

*Another Fun RWA Year Begins: Letter from the President*

Hello Friends,

Personally, I am so looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting some new friends at our first meeting on Monday, September 14th. Our meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with snacks and beverages provided by a new - and very enthusiastic - executive board! Please mark the date on your calendar and encourage a friend to join us!

The highlight of our first meeting is always the Getting to Know You activity, run this year by Membership Chairs Susanna Frazier and Christen Bovienzo. In addition, all of our committee chairs will introduce themselves and be looking for

volunteers! The best way to meet others and really appreciate RWA is to spend a little time working alongside and having fun with other members on an event or project. Everyone who has chaired or volunteered for a committee knows that there is more fun than work involved!

Also on our docket is an important vote. RWA has been asked by The Oakmont Chamber of Commerce to assume responsibility for orchestrating the annual Halloween Parade and Poster Painting Contest that our local children enjoy every October. Paula Yannacci, who started the poster painting a few years ago, graciously agreed to query the Chamber to determine what is involved in running the event and presented her findings to RWA's board at our August meeting. An annual event for many years, the parade is a well-oiled machine though the board made a few suggested changes should the membership decide to take this event on. The board voted to present this proposal to you at the first meeting, realizing that should we vote as a group to run the parade, a committee would need to begin working soon. Paula has offered to chair this committee should the majority vote to do this.

Another fun year with RWA begins! I hope you will join us!

*Catherine Coulter*



## *Meeting Reminder: 7 p.m. Monday September 14, 2009*

- We meet at St. Thomas Episcopal Church Parish Hall at Fourth and Delaware Avenues in Oakmont.
- Babysitting services are available. A \$2 donation per family is suggested.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring a guest. Please notify Christen Bovienzo or Susanna Frazier of guest names before the meeting if possible.
- Please turn in your annual membership dues, \$30 by the end of September (\$35 thereafter) to Camille Cecere, Treasurer.
- Speaker- Mara Kaplan of *Let Kids Play*

## *Activities: Lets have some FUN!*

Christine Long and I are very excited to serve the membership of the Riverside Women's Association as Co-Chairs of Activities. We also had several women sign up to serve on this committee. They are Paula Yannacci, Tara Conroy, Patty Anthony, Gail Kocur, AnnaMarie Lacava, Maria Pietz, Regina Lyons, Greta Kurzawa, Ann Buehl, Stephanie Moret, Amanda Better, and Jill Myers. We are all looking forward to providing enriching activities as well as good times for all.

I would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves to you. Christine is married, a stay at home Mom with one beautiful daughter, Madison. Christine has been involved in community events such as Tenth Street PTO, Girl Scouts, RAA, and the Relay for Life, in the more than 15 years she has lived in Oakmont. I, on the other hand, am a fairly new Oakmonter. Our family moved from the airport area to Oakmont 2 years ago. After being invited to the Snowball, I knew I wanted to get involved and serve our community. I am married, have six lovely children and work part-time as a private duty RN.

We are hoping to make this next year a very enjoyable and memorable one for each of you. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact Christine or me. We hope to see you at our first meeting Mon., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, where we will all have the opportunity to catch up with each other and become acquainted with the BOD serving RWA for the year 2009-10. There, of course, will be tasty snacks and wine provided.

Camille Cecere has graciously accepted to host our Octoberfest celebration on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars. Everyone had a great time last year.

I would also like to take a moment to introduce you to our speaker scheduled for our October meeting. Mara Kaplan has an on-line consulting and reference source called Let Kids Play. She believes that every child should have access to play individually and as a family. She was named 40 Under 40 in Pittsburgh Magazine in 2002 for her work with the Center for Creative Play. She can offer toy recommendations and can design playspaces as well as playgrounds. Please feel free to browse her website at [letkidsplay.com](http://letkidsplay.com) and her blog at [letkidsplay.blogspot.com](http://letkidsplay.blogspot.com). She also has her 2009 Holiday Toy Review posted so you can have fun browsing and get an early start on your shopping list.

