

The Homepage

Serving the communities of

Greater Hazelwood • Greenfield • 31st Ward • New Homestead • The Run



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May 2021

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: History and Celebrating

By Gerri Tipton

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a month-long celebration beginning May 1st. During this time, we learn about Asian and Pacific Islander history, cultural influence, achievements and contributions they've had in the United States. It first originated when Representative Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540. This was to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage week.

It wasn't long after that when Senator Daniel Inouye introduced something similar called the Senate Joint Resolution 72 (www.asianpacificheritage.gov). But when neither resolution passed, Rep. Horton introduced a new resolution, the House Joint Resolution 1007. This proposed that the president should proclaim a new



Source: asianpacificheritage.gov

week that would include the 7th and the 10th of the month. This was approved and signed by President Jimmy Carter. As time went on, oncoming presidents have passed annual proclamations for Asian Pacific Heritage Week until 1990. It wasn't until 1992

when Congress passed Public Law to expand the observance from a week to a month. May was chosen as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to "commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843."

Last month, Hazelwood Local hosted a virtual open mic night where people showcased their talent in a form of expression. One woman that stood out to me was Samantha Park, an Asian woman who currently lives in New York. During her section of the open mic night, she recited two poems, one of which talked about the shooting of Asian Americans in an Atlanta mall. "After catching news about the Atlanta shootings, the first emotions I felt were fear and heavy loss. In my poem, I began writing about the current events, but it intuitively led to reflection upon my own experiences," said Park.

Even though Park is grateful that none of her personal experiences have been dangerous, she knows that

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Hazelwood Meals on Wheels Celebrates Serving the Community for 50 Years

By Kristina DiPietro

In the Spring of 1971, a group of neighborhood clergy working with the Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania formed our community Meals on Wheels Program. The clergy recognized the need for homebound elderly residents to have nutritious home delivered meals. The Meals on Wheels Program was a national program. Under the auspices of the Lutheran Service Society, a neighborhood board was established, and a part time cook was hired. Collaboration was the key to get this program started and collaboration continues today. The program's workforce was a group of community volunteers assisting the cook in the kitchen, packing the hot meals and bagged lunches, and delivering them to eligible elderly residents. During the '80s, 6th - 8th grade students from St. Stephen's School volunteered to deliver meals, and our clients enjoyed the young people's enthusiasm.

Not much has changed over these fifty years. We still depend on a part time cook and a local board of di-



Meals on Wheels volunteers ready to depart from The Spartan Center on special "lunch with a neighbor" companionship visits with homebound and senior individuals in January 2020.

rectors serve. The heartbeat of the program is the dedicated volunteers working in the kitchen and delivering the meals. The organization has experienced many challenges. In 2015, The Lutheran Service Society withdrew from our program. This created an enormous challenge. Fundraising was key to keeping this service for the most vulnerable of our community. How would we continue? How would

we be able to maintain our invaluable volunteers? This service of providing nutritious food for our needy elderly could not be abandoned!

With the assistance of the Hazelwood Initiative, we reached out to Fishes & Loaves Cooperative Ministries to adopt our Meals on Wheels Program. This was the savior of the program. Since August 2015, the Hazelwood-Greenfield Meals on Wheels

Program has been thriving under the steady and strong direction of Fishes & Loaves Cooperative Ministries operating out of the Spartan Center. I must note, through these many challenges, I say with great pride, we have never missed serving our most vulnerable neighbors. A true accomplishment!

Without volunteers our program would not be able to do its job of serving our neighbors. Currently, we have over 30 volunteers providing preparation of meals in the kitchen, delivering of meals throughout the greater Hazelwood and Greenfield communities and our Fishes & Loaves Board of Directors. We also could not survive without generous and committed donors, and foundations providing the necessary funds.

On a personal note, I would like to share with you why we—my husband, Carl and I—came to volunteer. In 2002, Carl was newly retired, and I took an early retirement. Sitting out on our backyard deck, we thought

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Greenfield · Hazelwood · Lincoln Place · Hays · New Homestead

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The Homepage encourages all residents of Hazelwood, Greenfield, Glen Hazel, Glenwood, Hays, New Homestead, and Lincoln Place, along with those who have an interest in these communities, to use this paper as a platform to promote resources, events, services, and community initiatives to further connect and strengthen their neighborhoods.

The Homepage reserves the right to decide what content is appropriate for publication and may edit submissions for length or form. The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper, the Hazelwood Initiative, Inc., the Greenfield Community Association, nor the 31st Ward Community Action Group.

Email your letters to:
 editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org



Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Hazelwood Initiative, as a community based development corporation, is to build a stronger Hazelwood through inclusive community development.

A Message from Hazelwood Initiative

It is with great pain that we find ourselves again forced to acknowledge how the legacy of white supremacy in this country denies people of color their humanity, silences their voices, and leads to their deaths. As a country, we must all take a stand against racism. As a community, we must all stand up in defense of our neighbors.

Hazelwood Initiative stands in solidarity with our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members today, as we continue to do with our Black community members, in calling for an end to all forms of racial violence and hate. People of many different races and ethnicities have contributed to the history, culture, and wealth of this country to make it the wonderfully diverse place that it is.

WE ALL BELONG HERE.

Please take the time to study the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this country and their contributions to our shared national history. Advocate for that history to be taught in our children’s classrooms. Donate your time and money to groups led by people of color that are helping the victims and fighting for a more just world. And stand up when you see someone making inappropriate comments or hurting someone.

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.

We have made a donation to StopAAPIHate.org, one of the leading national organizations working on this issue. They have an excellent resources page that we encourage you to visit: stopaapihate.org/resources. Local Pittsburgh groups to reach out to include www.facebook.com/ocapghpa and www.facebook.com/apalapgh.

Submit to the Homepage

Send your Father's Day tributes to the Homepage! This is a community paper, so let's see you in it! Email up to two pictures of your dad with a short message (50 words or less) to editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org by May 15th for them to appear in our June edition.

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*Physically and/or mentally disabled, Developmentally disabled, Persons recovering from domestic abuse (physical abuse), Persons recovering from domestic abuse (emotional abuse), Persons recovering from chemical dependency, Persons with HIV/AIDS

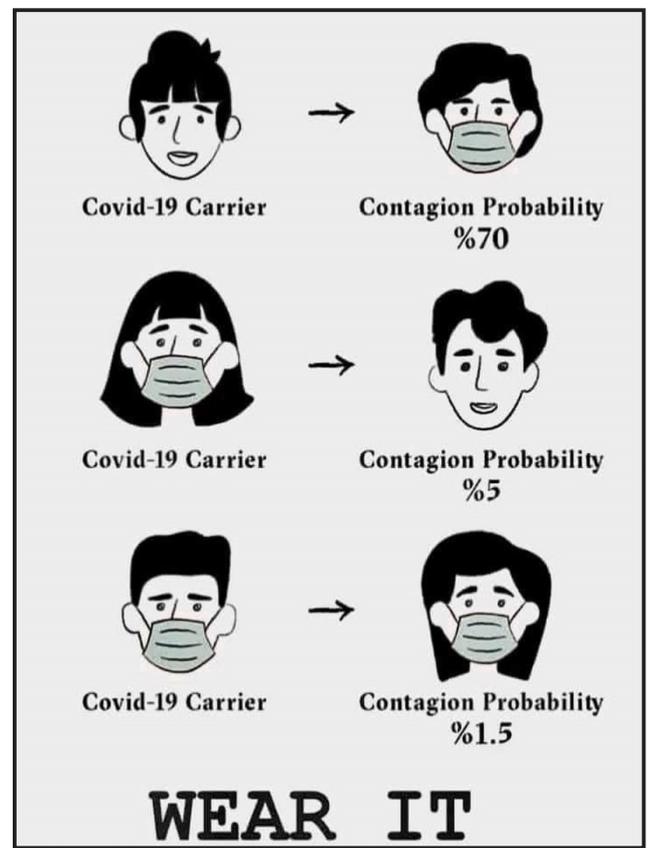
Contact Us For More Information

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☎ 412-421-7234 x 407	☎ 412-421-7234 x 404
✉ DBrewton@hazelwoodinitiative.org	✉ JKim@hazelwoodinitiative.org

📍 4901 2nd Ave. Fl.2, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

COVID-19: Greater Hazelwood Food Distribution

Center of Life	Delivering prepared meals Monday – Friday from 11am – 1pm 412-521-3468
Community Delivery Hotline	Grocery delivery 412-568-3579
Fishes and Loaves	Prepared meals available for pick-up Monday - Friday from 11:30am – 1pm Meals-on-Wheels also available for meal deliveries 131 E Elizabeth – St. Stephens Pastoral Center 412-499-4313
Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran	Fresh and non-perishable food offered for free everyday 412-521-0844 / 5319 Second Ave (Opens 9:30am)
POORLAW	For Glen Hazel residents - poorlaw@gmail.com 412-670-8421 or 412-478-8299
Praise Temple Deliverance Church	For Glenwood residents 5400 Glenwood Ave 412-277-0113



