



Letter from the Editor

Brookline made it through 2013. Now we are looking forward to a New Year with a new Boulevard. People are taking notice of our community. We always knew we were special. Now everyone else is beginning to know it, too.

While we lost some businesses like **Beach Treats** and **Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe**, we also had merchants who made changes to their businesses. **Pitaland's** cafe is gaining a following. Even people who don't like brussels sprouts have converted after trying their roasted brussels sprouts with pomegranate glaze. **Moonlite Café** disappointed many locals when they closed their dining room. Now, they are fast becoming the weekend entertainment spot on the Boulevard.

A few months back we were telling you that our merchant list was growing short. Now we find that list growing again with new merchants like **Brookline Dance Studio**, **Piatto**, **\$1 AND UP** and **Necessities I**. There are fewer empty storefronts, and the empty storefronts are being renovated. Merchants want to come to Brookline.

With the new construction comes new responsibilities for the community. Litter continues to be a problem, and we could use more people helping to keep the Boulevard clean. In the spring we will be forming a group of residents to maintain the trees and shrubs. We already have volunteers, and we could use a few more.

There are plans for a grand celebration of the completed Boulevard reconstruction called "**Brookline Unveiled.**" It will be a two-day event scheduled for June 27 and 28 and another opportunity for you to volunteer. We will need many, many hands to make this event a success.

Another **Taste of Brookline** is in the works. This event has soldout the past two years. It's another opportunity to volunteer. **Taste of Brookline** draws people from all over the area and gives our local merchants a chance to attract new business to Brookline.

Consider making your New Year's Resolution one that helps you and Brookline. Join in and volunteer to make Brookline an even better place to live. We have much to celebrate in 2014. We worked hard to create a community of which we can be proud. And we have to continue working. Happy New Year!

*****CLASSIFIED ADS*****

Price is \$4 per month. Payment required before publication. You can submit by snail mail, phone or email. See sample ad below.

SAMPLE CLASSIFIED AD

SAMPLE of a \$4 Ad - Item for sale. Apt for rent. House for sale. Lost pet. Put your ad in The Brookline.

Snail Mail: **The Brookline**,
PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Phone: 412-343-2859 Email: mnp.grabowski@verizon.net

*****ADVERTISING RATES*****

Standard ads are a width of 3.75 inches. We charge by the height of the ad at \$12.00 per inch. This is an example of a 1-inch ad space. Remember ad graphics and artwork are free! Contact **Pamela Grabowski** 412-343-2859 or mnp.grabowski@verizon.net for more information.

We have over 1,400 readers.

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

THE BROOKLINE

The Brookline Staff

Pamela Grabowski Editor
Jan Beiler Proofreader/Advertising
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Ryan Askey Proofreader
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Melissa Distel Photographer
Rosemarie Traficante Delivery
South Hills Printing - *The Brookline's official printer*



Your \$10 annual membership in SPDC supports projects like Jacob-Whited, DogiPots and **The Brookline**. Join today.

The Brookline by email is in FULL COLOR! **The Brookline** is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$25 for non SPDC members & \$15 for members.

THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

Clint Burton has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at www.brooklineconnection.com.

DEADLINES:

January 12 for February's Issue
February 12 for March's Issue

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org or
mnp.grabowski@verizon.net
Telephone: 412-343-2859
Mail: **The Brookline**, PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

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SUSTAINING FRIENDS

We are sharing our budget figures with you this month since it is the new year. As we previously noted *larger issues are draining the bank balance*. Your donations have helped us, and we appreciate your support. Please continue to support us. We remind the merchants that we can provide a donation box and make monthly collections. Become a sustaining friend of **The Brookline**. We will thank you in the newsletter.

Donations through November 2013:

- Cannon Coffee - \$192.52
- Kribel's Bakery - \$1,340.40 
- A Boss - \$123.44
- Hideaway Mini Mart - \$188.07
- Brookline Area Community Council - \$400.00 
- Party Cake Shop - \$42.43

The following amounts have been calculated based on our November 2013 bank balance. Our costs, advertising revenue and donations are averages of what was spent in 2013. We have rounded all amounts to the nearest five.

