl was also famous for waiting for area women to get off the street cars at the bottom of Capital Ave. with their bags of groceries from shopping. Earl would carry them up Capital Ave. for them and place them on their porches without asking for a cent.

Earl "Indian" Edmonds was one of Brookline's greatest characters and is fondly remembered by many.

-John V. Goray

Last Month's Memory Teaser

Question: Do you remember what we called snow boots back then? **Answer:** Galoshes or overshoes



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WELCOME PASTOR CHRIS

The congregation of **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church** is excited to announce that we have called a new pastor. Please join us in welcoming **Pastor Christina In-gold** to our community. Pastor Chris will begin her ministry at **St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church** on Brookline Boulevard on March 1, 2010.

Pastor Chris grew up in Millvale, PA and graduated from Shaler High School. She attended Westminster College where she double-majored in Christian Education and Psychology. She attended Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, interned in Massachusetts and then moved to Connecticut, where she finished her seminary education through an exchange program at Yale Divinity. In Connecticut, she worked as a Director of Christian Education and Worship Assistant at an Episcopal Church. She is currently serving as Pastor for a church in Monessen, PA. She serves on several social service and community committees.

Pastor Chris is creative, energetic and has many innovative ideas about youth and family ministries. We look forward to working with her in our church and in the Brookline Community.

Our services are each Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:00 am with Sunday School at 9:30 am, all are welcome.

-Toni Weber

SCOUT PROJECT BENEFITS COMMUNITY



Robert Cumer III, a Boy Scout from the local Troop 6, is holding a pancake breakfast to raise money for his Eagle Project. His Eagle Project will benefit the Brookline Community.

The Eagle Project is a final project to be completed to get the highest achievement that can be obtained in the Boy Scouts. For Robert's Eagle Project he will refurbish the flags

that fly along Brookline Boulevard, as well as building a new box to hold and store the flags while they are not in use. Also, to finish out his project Robert will landscape the flowerbeds around the cannon and the firehouse.

The pancake breakfast is being held on March seventh from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the **Church of Resurrection**, Father Quinn Hall 1100 Creedmoor Avenue. Tickets will cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 10 and under.

Robert is asking for everyone to come out to the pancake breakfast and support his Eagle Project and to help make the community a better place.

For questions concerning the pancake breakfast or to donate to Robert's Eagle Project please email Cumer4@gmail.com.

-Victoria Cumer

FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

What you may not have realized when you rang in 2010 was that you also were ringing in the 75th anniversary of Social Security. On August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. Since then, Social Security has been a cornerstone of our nation, touching the lives of almost every American at one time or another — for 75 years.

When President Roosevelt signed Social Security into law, he said, "The civilization of the past hundred years, with its startling industrial changes, has tended more and more to make life insecure. Young people have come to wonder what would be their lot when they came to old age. The man with a job has wondered how long the job would last. This law, too, represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete. It is, in short, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness."

Change and economic insecurity were regular parts of everyday life in those days, just as they are today. Social Security is our nation's most successful domestic program and has a rich history. We will be commemorating the anniversary throughout the year by showcasing milestones in Social Security's 75-year history on our website. We encourage you to learn more by visiting Social Security's History Page at www.socialsecurity.gov/history.

JOANNE'S CORNER

(Continued from page 4)

*in the early 1950s. His first office was the basement part of **Smith Realty**, a small entrance from the Blvd., between **Smith Realty** and the old **Brookline Bank**. He later relocated to the office on the Blvd. across from Creedmoor Ave.*

*P.S. I was an apprentice at **The Hensel Printing Co.** in Brookline all before this, 1937 to 1941. The cowboy, yes I remember.*

-Ernie Galko

Question of the Month: What was the name of Dale Noah's editorial column?



MJ

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MARCH AT THE LIBRARY

For Kids and Teens:

Storytimes

Baby/Toddler: Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays. For children birth through age 3 with a parent or caregiver. Thursdays, March 4 - 25 at 11:00AM.

Preschool: Stories, songs, games and the occasional craft. For children ages 3-5 with parent or caregiver. Thursdays, March 4 - 25 at 12:30PM.

Craft Club

Help craft a great community. Re-create your favorite Brookline buildings out of paper, ribbon and other decorations to be displayed in a mural at the library. Grade K-8. Younger children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Monday, March 8 at 4:00PM.

After School Movie Fun

Nothing to do after school? Come to the Library and watch a movie. We will provide the popcorn, you bring a drink. Grades K-8. Thursdays, March 11 & 25 at 3:30PM.



Pittsburgh Heroes, Pittsburgh Landmarks

We're celebrating community helpers and attractions. Join us for a reading of Jonah Winter's *Steel Town*, then create a piece of art that represents a Pittsburgh hero or Pittsburgh Landmark. Artworks will be included in a Pittsburgh Neighborhood Kids Gallery on the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh website. Grades K-5. Monday, March 15 at 4:00 PM.

Get Your Game On

Come try your skills at the **Wii**. Grades 6-12. Registration is not required. Bring your friends! Wednesday, March 10 at 3:30PM.

Teen Book Club

Monday, March 22 at 4:00PM – Reading *Savvy* by Ingrid Law. Grades 6 – 12 are welcome.



For Adults:

Explore new ideas and perspectives through fiction and non-fiction. New members are always welcome. Adults 18 and older.