Hotlines, Alerts, & General Information

Allegheny County Health Dept.
24/7 hotline:
888-856-2774

Center of Life
Covid-19 Online Resource Guide
centeroflifeonline.net/covid

Phone Alerts:
www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts

Hazelwood Initiative Community Updates
facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative

General Information & Assistance:
Call 2-1-1
OR text your zip code to 898-211
OR visit PA211sw.org

Praise Temple Community Hotline
*Answering M-F, 10am-2pm
Messages returned next day
412-422-1983

Church of the Good Shepherd
124 Johnston Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-8497
hazelwoodgoodshepherd@gmail.com
www.hazelwoodgoodshepherd.org

Houses of Worship

Mary S. Brown-Ames United Methodist Church
*During construction of new building -
Temporarily meeting at:
515 West 8th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120
412-421-4431
info@brightredfence.org
www.brightredfence.org

First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh
221 Johnston Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-0279

Holy Angels Parish
408 Baldwin Road
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-461-6906
www.holyangelshays.org

Keystone Church of Hazelwood
161 Hazelwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-3468

Morningstar Baptist Church
5524 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-6269

Praise Temple Deliverance Church
5400 Glenwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-277-0113

Squirrel Hill Christian Church
290 Bigelow Street
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-2447
www.squirrelhillcc.wixsite.com

Steel City Church
290 Bigelow Street
Pittsburgh, 15207
803-422-5855
info@thesteelcitychurch.com
www.thesteelcitychurch.com

St. John the Evangelist Baptist
4537 Chatsworth Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-0994
info@stjohnpgh.org
www.stjohnpgh.org

Fountain of Life Church
247 Johnston Ave
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-422-8794
www.fountainoflifepgh.com

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel
5319 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-0844
www.holycrosspgh.info

St. Rosalia's Catholic Church
411 Greenfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-5766
strosaliaparish@gmail.com
www.strosaliaparish.org

St. Stephen Catholic Church
5115 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-9210
saintstephen@verizon.net
www.ststephen-hazelwood.org

Warriors of Holiness in Power (W.H.I.P. Ministries)
1174 Mifflin Road
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-461-5572
whipwarriors@gmail.com
www.whipministries.org

**“Just For Today”
Nar-Anon Family Group Meeting**



Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
First Hungarian Reformed Church – Calvin Hall
221 Johnston Avenue
Contact Cindy at 412 421 7076

If you have a loved one, family member or friend that suffers from the disease of addiction, these meetings are for you.

Local Announcements

Happy Mother's Day to my wife, Lizann! And a Happy 39th Wedding Anniversary!



I am so extremely proud of my daughter, Shelby Nelson! She graduated from grade school! And stayed on honor roll all 8 years! Congratulations, baby!



I am so proud of you Madelyne, graduating Serra Catholic! I can't wait to see your next journey for college. Love, Mom



I am a very proud mother of an honors student by the name of Christian Medeiros who's graduating Taylor Allderdice on June 13th. He has scholarships to attend Robert Morris in the fall. I am very blessed to have such a wonderful son, and I love him so much.



Congratulations Talia Johnson on graduating from Pittsburgh Obama. We love you! Mom & Dad.



I am so proud of my baby girl! Erin Park graduates from Taylor Allderdice, and graduated army boot camp last summer! Congratulations, honey!



New Non-Profit Launches to Advance Economic Justice: Introducing Catapult Greater Pittsburgh (CGP)

By Catapult Staff

Catapult Greater Pittsburgh (CGP) has launched to provide economic justice through personal growth opportunities, peer-to-peer support, wealth building, trauma informed financial literacy and policy advocacy. CGP—formerly Circles Greater Pittsburgh—is led by Executive Director and Founder, Tammy Thompson; a Poverty Expert and Creator of The Psychology of Poverty.

Thompson says the new organization is designed to cater to specific community needs. “The program offerings will be more robust and better suited to the primarily Black clientele currently being served. The change will allow for the organization to move from a chapter of a national model into an independent and scalable non-profit organization.” She added, “the Black and Latinx populations continue to be disproportionately represented in the population living below the poverty line. Catapult Greater Pittsburgh will ensure systematically disenfranchised communities can meaningfully achieve economic justice and lead dignified and equitable lives. We are highly focused on providing economic justice opportunities for individuals who seek generational stability.”

Experiencing poverty is not unique, but overcoming it and becoming a foremost expert is a rare outcome. Facing many of the common barriers of systemic racism, Thompson's path was paved with homelessness, food insecurity, job loss and countless other obstacles. She used her pain to turn her experiences into a story of triumph and has dedicated her life to empower and equip individuals and families to get out of poverty. She added that the organization does not want to see families devastated by temporary financial struggles.

“At Catapult, we do not want to see any individual or family lose their footing based on a temporary financial crisis. We are here to support the needs of those suffering through food insecurity, housing insecurity, benefit management, immediate cash flow issues and mental health needs,” Thompson said. The work of Catapult Greater Pittsburgh is broken into 5 areas of concentration: emergency support, peer-to-peer support, wealth building, trauma informed financial literacy and policy advocacy.



Credit: Catapult Greater Pittsburgh

Catapult Peer to Peer Connection uses a robust curriculum to help individuals recognize and heal from the trauma of long-term exposure to poverty, create plans for future financial security, expand their social capital and develop lasting relationships for support and to realize long term stability.

Catapult Asset Building: At Catapult, we support wealth building through paths to home ownership and entrepreneurialism. Building generational wealth is an important element in sustainable economic justice.

Catapult DOOR (Developing Ownership Opportunities for Residents) provides a comprehensive plan to make the dream of first-time home ownership a reality. DOOR addresses the specific needs and challenges a prospective buyer may encounter, while supporting the buyer every step of the way. Catapult encourages home ownership as a means to empower individuals towards growing family assets.

Catapult KEY (Keeping Equity Yours) equips homeowners to maintain their property and build upon their financial fortitude. Homeowners attend seminars on achieving good credit, appropriate budgeting and saving programs. They will learn basic maintenance, how to avoid predatory lending, and how to do estate planning. KEY strives to provide homeowners with tangible skills and tools to maintain and sustain responsible homeownership.

Catapult Trauma Informed Financial Literacy is a strong foundation of personal financial knowledge and planning. We will provide workshops, one-on-one guidance and materials to keep our community members financially informed

and empowered. We address generational poverty through a trauma informed approach which is unique to the Catapult model.

In addition, Catapult offers:

Catapult Startup to Storefront: A 12-month business incubation strategy for minority and women entrepreneurs who want to start a business, and existing businesses that want to grow. The Gallery on Penn is the first storefront space where each participant has access to selling and developing their product in the community. Each business graduates the program with a working business plan.

Catapult for Change works to improve local and state policies and practices that are working against economic justice and the best interest of the community.

“We understand that it is going to take us working with one individual at a time to pursue economic justice, and that it has to be done with

compassion, flexibility, innovation and dignity, to create the desperately needed opportunities for personal growth in our communities.” –Tammy Thompson

About Tammy Thompson

In the United States, more women than men live in poverty. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, of the 38.1 million people living in poverty in 2018, 56 percent—or 21.4 million—were women. Tammy Thompson’s own life once emulated those statistics. Her personal journey was paved with unfortunate occurrences, homelessness, loss and countless obstacles—a story so many women unfortunately can relate too. However, she used her pain to turn it into a story of triumph with “One Can of Carrots” her signature talk, life-altering workshop and curriculum rooted in her expertise of what she has entitled, The Psychology of Poverty. The Psychology of Poverty training gives participants an opportunity to shift their perspectives and recreate how they’ve been impacted by the psychological implications of poverty—it provides an avenue to re-route their relationship with money. As she says, “Poverty is not just about NOT HAVING MONEY.”

For more information about Catapult Greater Pittsburgh, visit their website Catapultpittsburgh.org and follow Catapult Greater Pittsburgh on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Media Contacts:
Marla Werner (412) 656-7736
Orlana Darkins Drewery (412) 608-9643

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31ST WARD WIRE

Lincoln Place • Gates Manor
Hays • New Homestead



Our Mission:

The 31st Ward Community Action Group was established to bring the residents of our community together, advocate for the neighborhoods' needs, and to support the youth, veterans, and senior citizens of the 31st Ward and surrounding areas.