Monthly Advertising Revenue	\$465
Monthly Donations	\$ 40
Monthly Printing Costs	(\$720)
Monthly Deficit	(\$215)

Our November bank balance was \$1,610. Divide \$1,610 by \$215, and you will get 7.49. This means if we continue to run a \$215 deficit each month, we can print until July. We will continue to exist online. We will continue to honor subscriptions, but we will not be able to print copies for general distribution.

If you have a suggestion, we want to hear from you. If you want to run an ad, we want to hear from you. We are trying to keep our monthly page count down, but there are

COMMUNITY CRIMES ZONE 6

If you don't currently receive the crime reports by email and you want to receive the emails, contact us. If you want more information on the incidents below, please contact us at 412-343-2859. Or, you can email us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net. Please put "Crime Report" in the subject line.

NOVEMBER

<u>CRIMES ZONE 6</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Brookline</u>
Aggravated Assault	4	0
Rape	2	0
Arson	2	0
Robbery	7	3
Burglary	24	6
Theft	30	9
Theft from Vehicle	8	2
Stolen Vehicle	6	2

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Brookline Christian Food Bank	412-344-8451
Carnegie Library	412-561-1003
Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak	412-255-2131
Dollar Energy/Columbia Gas Cap	412-344-4222
Meals-on-Wheels	412-343-8144
Senator Wayne Fontana	412-344-2551
Representative Erin Molchany	412-343-2094
Brookline Recreation Center	412-571-3222

articles we can't push to the following month. July 2014 **The Brookline** will be six years old. We need help if the print edition of **The Brookline** is to continue to year seven.

*There Is Never Any Reason To Settle
For Inferior Funeral Service*

Complete Traditional Funeral Packages
Including Casket Starting At \$3,995.00



*The Finest In Funeral
Service And Facilities*

Now With Expanded Parking

1065 Brookline Boulevard
412-561-0380
www.deborfuneralhome.com

Open 7 Days a Week All Year Round!





Brookline
719 Brookline Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
(412) 561-9982

"Your neighborhood Ice Cream Parlor"

www.scoopspittsburgh.com

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The construction will stop for the winter in about 1 week. The construction will resume in spring 2014. The electrical company will continue working on the electrical parts of this project during the winter. All of the work including the milling and paving will be finished late spring.

-Lois McCafferty



SENATOR WAYNE FONTANA

On Friday, December 6, the recently completed Southwestern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial was dedicated in a ceremony at the Memorial site along the North Shore in the city of Pittsburgh. The Memorial, which is located along the Allegheny River near Heinz Field, was a project more than 13 years in the making. I was proud to participate in the dedication ceremony and have the opportunity to personally thank the World War II veterans who were in attendance.

Getting this Memorial funded and built was truly a community effort and many people contributed a significant amount of time and energy towards seeing this project come to fruition. I was proud to assist with obtaining state funding towards the \$4 million Memorial and as Chairman of the Sports and Exhibition Authority was pleased to work with the World War II Veterans of Southwestern Pennsylvania Memorial Committee in providing a home for the Memorial on the North Shore. Countless others put forth tremendous efforts to turn this vision into a reality. Many corporate, philanthropic and labor organizations in the region stepped up and made significant contributions towards the Memorial as well as a large number of individual donors and contributors. The entire region should be commended for coming together for such a worthwhile and meaningful Memorial.

It was appropriate that the World War II Memorial was dedicated one day prior to the anniversary of the attacks at Pearl Harbor, which ultimately led to our country's military engagement in the war. Pearl Harbor was one of our nation's darkest hours, a time when fear and uncertainty were rampant but also served as a rallying cry, an event that bonded and cemented our resolve, stoking determination, dedication and loyalty to our country and what it stands for. Volunteers lined up to serve this country in World War II. Our military personnel, as well as families on the home front, sacrificed and pulled together, determined to do their part to help defeat the Axis powers.

