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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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June 2025

## President's Message

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Greetings, Allegheny West Neighbors!

I hope this message finds you well and soaking up the start of summer in our beautiful neighborhood.

I'd like to begin by sharing what a joy it was to attend our Memorial Day Picnic. It was truly heartwarming to see so many friendly faces come together for good food, great conversation, and shared community spirit. A special thank you goes to Yulia for organizing such a memorable event – your dedication and energy made the day truly shine!

Now that June is upon us, there's plenty to look forward to. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Mexican War Streets Annual Yard Sale – Saturday, June 14 at 9 AM  
Looking for a thrifting adventure? Our friends in the Mexican War Streets are hosting their Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, June 14, starting at 9 AM. It's a treasure hunter's paradise and a great way to support our neighboring community. More info: [mexicanwarstreets.org/events/yard-sale](https://mexicanwarstreets.org/events/yard-sale)
- Tour & Tasting – June 27 & 28  
One of our most anticipated traditions is just around the corner! The Tour & Tasting is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the charm of our neighborhood while enjoying wine, delicious bites, and the stunning architecture we call home. Although the tours are sold out, I volunteer every year, and I encourage you to join in the fun! If you'd like to help out, please reach out to Carol Gomrick at [ways-means@alleghenywest.org](mailto:ways-means@alleghenywest.org). We'd love to have you on board!
- OpenStreets Pittsburgh – Saturday, June 29  
Explore the city in a new way with OpenStreets Pittsburgh! On June 29, select streets will be closed to cars and open for pedestrians, cyclists, and community events. It's always a fun day out for the whole family.
- 4th of July Summer Block Party – Friday, July 4 at 4 PM  
Get ready for our annual Summer Block Party on the 900 block of Beech Avenue, kicking off at 4 PM. Bring your lawn chairs, your favorite dish to share, and your festive spirit! We'll have friendly competitions for Best Ribs, Potato Salad, and Apple Pie—and yes, I'm already looking forward to the taste-testing duties! If you are interested in entering the Rib Contest, see the Announcements & Notices section on page 3 for more information..

Of course, there's also our General Membership meeting, coming up on June 10th at 730 PM. See the back page of the newsletter for the agenda and more details; all are welcome.

Thank you for helping to make Allegheny West such a vibrant, welcoming place to call home. I hope to see you at one (or all!) of these upcoming events.

Elizabeth Barbush  
President, Allegheny West Civic Council

## Cocktail Corner

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

### Blood and Sand Cocktail

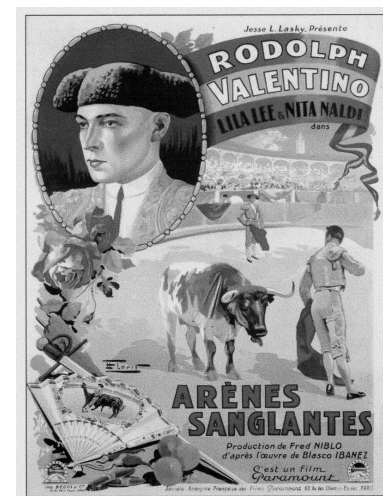
- ❖ 0.5 oz orange juice
- ❖ 0.5 oz Scotch whisky (see Notes)
- ❖ 0.5 oz cherry liqueur (see Notes)
- ❖ 0.5 oz sweet vermouth

Shake well and strain into a cocktail glass

- Harry Craddock, *The Savoy Cocktail Books* (1930)

### Notes

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Scotch? With orange juice and vermouth? I can practically see the looks of disgust on some of your faces. Most folks know about Rusty Nails (Scotch and Drambuie, which is just a scotch liqueur), and perhaps the Rob Roy (a Manhattan using Scotch instead of bourbon), but I suspect few of you have tried this one. Give it a go. You may like it.
- Which Scotch? You don't want to use an ultra-peaty, iodine-laced single malt from the Highlands for this one. So, put down the bottle of Lagavulin and reach for a mild blended Scotch, such as a Chivas Regal or something similar. If you really want to go the single malt route, use a Lowlands Scotch, which is usually milder. I favor Auchentoshan, from Glasgow, when I want something mild. But I usually use a blend for cocktails.
- As for the cherry liqueur, Cherry Heering is the only one that is readily available at the PLCB, at least that I know. Cherry Marnier is an alternative, but I never see that around these parts. Don't use the Luxardo Maraschino Liqueur you bought to make the Aviation I wrote about in the October 2021 edition of the *Allegheny West Gazette*. This is different stuff; it's not as sweet and has a deeper cherry flavor.
- Since this drink uses orange juice, which is already cloudy, you'll want to shake, rather than stir, it.
- The drink supposedly got its name from a 1922 Rudolph Valentino movie. I've never seen it, or the 1941 remake starring Tyrone Power. They're based on a novel published in 1908. I gather it's about bull fighting, based on the movie poster.



## June Fourth

Today as I ride down Twenty-fifth Street I smell honeysuckle  
rising from Shell and Victor Balata and K-Diner.

The goddess of sweet memory is there  
staggering over fruit and drinking old blossoms.

A man in white socks and a blue T-shirt  
is sitting on the grass outside Bethlehem Steel  
eating lunch and dreaming.

Before he walks back inside he will be changed.

He will remember when he stands again under the dirty windows

A moment of great misgiving and puzzlement

Just before sweetness ruined him and thinking

Tore him apart. He will remember lying

on his left elbow studying the sky,

and the loss he felt, and the sudden freedom,

the mixture of pain and pleasure – terror and hope –

what he calls "honeysuckle".