31st Ward Churches



Holy Angels Parish
408 Baldwin Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-461-6906
www.holyangelshays.org

Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene
5604 Interboro Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-462-2524
www.ipnaz.org

Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church
1202 Muldowney Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-461-3377

Mt. Rise Baptist Church
80 Ingot Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15120
412-462-8333

Maoz Tzur - Rock of Ages Messianic Jewish Congregation at Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene
5604 Interboro Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-609-1117

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Cathedral
210 Greentree Road
Munhall, PA 15120
412-461-0944

Warriors of Holiness in Power (W.H.I.P. Ministries)
1174 Mifflin Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-461-5571

31st Ward CAG Corner

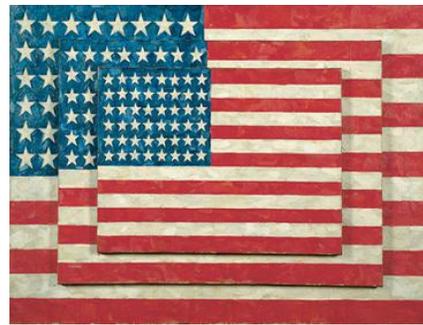
Join us for community planning and events, discussion of current concerns and goals, as well as updates from Zone 4 Police, the Office of Councilman O'Connor, and the Mayor's Office

Lincoln Presbyterian Church,
1202 Muldowney Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Monthly meetings every 2nd Tuesday at 7 PM
Social Hall of LP Presbyterian Church.
Enter on Cooley Way

Contact us:

Email: executiveboard@31WardCag.org Website: 31stwardcag.org Find us on Facebook!



31st Ward Flag Fund

Your donation will help our volunteers to install and maintain American flags that line the streets of the 31st Ward.

Please make checks payable to the **31st Ward Community Action Group** and mail to 944 Sunflow St, Munhall, PA 15120. Include a return mailing address if you would like a receipt of your donation.

Send a donation via Venmo to @Pgh31stWardCAG
www.venmo.com/Pgh31stWardCAG



CATHERINE ECKERT POST NO. 5321
5132 Interboro Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15207

Residents of the 31st Ward, Due to the current situation with the Covid Virus, and the ever changing rules and regulations it is with deep sorrow that we have decided to cancel the Veterans Of Foreign Wars Memorial Day Parade in Lincoln Place. We do plan to have a short Memorial Service at the Mifflin School Monument starting at 12:00 o'clock. Wreaths will be presented followed by a prayer. Anyone wishing to present a wreath is welcome to do so. We are sorry we had to do this again and will look forward to a better next year.

Contact Person

Jim Takacs
412-464-1917

Holy Angels Parish

Tuesday - 8:00 AM
Thursday - 8:00 AM
Friday - 8:00 AM
Saturday - 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil - 6:00 AM
Sunday - 9:30 AM
Confession: Saturdays after 8am 'til 9am

Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 AM
Monday - NA's 7:00 PM
Tuesday - Senior Lunch & more 12:00-2:00 PM
For more info call: 412-461-3377

Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene

Sunday School (all ages) - 9:30 AM
Children's Church - 10:30 AM
Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Evening Service - 6:30 PM

Monthly food pantry - 3rd Saturday (8:30 AM)
at Lincoln Place Presbyterian

Need a ride to church?
Call Darrel at 412-461-6742

The Lincoln Place World War II Memorial

By Edward Salaj

The Lincoln Place World War II memorial was constructed in 1942 in time for the Fourth of July. The World War I memorial was located in the Mifflin School, according to accounts of May 1946. The World War II Memorial was located at the corner of Mifflin Road and Beggs Street on a 25-foot square plot of ground donated by Pete Keller, neighborhood shoemaker. The first community Fourth of July celebration to be staged at Lincoln Place was in 1942 and sponsored by the 31st Ward Patriotic Organization. Mr. John Jones of Lincoln Place, World War I veteran, was the master of ceremonies. A large parade traveled through Lincoln Place ending at the memorial site where a service flag was dedicated. Lincoln Place selectees/draftees were also honored and given pencils and other

gifts by the Patriotic Organization. A program of speeches, blessings and music was rendered.

In October 1945, a group was formed to secure a plot of ground in Lincoln Place for the Honor Roll. The site where the Honor Roll now stands has been sold. Also in October of 1945, a second group—the Lincoln Place Memorial Committee—were meeting to plan to purchase a plot of ground behind Mifflin School on which they will build a Memorial House. Those attending were Ralph Jack, Robert Finlayson, John Ross, Edwin Powell, Earl Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hayden, Harvey Morgan, Ray McCarty, William Paris, Thomas Hewitt, and George Halt.

In November 1945, the Lincoln Place Memorial Committee, also called the Patriotic Organization, purchased ground on Elwell Street, 75 by 300 feet, for the memorial

house. A membership of 705 was claimed. Returning veterans began planning for a veterans VFW organization. Involved were Francis A. Bruce, Stuart Obringer, John Weiss, Claude, Russel Davison, Frances Rogers, Corrie Stuedler and James Gunther. Every returned veteran who served outside the United States was urged to secure application blanks from these men so the post may be successful in securing a charter.

The World War II Memorial was

moved to the Duquesne Light Tower sometime before 1950. In November 1950, a heavy snow fell and photos were taken, and the now-new and expanded memorial can be seen even over deep snow. The Memorial House that was to be built on Elwell Street was never built. That property is now a playground owned by the City of Pittsburgh. The World War II Memorial has been missing for years. Any information to its whereabouts, please notify 31st Ward Action Group.

COVID VACCINATIONS AT THE SPARTAN CENTER:

Friday, May 14th, 9am – noon

Friday, May 21st, 9am – noon

Call the Hazelwood Family Health Center

M-F, 9am – 4:30pm

at (412) 422-9520 to make an appointment.



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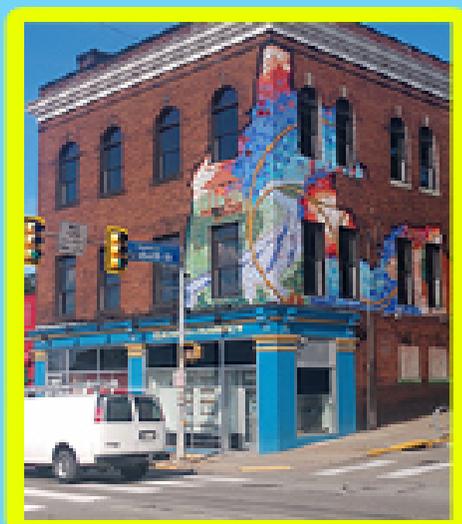
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What's Happening in Hazelwood



Family Hike with Venture Outdoors on March 27th



Augusta Rae, Mike Wilson and Matt Peters check out the rain barrel at the Glen Hazel Community Garden. Credit: Al Ferguson



On Saturday, April 3, the Arts Excursions Unlimited Spring Mascot delivered baskets to young and old in Greater Hazelwood. The first stop was the Murrays on Hazelwood Avenue. The Bunny paused in this colorful art filled yard for the paparazzi



The trees along the Blair Street Trail are in bloom this spring



Pitt students volunteering at the YMCA Garden



GARDEN BEDS AVAILABLE

Sign up for growing space with the Urban Ag Team at one of several convenient locations around Greater Hazelwood.

Grow food for yourself and your family, in your own bed allotment!

Contact Matt Peters: 412-421-7234, or email gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org



Greater Hazelwood Prayer Initiative



Greetings in Jesus' Name,

We would like to invite you, your church members, and your neighbors to join us on the Greater Hazelwood monthly prayer line. This conference call prayer line is open to ALL! Mark your calendar and join us on **May 18th @ 7:00pm.** (3rd Tuesday monthly)

The number to call in 425-436-6395, 257175#. This is a toll-free call.

Prayer for family, friends, the country, sick and shut-in, youth, jobs, addictions, military, churches, community business, seniors, COVID-19, first responders, our neighbors, and all other requests...

Spread the word and join your community in prayer. A Family that prays together stays together.



Please announce and post on your church announcements

Questions or contacts jjeffries339@aol.com or juan-ita52@comcast.net

Heritage Month

the fear the victims had was not the same as when she was being followed or harassed. "At the end of my poem, I note that I am not naturally an angry person, and the ways I prefer to create change are at the personal and institutional level. Being Asian is not an option, and therefore I am always defying the constructs of this society. Although I am scrutinized for it, I ardently take pride and I advocate for myself through my poetry because it's the truest way I can express myself and be heard."

It is important to know about Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to educate ourselves. Learning and embracing another culture shows gratitude, interest and battles ignorance. Park says, "Being Asian brings its own intricate experiences, and by celebrating it, we acknowledge the academic, artistic and economic contributions from our unique history that shapes a common future."

So, what are some ways you can celebrate? You can explore Asian American history, try making an Asian dish, watch a movie produced by Asian creator but, no matter what, you should support our AAPI community. Park encourages everyone to support local Asian businesses. "Support local Asian businesses, Asian artists, AAPI-led organizations, and understand that appropriation is not the

- Continued from Front Page

same as appreciation. Get curious with the intent of respect and educate yourself on the history of AAPI people."