The World War II Memorial conveys the region's appreciation, respect and devotion to those who served during this war. In addition to providing a proper tribute to "the Greatest Generation," this Memorial also serves as an educational opportunity for current and future generations. Children growing up in our region today know and experience a Pittsburgh that is far different from what it was in the 1940's. As the world's dominant steel producer at the time, this region not only contributed soldiers to the war effort but contributed 95 million tons of steel to Allied forces during the war, equipping our nation's soldiers with the tools, weapons, ships and planes needed to win the war. Our city and our region played an instrumental role in this country's war effort during the 1940's and this Memorial does a fantastic job illustrating that fact as well.

Congratulations to the Memorial Committee and to everyone who played a part and assisted along the way in getting this Memorial constructed. As a region, we can be proud of this Memorial, for the appreciation and honor it bestows on our World War II veterans, and the impact this region's veterans and workers had on the nation's war effort. I encourage everyone that can, to visit this Memorial, to pay respect to those who served our nation and to provide an image to our current and future generations of the level of sacrifice, commitment and dedication that our "Greatest Generation" gave to our region and our country. As we move forward, let us keep in our thoughts and prayers these men and women and all veterans who have sacrificed in the past and who are sacrificing today on behalf of their fellow citizens.



PARTY CAKE SHOP
 E-Mail: partycake1@yahoo.com • www.partycakeshop.com
 706 Brookline Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15226 412-531-5322
 297 Beverly Road Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-343-0101

SALON CANOVA
 515 Brookline Boulevard
 412-344-0779



2014
 A New Year!
 A New You!
 Call to schedule an appointment

JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSIONS AT CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

Wednesday, January 15 at 1:00PM *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachael Joyce

Monday, January 27 at 6:00PM *Christine Falls* by Benjamin Black

Carnegie Library Book Buzz At Cannon Coffee

Thursday, January 23 at 6:00PM *Black Hole* by Charles Burns



BROOKLINE RECREATION CENTER

Weight Room and Fitness Center

Our FREE state-of-the-art weight room and fitness center includes an assortment of weight-lifting and cardio workout equipment. Patrons ages 16-17 must be oriented and accompanied by a parent or guardian. Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00am-9:00pm; Tue, Thu 1:00pm-9:00pm; Sat 8:00am-4:00pm. Membership card is required. Weight Room and Fitness Center for city residents only.



Pittsburgh Boxing Club

Workouts on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00pm. All participants must supply their own hand wraps and work-out clothing. Co-ed program is affiliated with the Pittsburgh Boxing Club. If you wish to join the club for further training, the cost is \$50/year. Fee is paid to the club. Ages 8-over are welcome.



Yoga

Relax on Tuesday evenings from 6:15pm -7:30pm with our certified instructor. Program runs in six-week sessions. Cost per session: \$50. Cost is pro-rated for late enrollees. Bring your own mat!



Beginner's Walk Class

Mondays 1:15pm - come join the fun! Bring water and a towel. Be sure to wear your tennis shoes! Free!

Guitar Lessons

Join our music instructor **Jason Born** for electric and acoustic guitars lessons on Mondays 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Ages 10 and up are welcome. Cost is \$15 paid to the instructor.

Co-ed Physical Fitness

We are starting a new co-ed physical fitness class for people ages 8-21 on Wednesdays 6:00PM-7:30pm. This class will be incorporated with the boxing work out. So come and get in shape.

Call the center for more information 412-571-3222.

A-Boss Opticians, Inc.

If we can't repair them..... no one can !

938 Brookline Blvd 412-561-0811

A-Boss repairs broken eyeglasses every day... glasses others consider not repairable. Come to **A-Boss**, you'll see why so many people refer us regularly for expert repair services.



Talk to TIM
Your Brookline Realtor

Is there a New Home in your New Year?
I will be Happy to help!