Gerald Stern

Poetry Magazine, June 1980

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Gerald Stern was born in Pittsburgh in 1925, graduated from Allerdice High School, and enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh. He served in the Army Air Forces in 1946-47, and then resumed his studies, receiving a bachelor's degree in political science at Pitt and a master's degree in English at Columbia University. Stern went on to teach at Pitt, Temple, Columbia, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Princeton, among others. He also taught poetry at the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop.

He was a finalist for a Pulitzer and won the National Book Award for poetry in 1998 for "This Time: New and Selected Poems."

In a 2015 interview, he described a fundamental theme of his work: "the sense that the ignored, the ignoble, the detested, the despised, the abandoned was truly worthy, be it people, be it nature. I always honor the unrecognized, the lost." Stern died in 2022.

**THANK YOU to our Western Avenue Flower Basket Sponsors!**

THANKS to our 2025 sponsors of the baskets that will beautify our neighborhood's main commercial district from June to October! Western PA Conservancy will be planting and maintaining them, so we can just admire and enjoy!

**New Sponsors:** Jo & Adrian Beatty; Aaron Bryan & Sandy Allen; Paul & Sue Jamo

**Returning Sponsors:**

Allegheny Realty/Keane & Megan George

AWCC

Bob, Pat & Sarah Mistick

Burton family

Claire & Liz Mistick

Councilman Bobby Wilson

Daniel Strinkoski, DDS

Dorn Team/Doug Sprague & Nancy Dorn

Dr. James Worry

Eugene Beck Co. Heating-A/C & Plumbing

Gallery h

Gilligan Sorbet

Giorgio's Place

Happy Day Dessert Factory

In memory of Donna Raye Otto (Gary Otto)

In memory of George Bouzos (Modern Café)

In memory of Mary Callison (Michael Shealey)

In memory of Pat Kautter (Kautter Family)

In memory of William Hodgdon (Bonnie Hodgdon Otto)

Knaus Family

LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, Attorneys

Modern Café

Motive Salon

Neal Bernstein & Josefina Vergara

Neighbors on W. North Avenue

Peppi's

Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Pultz Family

Q Development

Refucilo Winery

Sarah Cook & Adrian Skinner

Wise County Biscuits

Zoufalik Family

Please consider patronizing the local businesses that have sponsored a basket!

*Submitted by Trish Burton, Friends of Allegheny West Committee Chair*

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**Announcements and Notices**

**July 4th Picnic** As mentioned in the President's Letter, summer celebrations in Allegheny West continue at the AWCC July 4th Picnic, held on the 900 block of Beech Avenue, from 4 to 8pm. If you are interested in entering the rib cookoff, please email Sarah Cook at [communications@alleghenywest.org](mailto:communications@alleghenywest.org); there are limited spots available. AWCC will provide hot dogs, burgers, veggie burgers, and drinks; please bring a side dish or a dessert to share with neighbors - and if you'd like, prepare a submission for the Best Potato Salad or Best Apple Pie contest!

**Farmers Market** The Northside Farmers market opened for the season on Friday May 16th and is open every Friday from 3 to 7pm through November 21, 2025 (Closed on July 4th). It takes place in Allegheny Commons Park, at East Ohio St. & Cedar Avenue. New this year: There is a Beer Garden open on the last Friday of each month, with local brewers and live music.

**Recycling** will be picked up on Monday June 10th and 24th.

**Street Sweeping** takes place on the 2nd Monday and Tuesday of each month- check your street's signs! NB: this year, the city will mail violation tickets rather than leaving them on the windshield.

## AWCC June 2025 Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday June 10th at 7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church. Use the Beech Avenue Rear Entrance, or attend on Zoom (info below).

*Please arrive a few minutes early to review the May minutes before the meeting begins.*

- 7:30: Call to Order
- 7:35: Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors
- 7:40: Reports of Elected Officials, City Departments, Organizations
  - 7:45: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford/Commander Malloy)
  - 7:50: City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's Office (Lindsey Aquino-Robles)
  - 7:55: State Representative Aerion Abney's Office (Tom Harnett)
  - 8:00: Department of City Planning (Nazia Tarannum)
  - 8:05: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)
  - 8:10: Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office (Bobby Wilson/Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)
- 8:15: Officer and Committee Reports
  - Minutes of Last Meeting (Bob Griewahn, Secretary)
  - Treasurer's Report (Cathy Serventi, Treasurer)
  - Communications Committee (Sarah Cook)
  - Friends of Allegheny West (Trish Burton)
  - Housing and Planning Committee (Tom Cihil)
  - Membership Committee (Yulia Bhonsle)
    - Independence Day Picnic
  - Property Committee (Aaron Bryan)
  - Ways and Means Committee (Carol Gomrick)
    - 2025 Tour and Tasting Updates
  - Executive Committee Actions (Elizabeth Barbush)
- 8:50: Unfinished Business
  - Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID)—project updates
  - Streetlight repair on Beech Avenue
  - Tree trimming on Galveston and W. North Avenues
- 8:55: New Business
  - Nominations Committee Report
  - Recommendation to update bylaws: switch H&P meeting with General Membership meeting
- 9:05: Adjourn

*Additions to the agenda can be made by emailing [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org)*

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969724081?pwd=dGFWNTRaalpJZThHNjBWQmswenNYQT09>  
 Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081 Passcode: 979088

### Upcoming AWCC Meetings:

- **Housing and Planning Committee Meeting:**  
 Tuesday May 20th at 730pm, in person at 806 Western Ave or on Zoom  
 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>  
 Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427; Passcode: 045565
- **Executive Committee Meeting:**  
 Tuesday June 24th at 700pm, in person at 806 Western Ave

### The Allegheny West Gazette

**Editor: Sarah Cook**

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Letters, submissions, advertising and other notices by the first of the month to: [gazette@alleghenywest.org](mailto:gazette@alleghenywest.org). Submission does not guarantee publication.



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