What Park likes most about Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is that it puts focus on the issues Asian Americans face, as well as their heritage and achievements, while giving them a platform to speak about it. "I appreciate that there is a spotlight on our issues, and that people are more willing to celebrate and appreciate the Asian people around them that often go by unnoticed. Asian Pacific Heritage Month gives AAPI people a platform to use our voices and the visibility to honor the work we do on a daily basis.

The best way to bring awareness to the issues and problems that Asian Americans have faced is just to listen. Park encourages people to speak out about crimes committed against Asian Americans and defend them. Also, acknowledge their experiences as if they were your own. "Realize the toxic stereotypes that have been taught and work every day to unlearn the racist rhetoric that has become ingrained in the American way of life. This self-education takes longer than a month to become instinct but boosting the visibility of Asian Americans this month is a great place to start."

Meals on Wheels

- Continued from Front Page

about how blessed we were, wondering how we could give back to our community we loved so much. We saw in our church bulletin a request of volunteers for the Meals on Wheels Program. We realized we could make a commitment to volunteer. The volunteer experience has been so gratifying. It truly gives back more than any time spent doing the work. To volunteer takes little time and the rewards are boundless. I invite you to give it a try! You will never regret the time spent volunteering for your neighbors. The Covid-19 Pandemic created a challenge. Providing nutritious meals and keeping our staff and volunteers safe as well as our clients, made us think outside of the box. Some of our volunteers could not deliver due to age and concern for their health. We are proud to say, we have been able to continue our preparation and delivery of meals in a safe manner for all concerned.

Fishes & Loaves Cooperative Ministries Meals on Wheels Program is always in need of more volunteers.

THREE RIVERS VILLAGE SCHOOL is hiring for a full or part-time staff position for the 2021-2022 School Year

Application Deadline is Sunday, May 16th.

The Three Rivers Village School is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate in employment, recruitment, compensation, termination, promotions, and other conditions of employment against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Three Rivers Village School is looking for a full or part-time staff member for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond! TRVS is a self directed, democratically run, mixed-age school for students ages 5 - 18. We are looking for applicants who are highly self-motivated, organized, and passionate about respecting and supporting kids. Staff members act as dependable stewards of the school in a variety of manners. Some responsibilities include student support and instruction, office administration, parent communication and outreach. This job is great for someone who loves working with kids in an alternative educational setting and who is excited to expand their understanding of what learning can look like. There is no degree or certification requirement for this position. Most work hours fall between the regular school hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm, but a willingness to occasionally work additional hours on an as needed basis for staff and committee meetings, public relations, family events, etc. is required.

Compensation is \$15/ hour plus paid holidays, 10 days of PTO per school year, and 10 days of paid summer work. Employees children may qualify for additional financial aid, depending on household income.

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- Must be extremely reliable, punctual, and safety-conscious
- Possess high levels of professionalism, adaptability, and personal maturity
- Excellent communication and literacy skills, including abilities to express thoughts in writing, tailor communication levels for different age groups and developmental levels, and interact effectively with children and adults from a wide variety of backgrounds
- Be an interested, interesting, engaged, and passionate person
- High level of computer literacy, including fluency with the Microsoft suite and more
- Ability to pass required background checks
- General ability to physically participate in the school's program, including the ability to walk around the school premises regularly and take walks to local businesses and the nature trail.

To apply please go to our website, www.threeriversvillageschool.org.

Questions? Call 412-408-3388 or email hire@threeriversvillageschool.org



Community Kitchen Launches Barbecue Program

By Community Kitchen Pittsburgh

Following the popular Friday Fish Frys during Lent is the perfect time to launch Community Kitchen Pittsburgh's new BBQ program featuring Rolling Smoke BBQ by Bambino Foods, LLC. Hoping to repeat the success of the fish frys, CKP will be offering a rotating BBQ menu over the next foreseeable Fridays from 4-7 p.m. at the kitchen training facility at 107 Flowers Avenue in Hazelwood. Proceeds from the fish frys and BBQ provide critical support for the programs and students of CKP.

CKP offers culinary workforce development programs, catering services, restaurant management services, and co-packing partnerships, all of which provide training opportunities and experiential learning for students who face barriers to employment. CKP students strive towards achieving professional advancement, wage progression, and gaining the stability in their lives needed to succeed. Enrollment is free, and classes begin every four weeks. For more information about CKP or how to enroll in our classes, please call Sara Nevels at 412.206.2935 or email snevels@ckpgh.org.

Beyond Statements: Four Reflections on Anti-Asian Racism and Healing in Pittsburgh

By Naomi Harris



Samantha Huynh, Credit: Jay Manning/PublicSource

After the statements of solidarity are put out and calls for justice ring in the air, the feelings of grief and pain linger. Earlier this year, the public turned to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community after a tragic mass shooting in Atlanta and a noted increase in anti-Asian violence. But for this diverse community, which spans many cultures and nations, violence and racism in a time of hateful rhetoric is not new. Being stared at on a bus or feeling a personal connection to the stories of victims is an all-too-common experience. At Pittsburgh's universities, students and instructors responded with activism to call for justice and create a safe space to heal. Their work is both community-oriented and deeply personal. Here are four of their stories.

Samantha Huynh: The experience of normalized racism

The shift was small but noticeable. When Samantha Huynh, a 20-year-old Cambodian American, returned to the University of Pittsburgh campus at the start of 2020, she heard people

talking about the coronavirus — and always connecting it to China. People called it a China virus. A China disease. “People didn’t see it being used harmfully at all,” she said. “At first, we weren’t looking at it through a racial lens, but now — how could we not?”

As the pandemic took root, so did the discomfort. Her Asian friends mentioned getting double glances or seeing people readjusting their masks near them. Huynh started getting looks when she rode the bus. In group chats, her friends talked about weird interactions bundled with the realization that feeling like an “other” is almost normalized and ex-

pected for marginalized people. “We don’t even recognize when they happen, or we just don’t feel like talking about it because we feel like it’s not worth it,” she said. Now, more than a year into the pandemic, the country has seen an increased number of racist and biased incidents against Asian Americans.

A national organization, Stop AAPI Hate, tracked the amount of violence and harassment against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, documenting nearly 3,800 instances in the past year. Weeks after the report was published, a white man in Atlanta killed eight people, including six Asian women, on March 16. The inci-

dent galvanized protests as the Asian community grieved for their loss and spoke out about the harms of prejudice they see every day.

Confronting racism, like after hearing about the violent attacks in Atlanta and especially the news of targeted violence against elderly Asian Americans, left Huynh feeling detached. “I don’t want to engage with it anymore, even though it is heartbreaking,” she said. To get through the day as a student, she said she tried to avoid thinking about the attacks. When she did, she felt the hurt and sadness. “Processing for me really happens when someone asks me to explain something, and I kind of shut down about that. And I get teary eyed about it,” Huynh said, adding that it is important to both process and confront the attacks and racism.

Huynh has found a space with the campus AQUARIUS club, one that empowers the queer Asian community. She has helped build connections with others who have similar lived experiences. “I’ll take it upon myself to create a space with me and whoever needs it,” she said.

Continued on Page Twelve

Bill Seeks Additional Funds for Mon-Oakland Connector

By Junction Coalition

Bill 1366, first presented at City Council’s April 6 meeting, would award \$396,223.31 to Michael Baker International for work on the hotly contested Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC). The MOC, a new road through Schenley Park and two adjacent neighborhoods, is designed to accommodate privately operated shuttles between the Hazelwood Green (HG) development and the Oakland universities where HG’s desired tenants work and learn. The bill amends one that City Council first passed in December 2018. The original bill called for “payment of the cost not to exceed \$1,346,644.10.” In 2020, City Council voted for an amendment that added \$289,037.40. Bill 1366 brings the total to \$2,031,904.81 for Michael Baker.

Bill 1366 retains wording from previous versions that states the MOC will “support green infrastructure,” which is false on two counts. First, asphalt surfaces like parking lots and roads add runoff that contributes to flooding in The Run. The proposed shuttle road adds at least 0.80 acres (34,850 square feet) of paving to Junction Hollow. Although PWSA representatives tout a projected re-

duction in flooding when comparing the “current state” (doing nothing) to their model, the road’s true impact on flooding cannot be measured without an MOC-free project model. Second, the PWSA stormwater project has removed green infrastructure from its design since the original bill was written in 2018. Bill 1366 also asserts that the MOC will “ensure safe travel” and “protect local neighborhoods” even though the MOC forces cyclists to share space with motorized vehicles in Schenley Park and commandeers streets in The Run neighborhood. Of concern to all affected communities, linear transportation projects like the MOC tend to gentrify surrounding neighborhoods.