Tim Reitmeyer

412-833-3600

412-343-5372

treitmeyer@howardhanna.com



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist

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.
- **DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE** call Lisa at 412-304-3086
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** sponsored by **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** call 412-343-8144
- **BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call **Pat Erny** 412-344-8451
- **CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590
- **ANGELS' PLACE** Volunteers needed at **Angels' Place, Inc.** Help us work with children, arts and crafts, organizing and more. If interested please call Stephanie at 412-531-6667. www.angelsplacepgh.org
- **OPEN YOUR HEART TO A SENIOR** Volunteers needed to assist senior citizens. Call Family Services at 412-661-1670.

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. Due to cut backs to the food stamp program, more people are depending on the food pantry. If you are able, please consider helping those who are less fortunate.**



TALENT SEARCH



The Brookline Boulevard reconstruction project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2014.

To mark the occasion, the community organizations of Brookline are planning to celebrate with a two-day event featuring, among other specialties, the artists of our neighborhood.

Everyone has a talent. Tell us yours and we will do our best to fit you into the program. Please submit the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Talent Description: (ie: painter, dancer, juggler, instrument, etc.) _____

Don't be left out! Questions: Contact Annette at 412-341-9863. Please return form to **Cannon Coffee** or **A-Boss Optical** by **1/31/2014**

NEW BROOKLINE DIRECTORY IS COMING

The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** will be hard at work publishing the **2014-2016 Business and Community Directory** to be completed in April. It's a great local directory to keep handy by the phone. This directory includes all the business on Brookline Boulevard and **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** members in the surrounding area from health services, home services, restaurants and retail stores. The directory includes their location and phone number. All Chamber members will be listed in **bold print** so you know who is supporting your community. If you wish to become a member and listed in the directory contact **Linda Boss** 412-563-0759 or <mailto:lindaboss5@aol.com>.

The directory is also a good source for Community Service Organizations, Government, Schools, Churches and City of Pittsburgh departments. This year we plan to add a Brookline Boulevard map. The directory will be free as always and passed out during the Memorial Day Parade. You will be able to pick one up at many locations starting in May.

-Linda Boss



A SAD GOOD-BYE

The New Year will see a change in Brookline that makes us both sad and happy. **Maxine Kribel Kaminski** has announced that she'll be retiring this year and that **Kribel's Bakery**, a long-time Brookline institution, is up for sale. We're happy for Maxine, who looks forward to spending time in retirement traveling with her husband and seeing more of their new granddaughter, but are sorry to see her go.

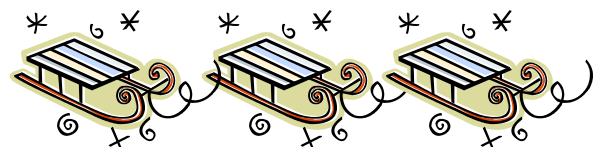
Kribel's Bakery has been in business since 1931. It moved to Brook-

line from Troy Hill in 1946 and is currently co-owned by Maxine and her brother **Jacob Kribel**. Maxine started working in the family bakery when she was 13 years old. She and the **Kribel's Bakery** have been wonderful assets to the Brookline community and we'll miss them.

-Dan Kaczmariski



With the cold weather firmly planted in our area, wouldn't it be nice to enjoy some time in a warm, cozy restaurant with good food and entertainment? Stop and check out **Getaway Café**. You will find both. We like the Cajun Chicken Penne. It has a nice kick!





COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

In Pittsburgh, December and January experience the most precipitation out of the entire calendar year--and because it's winter, that means ice and snow. Since we're now in the thick of winter weather, we're seeing Public Works crews out on the roads in snowplows and salt trucks. In fact, a former Public Works employee recently passed along some information about snowplows, and I thought his insight was worthy of sharing:

"Snow plows are unable to push snow straight ahead--the plow's blade has to be angled for the truck to be able to move. You still have the same amount of snow on your street after the plow comes through; it's just in a different place on the street, and sometimes in front of driveways. Snow plows also can't push snow onto non-public property. So when we drive plows, we have to assume that every piece of property is owned by Edgar Snyder's most bloodthirsty litigator."

"Snow plows ride on tires just like your vehicle, and they can spin and slide just like cars do. They also travel in the same traffic you do. If traffic is backed up, the plow is backed up too. Unfortunately, we have not yet invented a flight-capable snow plow."