*"Nobody sees a flower – really – it is so small it takes time – we haven't time – and to see takes time, like to have a friend takes time." -Georgia O'Keefe*

Looking forward to spending time with you,

-Kimberley Parfitt



## Welcome 2009-2010 RWA Executive Board Members

<b>President</b>	Catherine Coulter
<b>Vice President</b>	Gretchen Kurzawa
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Cindy Leslie
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Laurie Garda
<b>Treasurer</b>	Camille Cecere
<b>Communication Co-Chairs</b>	Catherine Hornsby <i>(Newsletter and Website)</i> Amanda Allis <i>(Directory)</i>
<b>Fundraising Co-Chairs</b>	Molly Donohue Angela Orbin
<b>Membership Co-Chairs</b>	Christen Bovienzo Suzanna Frazier
<b>Activities Co-Chairs</b>	Kimberley Parfitt Christine Long
<b>Scholarship</b>	Michele Harden
<b>Vision Screening Co-Chairs</b>	Heather Deem Kathy Migely

## Thank You!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the RWA members and friends who were so supportive during my hospitalization and recovery from pneumonia this past August. Every meal, play date, and card was appreciated by our whole family more than you can ever imagine. I believe I was able to recover more quickly because of all of the wonderful support everyone provided. The outpouring of generosity also left the kids with a priceless impression of the value of helping others.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Williams

## 2008-2009 Wrap Up

The 2008-2009 May Banquet provided a wonderful night of food and friendship and also an opportunity to recognize what the RWA has done for our community through our volunteerism and fundraising efforts.

Our sincere thanks to last year's membership chairs, Michele Harden and Janet Rossi, for organizing a special night at Michael A's. Thanks to the leadership of 2008-2009 Fundraising Chairs, Regina Lyons and Gretchen Kurzawa, RWA was able to offer three scholarships. Our scholarship recipients, Sarah Donachy, Kiersten Ferno and Marina Kozera, each received \$2500. Our four core charities, Riverview Community Action Corp, The Oakmont Carnegie Library and the Oakmont and Verona Volunteer Fire Departments, each received \$1000. The remainder of our Snow Ball proceeds were distributed as follows:

- Pgh Fallen Hero Fund - \$50
- Wagner House - \$50
- Sean Yingling - \$150
- Conductive Education - \$125
- Contact Pittsburgh - \$125



These amounts were determined by the total votes of those present at the April meeting. Voting was by anonymous ballot.

## REMINDER FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE TO...BRING A FRIEND!

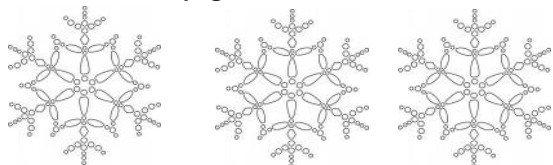
Do you know another fabulous lady that would enjoy the RWA? Bring a friend, a neighbor or an acquaintance and share the fun and the fulfillment you get from participating in our association. Guests and new members may come to any meeting or to the New Member Tea on October 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (details to follow). Please notify Christen Bovienzo or Suzanna Frazier if you are bringing a guest or new member to any event.

## Let it Snow...Ball

Angela Orbin and Molly Donohue are your friendly Snowball co-chairs for 2009-2010. Our date for the ball this year will be February 20, 2010 at the Oakmont Country Club. All members of RWA are considered to be on the Snowball Committee, so we ask that everyone sign up to help in some way.

We will need help on our two subcommittees. The decorating committee is responsible for the invitations, decorating, menu planning, set up, clean up and essentially all of the party planning aspects of the ball. Our Auction committee is responsible for acquiring and coordinating auction donations and sponsorship for the ball.

Please sign up for either committee and Angela or Molly will be in contact with you. This is actually a really fun event to help put on. What could be more fun than hanging out with fabulous women and accomplishing such a worthy goal?



## Important Dates to Remember

- September 14, 2009** - First Meeting  
7-9 p.m. St. Thomas Parish Hall
- October 5, 2009**  
7-9 p.m. The Parish Hall
- October 8, 2009**  
New Member Tea - 6:30 p.m.
- October 24, 2009**  
Oakmont Halloween Parade
- November 2, 2009**  
7-9 p.m. The Parish Hall
- December 7, 2009**  
6 p.m. Christmas Banquet  
in the Parish Hall
- January 4, 2010**  
7-9 p.m. The Parish Hall
- February 1, 2010**  
7-9 p.m. The Parish Hall
- February 20, 2010**  
Snow Ball - Oakmont Country  
Club
- March 1, 2010**  
7-9 p.m. The Parish Hall
- April 5, 2010**  
7-9 p.m. The Parish Hall
- May 2010**  
May Banquet, date and time  
to be announced.

*Note: Board meetings start at 6:15 pm on scheduled meeting dates.*



## Got News?

Newsletter Submissions can be made by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Articles may be submitted in .doc format, Arial font. Please submit photographs in .jpg format. E-mail all submissions to Catherine Hornsby at [dhornsby01@earthlink.net](mailto:dhornsby01@earthlink.net).