Less than five months ago, City Council unanimously passed a budget amendment that shifted \$4.15 million away from the resident-opposed project. \$1.2 million of that money was allocated to creating a Sylvan Ave. trail for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as Hazelwood Complete Streets. Residents of Hazelwood and The Run prioritized neighborhood repairs to fund—a Sylvan Ave. trail did not make the list. \$1.2 million would not even cover key projects like safe street

crossings in Hazelwood’s business district and an Irvine St./Second Ave. sidewalk upgrade to ADA standards. Yet City Council is considering a bill that would use one third of the MOC funds “reallocated” to Hazelwood on consulting/engineering work already planned for the phase 2/Sylvan Ave. stretch of the MOC. The MOC also has in its coffers an unknown portion of \$14.5 million from the 2018 and 2019 budgets.

At the April 14 City Council Standing Meeting, Councilman O’Connor said of Bill 1366, “The title of it, I don’t like and I don’t think the neighborhood likes, but this is part of an extended agreement with Michael Baker, who’s the lead engineer with PWSA as well, so there’s a stormwater piece that is supported.” He asked Department of Mobility and Infrastructure Director Karina Ricks to “confirm that the money goes to the geotech on Sylvan to make sure it’s stable and the second piece if you can just explain briefly the stormwater, ’cause I know we’re working with PWSA on that.” Ricks replied, “This supplement is to complete additional geotechnical evaluation of Sylvan; it’s a complex hillside and requires—has been closed for 30 years at this point, so we’re needing to do additional ex-

ploration to make sure that that is stable and that we’re able to reopen that for the community plan as the Sylvan Connector and then the other piece of this is to complete work on an associate permit for the stormwater implementation that PWSA is leading.”

Bill 1366 plainly states that it funds the MOC, and all work identified at the April 14 meeting is needed to accommodate the MOC. What’s more, it leaves less than \$1 million to fix unsafe infrastructure throughout Hazelwood. The bill is listed as “affirmatively recommended” on the City of Pittsburgh Legistar website, but has not yet been put to a vote. Residents are encouraging Councilman O’Connor to oppose Bill 1366 and continue working with City Council to fund community-identified needs instead of the MOC, which benefits the HG development at the expense of its neighbors. You can contact Councilman O’Connor at 412-255-8965 or corey.oconnor@pittsburghpa.gov.

You can read this article with links to source material at junctioncoalition.org/2021/04/16/bill-seeks-additional-funds-for-mon-oakland-connector.

The Green Way

Everything is Alive

There is something creating our material world. The incredible beauty and complexity of things seems to me to be saying something. Our technology also is incredibly complex and, if you think about it, beautiful. That there is a massive amount of change going on at this point in Earth's history is not a bad thing. Yes, the ecosystem is collapsing. Yes, the climate is changing. Yes, the planet is warming. No, we are not, on the whole, solving the problems.

The rainforest, described as the lungs of the Earth because of the amount of our oxygen that is made by

the plants there, is being destroyed even faster than before (20% more in 2020 than in the previous year). We all have the same fear-caused greed slowing down the transition away from fossil fuels. The larger life forms, such as us humans, are increasingly being threatened so that, for instance, there are many fewer birds than there used to be. And not only are the changes happening, but the speed at which they're coming is increasing. It's like we're driving a car towards a cliff and, even though many can see it, we're not hitting the brakes but stepping on the gas.

Tipping points are kicking in. This

is an all hands-on-deck situation. We need everybody to work together or we're all going to die. We can't afford to give up. There is plenty of work to do; our economic system has to be changed to one in which love rather than fear makes the money.



Protect, Preserve, Regenerate

By Jeff Karwoski

Hello, everyone. Welcome to another lovely, and then not lovely and then pretty nice, and then really ugly and then really nice springtime in Western Pennsylvania. Since I work outside, I get to experience all of Mother Nature's emotions firsthand. Being an arborist in the spring means you have to work in less than favorable conditions. That's alright by me. I'm an outdoor cat. I don't mind getting wet and feeling cold. It keeps me grounded. Starting my day at 40 degrees and ending it in a t-shirt at 72 degrees feels great. I can feel the promise in the air of warm months to come.

This is an exciting time for plants. After a winter of dormancy, they have regenerated their leafy canopy and mated with each other in spectacular floral fashion. Next come the seeds. An uncountable number of seeds are produced and distributed through ingenious ways to be eaten by wildlife or germinate into a gazillion little seedlings on the forest floor. Most of these seedlings will live a short life as they become food for deer and other animals, save but a lucky few that will manage to slip out of the buffet and take their shot at living with their elders. Interestingly, some of these seedlings can remain small for many years, waiting for a break in the canopy. When a storm breaks some branches or knocks trees down, sunlight reaches these giants in waiting and beckons them to reach for the sky. The seedlings which have been nursed for years by their mothers gladly accept

the invitation and accelerate their growth in a bid to close the gap in the canopy.

This is the way of planet Earth. In its natural form, it is a planet of vast oceans with lands covered in vast forests, but we have changed that. We have broken open the canopy in a big way and now we are in big trouble. Think of the canopy like a force field. The structure of the canopy is designed to be a protective barrier for our planet. This barrier can be thought of as an enormous regulatory machine, processing and producing gasses that make the atmosphere, well, atmospheric. Without this planet-covering structure, all kinds of gasses are left to their own devices and we all know what happens when gasses are left to their own devices. That's right! Chaos. Humans have fractured the structure that stabilizes our planet. We have crippled the machine that makes our lives on this planet possible. There is a world class, free for all, tree cutting extravaganza going on—a global army of tree cutting soldiers taking their chainsaws with them to battle the planet daily. The planet fights back, except it doesn't really fight back so much as love back. It does that by a stalwart effort to create life. In the face of adversity and increasingly insurmountable obstacles, nature continues to pour a bounty over the land.

That is why I admire trees. They don't hold a grudge. Trees take faithful care of us even though we are not always kind to them. Trees do their best every day. They don't ever phone it in or sleep in late. They

strive to perform their important functions without complaint. They never give up on their quest to cover the Earth in a protective structure of gas-regulating greenery. Now, if we could only get out of their way and let them do their job.

It has become apparent to me over the years of working with them that this is the way it's meant to be—a world covered in trees. Sure, we can have houses and roads. All animals do. We can have shopping and dining and sports arenas, all under this protective canopy. We can drive down highways lined with forests instead of grass and wash away the stresses of life listening to the wind blow through their leaves. This is an ideal world. This is the world that I envision for the future of people and the planet. That is why I have dedicated myself to protecting, preserving and planting trees. I am not The Lorax, but I can still speak for them and advocate for us to increase their numbers because we only stand to gain from doing this. The vast wealth of benefits trees provide can and should be at the tips of every man's fingers.

We could surround ourselves with the luxury trees provide if we let go of our misconceptions about them. There is a new science surrounding trees, and they are finally getting the recognition they deserve as intelligent, irreplaceable cogs in the environmental wheel we are all a part of. Feel free to let go of the shared misconceptions you may have and embrace new and fascinating discoveries. Don't look at trees as a nuisance. Remember, they are



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trying so hard to do their best. See them as protectors. Give them value. Keep them well. Speak not ill of them for they are your guardians, and for goodness' sake, stop "managing" them. No offense, but you are not very good at it. The trees can manage themselves. Let go of the heavy-handed approach you have with them and soak up the good vibes they give out instead.

It's up to you. It's up to all of us. We know what we have to do now: allow the canopy to return. On a level of selfishness, this will allow mankind his place on a habitable Earth. On a more philanthropic level, it will recreate thriving ecosystems for all of life on Earth. It's in the palm of our hands, this ability to regenerate the natural world. We all hold it. The question is, what will you do with it? Can you recognize the power that you hold and wield it to the betterment of the world, or will you join the hordes of destroyers who are damaging our structure? It's time to choose a side—one that will be remembered for history to come. If you love your family and you love your life and you want the world to be a better place, then stand up now. Preserve, Protect, Regenerate. This is who we are. This is what we do.



Beyond Statements

- Continued from Page Ten

Lena Chen: Complicated labor of love

When Lena Chen heard about the Atlanta shootings, it felt like everything collapsed. She had been coping with the high expectations of graduate school — the intense pace it required. But then, for days after hearing the news, she canceled meetings. She emailed her professors to say she could not go to class. She hung out with a friend, who is Korean, and together they ate Korean food. Chen made a Chinese dish. And they sat on her back patio, talked and journaled. She sees so many parallels between her story, her mother's story and the stories of the victims in Atlanta.

"I'm a sex worker. I'm Asian American. I'm the daughter of immigrants. I'm a trauma survivor. What happened in Atlanta touches upon various aspects of my identity," she said. "Some immigrants are working in dangerous environments with fear of arrest or deportation all while trying to support their families," Chen said. Chen's mother went to graduate school for environmental science in China, but when she moved to the United States, she took up different kinds of jobs like working in restaurants, laundromats and hotels. Chen is an artist with work that touches on gender, sexuality, technology and labor — though it doesn't solely pay the bills. Her mother helped her pay rent and for other basic necessities, though Chen did not want to rely on her mother as she pursues her master's degree at Carnegie Mellon University. "When I came back to the states, I did start stripping, partly because I didn't want to rely on my mother supporting me through graduate school," she said.