"Snow plows aren't equipped with a 'skinny' button. If cars are parked two feet from the curb, the plow simply won't be able to get through, and your street won't get plowed."

"Please do not shovel snow from your property into the street--this inconveniences everyone, including snow plow drivers. If they have to keep coming back to clear the street of shoveled snow, they may not be able to get to the street you will be driving on later."

"Snow plows aren't precision instruments: they're big, blunt, heavy snow-pushing devices. They cannot skip over driveways and sidewalk entrances. Be kind to your snow plow drivers when they come through; they are doing the best they can maneuvering these massive machines."

Currently in the City of Pittsburgh, Public Works crews approach the streets according to a primary-secondary-tertiary plan, where busier streets that more people use get attention first. Look up your street's designation on a Public Works salt route map at <http://bit.ly/18kigLV>, or call my office at 412-255-2131. The top priority is for major roadways to be clear for hospitals, schools, fire, and police stations. Secondary routes are residential areas, and tertiary routes are streets and alleyways that have little traffic on a regular basis. With so many roads in the City (over 1,000 miles), this means that we must be patient for smaller side streets or alleys to be plowed or salted. Public Works requests that if you'd like to report a street in need of attention, please wait 24 hours after the snowfall has ended to call 311.


Meanwhile, we residents have a responsibility to keep our sidewalks clear. According to City Code 419.03, tenants, occupants, or property owners have the responsibility to clear their sidewalks of snow or ice accumulation within 24 hours after snowfall. And along Brookline Boulevard, we have been asked not to use salt on the new, freshly poured sidewalks this winter or next winter. It's recommended to use a non-chloride-based product, because salt can be chemically damaging to the surface of the sidewalk.

The 2014 Farmers' Almanac winter map placed our region right on the border between "bitterly cold, snow filled" and "cold, wet, white." So with snow continuing to be in the forecast, let's bundle up, lend a hand to elderly friends and neighbors, and thank our Public Works crews out there on the icy roads.

CLASSIFIED ADS


Pro-Style Foosball Table
Great condition. No reasonable offer refused. Call 412-849-6138.

**THE BROOKLINE
HOLIDAY CONTEST
WINNER WAS
DIANE KWASNIEWSKI**



Master Daniel P. Camarco
968 Brookline Blvd. (behind The Cannon)
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-343-2900
threeriversmartialarts@ymail.com
[facebook.com/threeriversmartialarts](https://www.facebook.com/threeriversmartialarts)
www.3riversma.com

Children's Karate: 6:00 -7:00PM Monday through Thursday
Adult Karate: 7:15 - 8:30PM Tuesday and Thursday
Kickboxing-Exercise Class: 7:15 - 8:15PM Monday and Wednesday



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
JANUARY 20



What's Going on at Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5?

Happy New Year to all! We hope you are enjoying these last few days of the holidays. We have been busy working at **West Liberty**, both the staff and the students. Our teachers are currently participating in a book study lead by **Mrs. Arrington** (Principal). The book being reviewed by the teachers and staff concerns how to raise student engagement in the classroom. The teachers will be practicing new techniques learned from the book and deciding how to incorporate them to better enhance their teaching practices. While the teachers are busy working on enhancing their practices, our students are making us proud.


Last month it was announced that **Pittsburgh West Liberty** was in first place in the essay competition entitled "Why Police are Important." We had a great response to the competition, and six of our students won bicycles including: **Peighton White, Ashlyn Bushmen, Jennifer Lippold, Evan Carter, Danielle Swearinger** and **Maura Lenker**. Keep up the great work! We're very proud of you.

In addition to our news of the essay winner, we are very excited to share our status concerning the First in Math program. With a comparison of the entire **Pittsburgh Public School District**, our school has placed first for fluency. We currently have a trophy that will be travelling throughout the district. We are proud to provide it a home for now.