Monday Evening Book Discussion March 15 at 6:00PM – Reading *The Shell Seekers* by Rosamunde Pilcher.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Discussion March 10 1:00 PM – Reading *The Tavern on Maple Street* by Sharon Owens.

Call for Volunteers

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or BeagleHQ@msn.com Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, blankets and bath towels.
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** call 412-343-8144
- **SENIOR VAN TRANSPORTATION** call 412-344-4222
- **BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call Pat Erny 412-344-8451
- **CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590

Are you unable to volunteer your time right now? You can still help many of these organizations.

Meals on Wheels accepts cash and donations of cookies, desserts and bread. Add a grocery store gift card to your shopping cart and send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry, c/o Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2038**



Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.

-Erma Bombeck

THIS MONTH

March 8

Chamber of Commerce 5:45PM at Carnegie Library
708 Brookline Blvd.

March 9

Brookline Block Watch 7:00PM at Magistrate Jim
Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

March 15

South Pittsburgh Development Corp. 7:00PM at Brook-
line Blvd. United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline
Blvd.

March 20

Spring Fling 11:00AM-2:00PM at Magistrate Jim
Motznik's office 736 Brookline Blvd. Free cookies, cof-
fee, tea and the traditional flower seeds.

March 29

Brookline Area Community Council 7:30PM at St.
Mark's Church corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm
Ave. Topic will be Pittsburgh Public Schools

BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

412-571-3222

YOUTH PROGRAM

Kinder Sports Starts October 8 and runs through May
2010. 11:00AM to Noon. Ages 2 - 5

Youth Fun Time For boys and girls. Thursdays Ages 3 -
5 at 3:30PM - 4:15PM. Ages 6 - 8 at 4:30PM - 5:30PM
Program is FREE.

Martial Arts Classes A martial arts class based espe-
cially for the 5-10 year olds in mind. Taught by our own
instructor, Joshua Kern. Specifically made to help foster
and build the martial artists of tomorrow as well as to
have a lot of fun this summer! Cost per child is \$20 per
month. Tuesdays and Thursdays, ages 5-7 at 6:00PM -
7:00 PM, ages 8-10 at 7:00PM-8:00 PM. Older brothers
and sisters can join in the fun as well!

Mr. Joe's Fitness Program Come and receive personal
in class training and nutritional info from **Joe Syzmanski**.
Ages 13 to 17

Boxing Get ready for Golden Gloves. Mon. Tues. Wed.
6:00PM to 8:45PM. Ages 7 and up. Subnovis, novis and
open divisions are trained by Mike and Carlos.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Joe's Fitness Club Come and receive personal in class
training and nutritional info from **Joe Syzmanski**. Men &
Women age 18 and over.

Body Sculpting with Pilates with **Roxanne Eibeck**, a
trained Pilates instructor. Mon. and Thurs. 6:15PM to
7:30PM \$30.00 for 10 workouts.

Yoga with **Lori Grable**, a certified yoga instructor.
Tues. 6:15PM to 7:30PM \$50 for 6 week session or \$10
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SPRING FLING MARCH 20

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At left: **Jan Beiler** and her little sister **Marilyn Robson Blahut** enjoying
the 1950 snowfall in Whitehall. Photo was taken by Jan's father **F. Neil
Robson**

FREE MEALS

Brookline Recreation Center is
serving free dinners for children 18
years of age and under from
5:30PM - 6:30PM. Snacks are
served from 3:00PM - 4:00PM.



P O Box 9610, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226 412-563-0759

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DANCING CLASSROOMS

Teaching Children to take a Bow



Mercy Behavioral Health and Pittsburgh Public Schools presented Ballroom Dancing Competition Finals 2009. This competition was held Saturday, January 9, 2010. **Brookline's West Liberty K-5 School** was one of the six schools competing. The first rounds of dances were Merengue, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango, and Swing. The second round was random choice. All of the schools were well represented, and [the students were] excellent dancers. **West Liberty** fifth grade teams were awarded with bronze medals.

-Lois McCafferty



Above: West Liberty School Team students were, from bottom row right to left: **Nicholas Loeffert, Nick Steinert, Jacob Barker, Bobby King, Joey Shullik and Michael Lacek.**



Second row from left to right: **Alanna Morrison, Taylor Bohr, JaRee Weaver, Maura Carr, Erica Anderson and Annika Fedak.**

Photos by *Lois McCafferty*

A TABLE FOR TWO AT TONG GARDEN

Photo by *HK Photo Studio*



50 WAYS TO SURVIVE WINTER SING-A-LONG



Top from left: **Mary Anne Miller, Dottie Grant, Keith Knecht, Lynne Knecht, Jan Beiler & Michael Grabowski**
Photo by *Amy Fisher*

A SNOWY BROOKLINE



At left: **Jerry Schaub**, attorney, was the winner of the March merchant ad. He requested that we use his spot for a nice photo of the winter storm. Isn't that an oxymoron!
Photos by *Jacqui Jarosz Wukich*

WHAT'S NEW ON THE BOULEVARD



At right: **Vinny's Pizza** (formerly Pizzarella) and above **Cannon Coffee**. **Vinny's Pizza** and **Cannon Coffee** will be featured in an upcoming issue. In the meantime, stop in and meet the new merchants on the Boulevard.

Photos by *HK Photo Studio*



From left: **Lynne Knecht, Keith Knecht, Jan Beiler, Bob Steele & Ron Johnson**
Photo by *Annette Ferrieri*