Before the pandemic, Chen said, she could make the same amount of money stripping in one weekend compared to a month's worth of art. The connection between the labor she puts in and the sacrifices her mother made so Chen could be an artist is one she does not take for granted. "She could have stayed in China and become, like, an environmental scientist," Chen said. "That's what she studied, but she chose to leave China and because she chose to leave China, I can go to school and be an artist and study gender and sexuality and make crazy art."

When people discuss violence against Asian women, Chen said it is important to see the connection between labor and the history of violent racism in the United States. She points to the exploitation of Chinese

labor in the 19th century because the workforce was considered cheap and useful, until it was not. And she points to the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit by white men who, despite Chin being Chinese, blamed Japan for the loss of American auto jobs. "It's a repetition of stuff that has already happened in history, like a million times. So it's not new," she said.

To help the community heal and recover after the Atlanta shooting, Chen helped put on an event with Sex Workers Outreach and other AAPI artists called "Rest: A Day of Healing & Art." "It was a good opportunity for a lot of people to be in a setting where they were with community," she said, emphasizing that there is time for protest and time to heal with activities like yoga. "It's important to have a balance. Sometimes the rallies, there is a lot of anger and activity, which is super necessary. But you have to also have a balance with something more calm and more soothing."

Tyler Phan: A family legacy

The tension toward Asian Americans is nothing new — after all, the Chinese Exclusion Act wasn't repealed until 1943. But Tyler Phan felt it had heightened during the rise of Trumpism. In 2018, Phan was driving to drop off his son at daycare in the North Side. After waiting for a bit at a green light, he honked his horn to alert the driver in front of him to turn. A white man got out of his car and started punching Phan's car window and yelling racial slurs. "Then the next thing I knew when I was looking forward, he aimed his pistol at me, and he was about to shoot me," Phan said. His son, sitting in the backseat, began to flail, and the man — seeing the young boy in the back — ran back to his car and drove off.

From small microaggressions — like white men explaining religions that Phan has extensively studied and personally lived by — to the physical threat to his safety, the 35-year-old is well aware of how he is seen. "The white gaze of how they perceive Asian-American men have always been subservient. We're always below white men," Phan said. Phan, who is a visiting anthropology lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh, speaks openly about his own experiences dealing with oppressive issues like white supremacy, racism and classism.

Pittsburgh has several ethnic Asian communities, including Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai. They each navigate racism from others all while dealing with being stripped of their identi-

ties and lumped into one category — Asian. At the same time, the many universities and colleges in the city do not have a dedicated Asian American studies program, something Phan advocates for at Pitt. Phan has had students come up and talk about how it felt to have a professor discuss code switching. In his Asian medical systems class, it is common for students to talk about how parents recommend traditional herbs. In March, Phan spoke up at one of the anti-Asian hate rallies in Oakland, partly as an example for his 6-year-old son, Ashoka. "My son has to see me stick up for his future," Phan said.

Advocating for change began back when Phan was 16, he said. His father, a union steward at General Electric, used to take him to union rallies. He also shared Buddhism with Phan by gifting him with a statue. And part of the religion to stick up for others stayed with Phan. "You have an obligation being born into this world to help and protect others," he said. And now with his son, Phan is open and honest about inequalities and being marginalized. He reckons that sugarcoating a different reality for Ashoka would be a lie. "I'd rather prepare him now, and he has the tools and knows how to deal with those situations now than when he's grown up and not knowing how to navigate any of these things."

And part of that reality is acknowledging the cross sections of his identities and his own family history. It means responding to the intergenerational trauma and asking the question: How can we actually heal? "I'm going to be 36 years old. I'm a single dad. I'm a professor. I come from a working class family of Vietnamese immigrants who came to this country with \$1," he said. "I know the realities of living in this country as an Asian American."

Karen Enomoto: Rooted issues of anti-Asian racism

Karen Enomoto, a first-generation Asian American, has participated in advocacy work since her freshman year at the University of Pittsburgh. As a pre-law junior, she commonly talks about making policy and politics more personal and inclusive, in and out of her classes. Part of her motivation comes from wanting to make the Asian community better informed on social causes and the root causes of discrimination. "If we have oppression running within our circles, there can be no collective action against the bigger problems of heteropatriarchy

and white supremacy," Enomoto said, referring to issues like anti-Blackness and homophobia within Asian communities. "A lot of my work has been focused on making sure that our community is a safer place and a place that can be more productive."

At Pitt, Enomoto helped put together workshops and panels that get at the heart of issues of xenophobia, racism and anti-Asian violence, now serving as advocacy chair of the Asian Student Alliance. With the increased attention on hate crimes against Asian Americans, Enomoto said it is crucial that people understand how anti-Asian violence is connected to larger problems of white supremacy, classism and misogyny. But she feels the media, universities and politicians often miss those connections. For example, Enomoto underscores the connection between oppressive acts against the Asian American community and the history of legislation like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which restricted immigration from China. The "model minority" stereotype is also harmful because it creates a misleading image of the Asian Americans by focusing on the most well-off communities, at the expense of other minority groups. "It ignores all the refugees that had to come here because of American imperialism and interventionism," Enomoto said.

It is also important to see why people have rallied together and attended protests with signs in support of the Asian community — an opportunity to hear from many different perspectives. Though the work can be rewarding, she sometimes has to take a step back and take time to heal. In a recent online workshop, Enomoto had a chance to decompress from the dire news about elderly Asian Americans being attacked by focusing on her own emotions. "I think that, for me, having that space was really good," she said. "Allowing myself to be able to step back and kind of talk about myself in a more vulnerable way than just strictly talking policy."

Clarification (4/20/2021): This story has been updated to clarify Lena Chen's living expenses and the organizers she worked with for A Day of Healing and Art.

Naomi Harris covers higher education at PublicSource, in partnership with Open Campus. She can be reached at naomi@publicsource.org.

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Real Estate Marketing Lessons Learned During Covid That Will Remain Useful Post-Pandemic

By Julie & Ted Block

Spring of 2020 was a season of constant change. As the pandemic hit our region, guidelines seemed to change by the minute, and as real estate agents, we were forced to adapt our workflow for marketing and showing houses to help people continue reaching their goals while staying safe. Julie's mom helped sew masks for us during the mask shortage, and we waited for weeks for our supply of gloves, Lysol, and booties to be delivered. As we cautiously eased back into showing houses again, we learned a lot about emerging tech and were able to add some great tools to our toolkit that empowered us to help both buyers and sellers. While we won't miss masks hiding people's smiles when they find a house they love, there are plenty of lessons we learned from Covid that we hope to keep long after the pandemic is behind us.

3D Walkthroughs: We invested in 3D walkthrough equipment last year, and it's something we'll continue to use well into the future. By taking 3D snapshots of every room in your home, potential buyers can explore your home in their phone or laptop

browser. These 3D walkthroughs eliminate excessive foot traffic through your house while potentially increasing the number of people who ultimately see it. When marketed properly, a 3D walkthrough can reach significantly more potential buyers than a traditional open house, opening the door for multiple offers! That's a benefit that will continue long after Covid is gone.

Virtual Tours: Over the last year, we've worked with numerous buyers who have enjoyed guided tours of homes all around Pittsburgh from the comfort of their living room couch, while we use our cameras inside the houses. These tours can be in an open house setting, where we share a Zoom link and potential buyers can easily drop in while we use our special camera equipment. We systematically move through each room and highlight everything. Since you're not actually stepping foot into the room with the ability to hone in on specific elements, you could potentially miss smaller details like dents in a door-frame or a faint stain on the carpet. Since virtual tours don't require any traveling on your part, they're especially useful for folks who are moving to Pittsburgh or who want to move

across town without driving all over the city.

Virtual Consultations: Our favorite place to meet new clients will always be a local coffee shop, but when we were forced to find creative ways to connect, it became common for us to start a buyer or seller's journey through a Zoom call instead. This was especially helpful with clients relocating from across the country, and it also offered us more flexibility in scheduling. While we still look forward to meeting at local businesses again in the near future, we'll be sure to keep virtual consultations as a convenient option moving forward and will just have to pour our own cup of joe!