A new addition to our article comes from our third grade literacy teacher, **Mrs. Jody Smith**. **Mrs. Smith** will be sharing some of the writings of our students for a book which the students chose. Our first Book Talk of the month is by **Michele Defide** (photo at right). The book called Jacksons Contraptions is funny in so many ways. The first funny part is when the mom goes food shopping for the first time. Then Jackson, the son, makes a contraption where he sticks straws up his nose. This is funny because the shop owner was mad at him because he used the straws to smell the food. You should read this book.

In closing, we hope you are keeping warm during these cold months and have a wonderful new year. Next month we will be featuring our students who made honor roll for the second report period. Until then, remember that **Pittsburgh West Liberty** is the place "Where Learners Excel and Character Counts."

*-Deonne Arrington, Principal
-Teresa Grusong-Adams, First grade teacher*

**Pawsburgh
Photography**
www.pawsburgh.com
info@pawsburgh.com
412-573-9424
Amy Fisher, Visual Artist



**WHY SHOP BROOKLINE?
SHOPPERS, BE AWARE OF THE
IMPACT OF YOUR SPENDING
DOLLARS.**

Shopping at your locally owned independent business brings back more dollars to the community. Local independent businesses and the Chamber of Commerce support your baseball, football and other sport leagues, churches, Halloween Parade, Breeze Run, and school programs. The Brookline businesses add to the character of Brookline, contributing more than just goods and services. They offer personalized attention and bring life to the Boulevard. Each time you choose to spend your dollars at a local business you are saying "Yes" for the continued strength and vitality of our community.

**OVER 100
YEARS
QUALITY
SERVICE** PA Reg. #PA009345
HP #3599

Plumbing
Heating
Air Conditioning
Water Heaters
Sewer & Drain Cleaning
Gas, Water & Sewer Lines
Emergency Service Available
Residential & Commercial
Fully Insured
Free Estimates



BROOKLINE PLUMBER
412-531-0183
613 Brookline Blvd., Pittsburgh

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MONTH

January 13 Monday

Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00PM at Carnegie Library
708 Brookline Blvd.

January 14 Tuesday

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

January 20 Monday

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



SNOW ANGELS

As you may know, Snow Angels will be transitioning to The United Way of Allegheny County's Open Your Heart to a

Senior (<http://openyourhearttoasenior.org>) initiative this year, which matches volunteers for all of Allegheny County to provide snow shoveling (not just the City of Pittsburgh). Open Your Heart to a Senior is an initiative to recruit volunteers to fulfill many neighborly services for seniors, including snow shoveling.

We hope that you will choose to continue volunteering to support your neighbors this winter and we strongly encourage you to get involved with Open Your Heart to a Senior as a way to continue your important service.

-servePGH Team

[Contact information for Open Your Heart to a Senior is Lindsey Blocki at 412-661-1670 x619 or blockil@fswp.org]



CVS accepts food donations for Brookline Christian Food Pantry. With the cut backs to food stamps there are more people in need of assistance.



OPEN MIC SERIES

Cannon Coffee 802 Brookline Blvd.
Wednesdays 7:00PM to 10:00PM



The Heritage Players announce auditions for Noel Coward's comedy, "Hay Fever," on January 19 at 7:00 PM at the **Seton Center**, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Brookline and on January 20 at 7:00 PM at the **Schoolhouse Arts Center**, 2600 South Park Road, Bethel Park (old trolley parked in front). Seeking a cast of four males and five females, ages 19 to 50.

There will be cold readings from the script. Performance dates are March 21-23 and 28-30. The setting is the home of the eccentric, witty, bantering Bliss family, each of whose members invite their unsuspecting guests to spend the weekend with hilarious results. For more information visit www.heritageplayers.org or phone 412-254-4633.



At right: **Alterations By Rina's** Christmas windows.

WHAT'S NEW IN BROOKLINE



\$1 AND UP has opened at 744 Brookline Boulevard. For older Brookliners we have one word - Autenreith's. The store is clean and well-stocked and the staff is friendly.



Brookline Dance Studio is now at the corner of Brookline Boulevard and Queensboro.



Kelly's Collections Boutique has a new look and is expanding to the empty storefront next door. If you haven't stopped here yet, you really should.



SUNDAY TRASH WALK/TRASH TALK

Join us on Sunday to clean the Boulevard. We usually arrive at Cannon Coffee around 2:00PM, but don't wait for us. Bring your own bags, gloves and pickers. If no one shows, pick up on your own.

11/3 12 supermarket size bags of trash from the Boulevard from Pioneer to Queensboro and 10 cents



ADOPT-A-BLOCK

Remember safety first!

- Make sure you wear gloves.
- Don't lose sight of your hand. That means don't reach into bushes. You don't know what's there. Keep in touch with us. Give us your weekly bag count. We will be waiting to hear which block you are adopting, so email us at mnp.grabowski@verizon.net and put Adopt-A-Block in the subject line, call us at 412-343-2859 or write to us at **The Brookline**, P.O. Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

ADOPTED BLOCKS

Bellaire Ave. bet. Whited & Edgebrook - Jennifer Grab

Gallion Ave. - Lisa Wilson

Brookline Blvd. bet. Merrick & Starkamp - Patty & Dan Kaczmariski

Rossmore Ave. bet. Flatbush & Wedgemere - Mary Jo O'Toole

Norwich Ave. - Michael & Pamela Grabowski

900 Woodbourne Ave. - Diane Walkowski & Mary Anne Miller

11/4 Mary Anne: 900 Woodbourne & Harex Way (upper section) - 1/4 bag of trash, 2 beer bottles, 3 beer cans & 2 water bottles

11/21 Mary Anne: 900 block of Woodbourne and portion of Harex Way - 1/2 kitchen bag of trash.

11/24 Diane: I went around yesterday, dang it was cold! Picked up about a 1/4 kitchen bag full of trash, one full blue bag of recyclables & a broken resin chair.

600 Mayville - Peg Sherwood & Mac

500 Berkshire - Sarah McCalla

900 to 1100 Berkshire - Fred & Linda Smith Family

Area bordered by Berwin, Birtley, Pioneer & Beaufort - Neal & Stewart Families

Plainview Ave. from Jillson to Capital - Jim Sheppard

Merrick Ave. bet Eben St. & Brookline Blvd. - Eileen Papale

800 Fordham Ave. - Erika Hough

Eathan Ave. - Jody Krieger

Lynnbrook bet. Marloff & dead end - Matt & Joey Pilewski

Brookline Blvd. from the 1500 block to Breining - The Baldinger Family

700 Woodbourne - Mary Zottoli

Corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm - Parishoners of St. Mark

Whited - Betty Lauda

Waddington, Kenilworth & Pioneer bet. - Kim Sabol

Bellaire Ave. bet Pioneer Ave. & Whited - Denise Robinson

Rossmore at Flatbush & Glenarm & Oletha Alley bet. Flatbush & Glenarm - Zachary & Sarah Zelazny

Eben St. - Kutschbach Family, Smooches to Pooches



Kribel's Bakery Inc.

Specializing in
Cakes
for All Occasions



Brookline 412-531-1942 Open 7 Days
Pleasant Hills 412-653-1717



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

Sponsor of:

Kennywood Picnic Halloween Parade
Christmas Lighting Flag Program
Little League Team

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News From Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8



Miss Stacey Dodd helps Bill, Lisa, Casper and Keller Krowinski create ornaments out of clay at our first family art night.

Photo by Amy Cornelius Dembosky

Even the extra-cold December temperatures couldn't dampen the spirits of our students and staff at **Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8**! One of our first events was an evening clay ornament workshop for families led by our wonderful art teacher **Miss Stacey Dodd**. Families rolled, cut, and decorated their ornaments and Miss Dodd fired them in the kiln. They will be dazzling many homes in Brookline for years to come.

Some of our fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students organized a food drive for the **Brookline Food Pantry**. They collected money, too, so that the pantry can buy items that are needed. The winning class earned a pizza party. Thanks to those students for their efforts and to everyone who so generously donated!

Many of our middle school students earned a trip to the Consol Energy Center to watch the Pittsburgh Penguins practice. Students who had no office referrals, detentions, or lunch detentions got to go see our hometown team work out on the ice.