Planning Ahead: Covid certainly threw us a few curve balls last year, but we've adapted at every stage, and the lessons we've learned will be invaluable moving forward. If you have



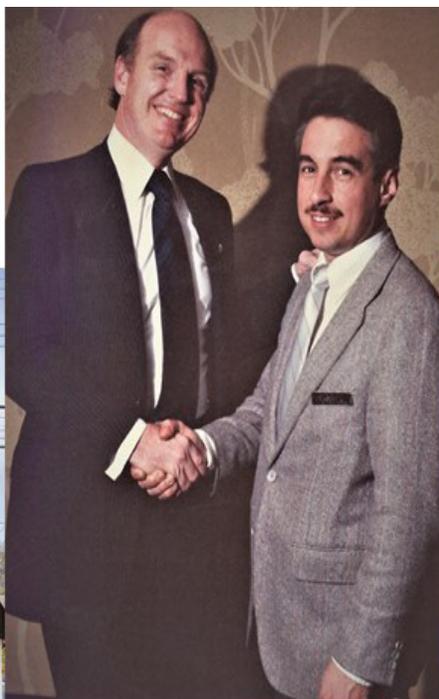
REAL ESTATE MARKETING LESSONS LEARNED DURING COVID
(that will remain useful post-pandemic)

concerns about selling during Covid, contact us at theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com.

This article is an excerpt from a blog post on Julie and Ted's website. You can read the complete version at www.blocksintheburgh.com.

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Mother's Day Gifts and Celebration During the Pandemic

By Gerri Tipton

Mother's Day: the one day out of the year where you can show your mom a little extra love and appreciation on the day that was created for her. A typical Mother's Day celebration is spent going to brunches, dinners, a special event, or even having a gathering for family members. But this year it may be a little bit different.

It's no surprise that due to Covid, businesses have been put on capacity restrictions. Although the capacity of gatherings and local restaurants has increased to 75%, some people still may feel a bit uneasy going out to public places. And, since Mother's Day is in May, the weather is expected to be nice, which could mean crowds and wait times in restaurants can become larger and longer. If you are one of those people who want to avoid the crowds and wait times, there are plenty of other ways you can celebrate.

One way is to host a brunch or dinner. Small gatherings of family or friends are okay to have if everyone is vaccinated. Before the

pandemic, my friend's mom would have a Mother's Day cookout in her backyard with a few close friends and family members. I feel that home gatherings are more personal and intimate than the typical going out to a restaurant gathering because you're around your loved ones, cooking food from the heart and having some good laughs right in the comfort of your own home—not to mention, it's cheaper than going out to eat. However, virtual gatherings have been the new norm when it comes to connecting with people. Zoom and Google Duo are the virtual app gurus of the year when it comes to meetings and keeping in touch with your loved ones. This is also a safe way to celebrate with your mother, especially if she's in a facility where they cannot accept visitors.

As for Mother's Day gifts, it's never too late for some spring cleaning. Surprise mom with a bucket of cleaning supplies and help clean her home. Now I know this may not be the most exciting gift but help with housework—and a side of decorating and reorganizing—might get

one more chore checked off her to-do list. Plus, she will be very thankful and appreciative for your services. If your mom is into plants and gardening, a good gift would be buying her some plants for her yard. Surprise her with a cute basket full of plants, gloves, plant food, gardening tools, and help make her dream garden come to life. Taking a stroll on the trail followed by a nice picnic lunch is another good way to celebrate. While it is still intimate, you get to enjoy the weather while remaining socially distanced.

There are plenty of inexpensive gift ideas you can give your mom for Mother's Day. Although I always give my mom flowers, I wanted to try something a bit different and more creative. A gift basket idea is always the best go-to. You can get cute baskets from Target, Walmart, or even the Dollar Tree, and fill them up with goodies like cookies, candles, make-up products, coffee, stuffed animals, and more. The ideas are endless, and that is what makes gift baskets so fun.

If you don't have time to go out and buy mom a gift, a gift card can

always suffice. The only thing I would do differently is, instead of buying a card from the store, make your own. Yes, you got that right; we're bringing it back to elementary school days where you had to make a homemade Mother's Day card out of colored construction paper. Your mom will appreciate your creativity and sense of humor from making the card on your own.

A gift idea I love even more than gift baskets is a personalized picture frame. One year, I gifted my mom with a picture frame with different pictures of me, her and my siblings. I printed out the pictures from Walmart and bought the frame there for around \$10. This keepsake is something that your mom can have hanging up on her wall that will forever keep a smile on her face. Whatever you do for Mother's Day, make sure that it is special for the woman you love

Memorial Day Recipe: Stuffed Foil Pockets

By Gerri Tipton

Memorial Day is the first holiday of the year to kick off the summer season. Your menu may consist of burgers and hotdogs, baked beans, corn, and linguine as your sides, and some cocktails to wash it all down. One of my favorite things to make are foil pockets on the grill. I've seen this recipe on YouTube, and you can also make them in the oven. Of course, the grill is preferable so that you get a nice, bold chargrilled flavor as the juices from the inside cook and marinate slowly into your ingredients. You can put whatever you want in your foil pockets, but what I see people use the most is a protein (like chicken, shrimp or sausage) some veggies like corn, potatoes, peppers and onions, and a little butter for flavoring. Depending on how many you want to cook for you or your guests, I suggest prepping all of your ingredients the night before so that the next day you can just place them in your foil. Below is the recipe I used when I made them myself.

Ingredients:

- 1 pack of kielbasa (or whichever meat/protein you prefer)
- 1 onion
- 1 green pepper
- 1 red pepper
- 4 large potatoes
- half cup of minced garlic
- 6 small ears of corn
- half stick of butter
- salt and pepper to taste
- aluminum foil



Instructions:

- Chop up your meat and vegetables into small portions. Separate each ingredient into different bowls. This will make it easier to go back and forth when you distribute them into the foil.
- Cut a piece of foil big enough to put your ingredients inside and still be able to close it. Place the ingredients onto the middle of the foil and cut a small piece of butter to place on top. Sprinkle a little bit of the minced garlic on top of the butter with salt and pepper to taste.
- Next, take a spoon and mix it around a bit in the foil (don't over mix it to where the butter is smashed. This is just to get the salt, pepper and garlic mixed in). When finished, fold the foil over from left to right, then take the top and fold it over the middle. Do the same with the bottom piece. Repeat this process with however many foil pockets you want to make.
- Place the foil pockets on the grill and cook for 15 minutes. When the foil pockets are finished cooking, carefully remove them from the grill with a large pair of tongs and place on a cookie sheet. After cooling for a few minutes, open up the foil pockets of goodness and enjoy.



A Pharmacist's Roots: Celebrating 40 Years of Pharmacy Practice



and Wilkinsburg, and work in the city. Our son, Hersh, works for the Mayor and he and his wife Hillary are proud dog parents. Our daughter Shannon owns Hatch and The Creativity Project, and her husband Cole works at Intertek. We have two incredible grandkids ages 6 and 3! We are so blessed!

Before opening Murray Avenue Apothecary, I had always worked at independent pharmacies. I felt a kinship and learned so much about "real life" pharmacy and people. I do not believe in the one-size-fits-all philosophy—we are all individuals. My last independent pharmacy job was at Community Drug where I was working on the prescription counter until the day our compounding pharmacist quit. My boss asked me to work in the compounding lab in the basement—the ceilings were low, even for a short girl like me! Seven years later, in May 2007, I was armed with compounding knowledge: bioidentical hormones, dermatology, vet, and hair loss compounds, and many novel formulas I developed myself. I had a thriving consultation practice where I counseled hundreds of people in nutrition and hormone balancing and decided to buy the Community Drug Compounding lab and open Murray Avenue Apothecary, right on Murray Avenue across from the Greenfield Giant Eagle.

Owning a business in Greenfield means so much more than anyone could imagine. The neighborhood

is filled with friendly people who know you by name. A friendly greeting means the world to me. It's a wonderful place to live and work—a very friendly neighborhood in a big city with a small-town feel. I consider MAA a patient-centered practice and a neighborhood place for people to learn about health, have custom compounds made for them, and buy pharmacist-picked supplements like high-quality CBD and much more! When Covid hit, I sadly closed my pharmacy lobby to the public (in March 2020) and had to completely change my business model to mail order and curbside pickup. I miss everyone! Our loyal clients changed with us, and their support and trust build my spirit daily during a horrible time in our nation's history. I am forever grateful to them.

We spiffed up our websites: www.MAApgh.com, www.LabNaturalsCBD.com, www.LabNaturalsSkinCare.com, and the new www.GlutathionePharmacist.com so that

everything you used to see in the store is available online. My Dad's picture sits on the shelf opposite my desk, and I can hear him: "Are you taking care of your clients and employees? Are you treating everyone fairly? Does your job bring you joy?" The answer to all of the above is "yes!" I love coming to work daily and my staff is awesome and helpful, but what do I love about Murray Avenue Apothecary and LabNaturals the most? Our clients!

Thank you for your love and support.

I have so much to be grateful for, Susan

Susan Merenstein,
Pharmacist/Owner
Murray Avenue Apothecary
Susan@maapgh.com

Dear Friends,

As I complete my 40th year of pharmacy practice, and my 14th year of business at Murray Avenue Apothecary, I am looking back at my pharmacy journey and living in Greenfield for the past 26 years. I have pharmacy in my blood. I grew up in my Dad's pharmacy. I took my first steps there and started working there when I was only 10, standing on a milk crate at the candy counter! His pharmacy was part of the classic lineup of small family operated businesses: independent pharmacy, hardware store, beauty parlor, ice cream shop, and coin operated laundromat.