The Salt Works Theater Company came to perform a play for third, fourth, and fifth graders. The play was part of our Bobcats Against Bullying campaign. It focused on bullying prevention and ways to stand up to a bully.

First grade students who had Promise-Ready behavior were treated to a Polar Express experience. They watched the movie, had snacks and hot chocolate and were able to bring a special stuffed animal from home to share the celebration.

Our holiday concert was held December 18. Our magnificent musicians performed three times that day under the direction of our fabulous music teacher **Mr. William McCafferty**. We also had a visual art exhibition coordinated by Miss Dodd. Thank you to these teachers for their dedication and commitment.

We would also like to say a special thank you to **Mr. Jimi Molinaro** and **Ms. Peg Silvaggio** for giving up their free time for tutoring. The hard work put forth by all of our teachers is very much appreciated. Look for more updates about our awesome staff in future issues of **The Brookline**!

Finally, our students will be participating in a new fundraiser in early 2014. It's going to be a Read-a-Thon! Please support our students if you can. Every little bit helps! Happy New Year!

-Amy Cornelius Dembosky and Patty Gardner

A MAKE-OVER FOR MOONLITE CAFÉ



The Boulevard construction along with the poor economy was the final straw for **Moonlite Café's** dining room. Now **Louie** and **Toni DeFelice** are making **Moonlite Café** a bar/dining/entertainment venue in the European style.

The Our Brookline site (www.ourbrookline.com) featured a comment on the need for a clean, smoke-free bar on the Boulevard. **Moonlite Café** has the smoke-free plus great food, and now Toni is working on the entertainment. Every Friday and Saturday there's a DJ or a band. Josh Hallmark has been performing the DJ function on Fridays. Saturdays bands have played oldies, country and pop. **Mike Scheer Band** played rhythm & blues one weekend, and Toni said the crowd ranged in ages from 25 to 60.

The music starts around 9:00PM and goes until 1:00AM. Food is available until midnight. The Saturday I stopped by **Moonlite Café** was hosting a birthday party. You can reserve the back room for your personal event at 7:00PM. You can order a buffet from the menu, and they will also accept special requests. At 9:00PM the back room opens to the public. While your group and the food will be cordoned off from the public, you get the evening's entertainment at no extra charge. Of course, for larger groups (30 people minimum) the banquet facility is still available.

Like any make-over, **Moonlite Café** is a work in progress. Toni and Louie are tweaking things as they go along. For instance, they are redoing the menu. You can check out their Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/moonlitelcafe>) to see the daily specials. The night I stopped the place was packed with people enjoying the food and the music. It may not be the old **Moonlite Café**, but we are not the old Brookline. Toni and Louie are working to stay in Brookline. They need you to stop by on the weekend and try the new **Moonlite Café**, and tell your friends.

-Pamela Grabowski



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A COLA

Many people ring in the new year with Champagne. People who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) get to ring it in with a COLA. This year, more than 60 million Americans are receiving a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) in their monthly benefit payment.

The 1.5 percent COLA begins with increased benefits for more than 57 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2014, and payments to more than 8 million SSI recipients in late December 2013.

The estimated average monthly Social Security payment to a retired worker is \$1,294 (in 2014), up from \$1,275 (in 2013). The average monthly Social Security disability payment for an individual is \$1,148 (in 2014), up from \$1,131 (in 2013).

The basic monthly federal payment for SSI is \$721 (in 2014), up from \$710 (in 2013).

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$117,000, up from \$113,700. Of the estimated 165 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2014, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

The amount of earnings needed for one credit of Social Security coverage has gone up as well, but all workers can still earn up to four credits in a year. In 2014, a worker earns a credit after earning \$1,200. In 2013, one credit of coverage was \$1,160. It takes forty credits to be fully insured for retirement benefits.

Information about Medicare changes for 2014 is available at www.medicare.gov.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice to learn more about the COLA and other Social Security changes in 2014.

From everyone at Social Security, have a Happy New Year.

-Patricia Thibault
Social Security District Manager