Greenfield, Squirrel Hill, and Hazelwood are made up of many family operated and owned businesses too. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 1981. I met my husband of 40 years, Barry Merenstein (co-owner of 20/20 Opticians with his brother Evan) in my freshman year. Our kids and their spouses live in Greenfield

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<https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>

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Up to 12 months of late rent payments and 3 months of future payments can be made--typically within 2 weeks of application. You must apply online.

If you don't have a computer or mobile device, you can go to a drop-in center or make an appointment for a phone intake (slightly slower) by calling Action Housing at (412) 248-0021.

You do not need to be a citizen. Interpretation services available. A social security number is not required.

Documents needed:

- W-2 or 1040 or 1099 tax forms, paystubs
- SSI or Unemployment determination letter
- Lease agreement signed by landlord and tenant
- Utility bills and statement of back-owed rent

For more neighborhood housing and event info visit <https://hazelwoodinitiative.org> or follow us on Facebook. Phone: (412) 421-7234.

MAY EVENTS

05 | 2021

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH
10AM/1PM

HAZELWOOD GREEN PLAZA GRAND OPENING

Help us celebrate the official opening of the Hazelwood Green Plaza with a historical walking tour, games, treats & more.

Location: Hazelwood Green Plaza

TUESDAY, MAY 18TH
10AM/11:30AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

Join us for an intimate morning sit down with key industry leaders for a chat around tech and entrepreneurship in Pittsburgh.

Location: The Woods House



WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH
6PM/7PM

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM MEETING #6

Free meet-up to discuss ideas for upcoming programming & initiatives.

Location: Virtual

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH
7PM/10PM

MOVIE NIGHT ON THE LAWN

Everyone's welcome for our very first community movie night with Row House Cinema! Picnics, blankets, and family fun welcome.

Location: Hazelwood Green Plaza

EVERYONE WELCOME, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED. | RSVP: [HAZELWOODLOCAL.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://hazelwoodlocal.eventbrite.com)





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AFTER WORK HIKE



Join us for a Friday evening hike with Outdoor Afro on May 14th. We'll meet at the trailhead at top of Elizabeth St. at 5:30pm. MASKS REQUIRED.

tinyurl.com/HZAfroHike514

HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE
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Date: Saturday, May 8

Time: Noon to 4 PM

Place: Parking Lot of the Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood, 134 E. Elizabeth Street, PGH, PA 15207

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May 15 Beginner Dumbbell Training

w/Mindy McHale, CPT

- Saturday 9-11 am
- \$35 early bird, \$40 after May 1
- Max 4 participants



May 22 Yoga & Mobility Workshop

w/Chloe Wickstrom, RYT

- Saturday 9:30-10:45am
- \$30 early bird, \$35 after May 1
- Max 6 participants



June 5 Level 2 Dumbbell Training

w/Mindy McHale, CPT

- Saturday, 9-11 am
- \$35 early bird, \$40 after May 20
- Max 4 participants

StrongerNow follows a COVID-19 safety protocol. Masks are required.

More info and registration at
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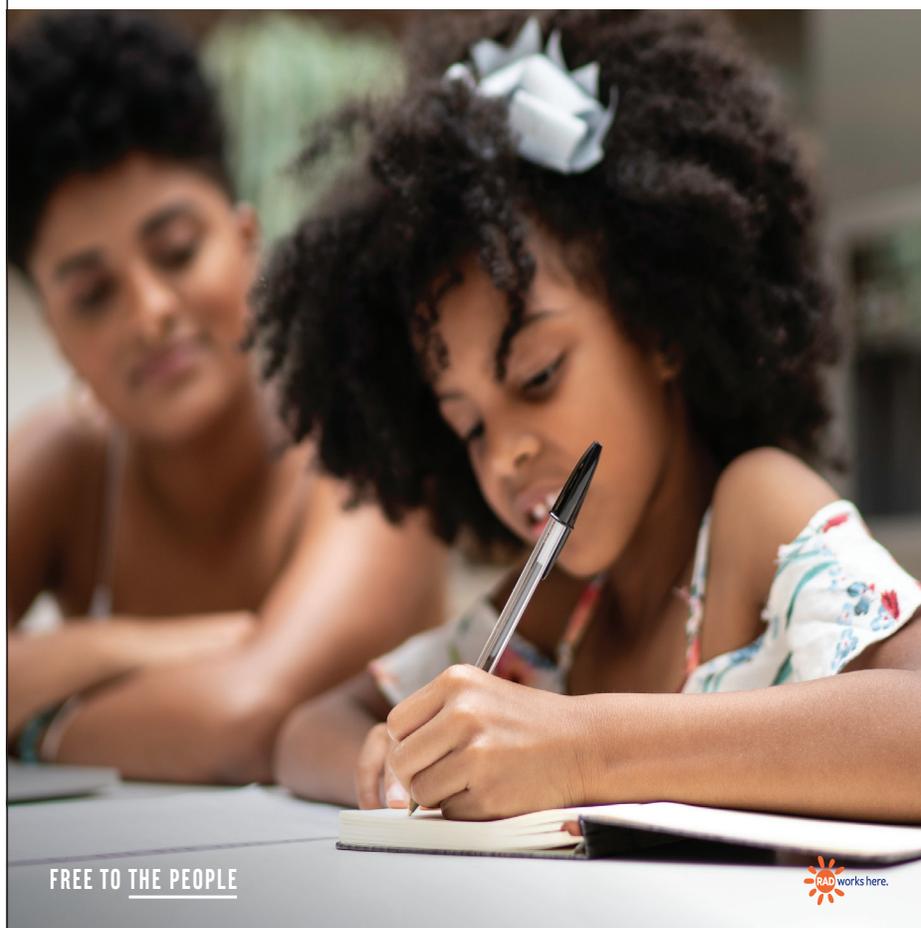
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Reader Call: The Six-Word Challenge

The concept of distilling a story or poem down to a mere six words has existed for several decades, with the first well-known example being attributed to Ernest Hemingway in the 1920's (though there is no official record). For years, Pittsburgh writer Eric Boyd wrote one or more six-word pieces a day, often by request. People wrote in with long, complicated prompts or real-life experiences they wanted to see condensed into six words. Sometimes these were philosophical or deeply personal, sometimes they were downright absurd.

Readers of The Homepage are now invited to participate!

Please email editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org with your poems, prompts, challenges, or real-world scenarios to be turned into a six-word story/poem.

Check out our latest prompt submissions and poems created by local writers!

This month's prompts: Write a 6-word poem about...

- An apology you may never receive
- Sounds that emerge at dusk
- Maintaining hope

I see now, you were right.

Critters get brave, food they crave

It is well with my soul.

—Miss Bea

Forgive and forget;
 In God's hands.

Symphony of:
 Bullfrogs croaking,
 Crickets chirping!

Never a kind word, you're absurd.

Whistling breeze. rustling leaves, at ease.

Trust and believe,
 God will relieve!

Look forward. Happiness to be rewarded.

—MaryAnn Majcher

—Sgt. "J"

Here are prompts for next month's issue! Please submit your work by May 15th

Write a 6-word poem about:

- Camping
- Vines overtaking a forest
- Reconnecting with loved ones post-vaccination

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ELEVATIONZ

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Killa Kutz (Barbershop)

The Glam Room (lashes and brows)

New 2 You (resale shop)

and

the Diamond Room (event room)

C & D'S KITCHEN

BREAKFAST	
The Willy Slam 8.00 <i>2 eggs, 2 strips of bacon, 2 sausage patties, toast, breakfast potato, 2 pancakes or 1 waffle</i>	Meat Lover's Omelet 9.00 <i>3 eggs, sausage, bacon, ham, and cheese</i>
Breakfast Sandwich 3.50 <i>Your choice of bread, meat, egg & cheese</i>	Veggie Lover's Omelet 8.00 <i>3 eggs, tomato, green peppers, onions & cheese</i>
LUNCH	
Salads 12.00 <i>Steak Salad, Chicken Salad, Chef Salad</i>	Hoagie (8in) 10.00 <i>Turkey, Italian, Steak, Corn Beef, Fish Sandwich</i>
Sicilian Style Pizza 8.00 <i>8 cut with 1 topping</i>	Loaded Fries 12.00 <i>Chicken, Steak, Shrimp</i>
DINNER	
** ALL DINNERS COME W/ 2 SIDES, CORN MUFFINS	
CHICKEN	
5 Wings 12.00	
5 Breast & 1 Wing 12.00	
FISH	
Large Cod 12.00	
6 Pieces of Fried Shrimp 12.00	
Fish & Grits 8.00	
SIDES (\$4)	
Mixed Greens	
Fried Cabbage	
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