



2nd edition, revised and enlarged, with 40 locator maps.

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A Teacher's Study Guide is also available as a companion to this title.

MENDELSON'S ESSAYS SHOW US THE HEART OF PITTSBURGH'S NEIGHBORHOODS—ITS PEOPLE

“A place in time” captures Pittsburgh as snapshots in time. Readers familiar with the city will find themselves making comparisons of how much—and in some cases, how little—things have changed over the years. Much in the city abides, yet much does not. Other readers will simply be charmed.

Pittsburghers are a nostalgic bunch, and will enjoy this fond yet clear-eyed view of their city. For non-Pittsburghers or those new to the region, it provides a window into a city of neighborhoods and colorful individuals who defy and confirm stereotypes simultaneously.

Pittsburgh's Neighborhoods:



From the foreword by Samuel Hazo:

“... an absolutely reliable reporter and historian.

Pittsburghers and all those interested in the more abiding aspects of city life should relish this book for its strong sense of fact. **It has the flow of good conversation, and it rewards reading and rereading.** Abby Mendelson may not realize this, but he deserves credit for having written the autobiography of everyone who calls—or who has called or would like to call Pittsburgh home.

Samuel Hazo
Poet Laureate of Pennsylvania
President, International Poetry Forum

From the publisher: The book was originally a compilation of articles done for *Pittsburgh* magazine beginning in 1980; the author has added new unpublished material to this second edition, as well as an afterword looking back at the neighborhoods and people whom he profiled over the years.

Excerpts from the book:

- *Separated one from another by terrain and temperament, Pittsburgh's neighborhoods remained strong because in part they are very much small towns, alpine villages, an archipelago, where families live for multiple generations, where intermarriage occurs not with people of different race or religion, but of different hills and valleys. . . . because there are many boundaries, natural or otherwise, there are clearly defined units, neighborhoods where people live in close proximity, share many if not all the same values, ethnicity, goals. These are not faceless, or anonymous, but places, where people know their neighbors, their histories, their futures, their linkages. They have a past; they have weight. They are Pittsburgh bedrock.*
 - *. . . . in keeping with the times, they rented an apartment away from the old neighborhood. But when the kids started coming, and the apartment grew too small, they began looking for a house. The suburbs were too far, they found, and other city neighborhoods just didn't offer the right mix of things. So, Sue shrugs, "we just came back. Everything was here. Everything is on this hill you could want to do. I liked other places," she adds, shaking her head, "but I never felt like I was home there. On Troy Hill I've always felt like I was living in my own little community."*
- Some get into the community by buying a house before it is actually put up for sale, often from the heir of a recently deceased homeowner. One woman, to cite but one recent example, came to a Lowrie Street funeral home and asked a dead woman's son if he would sell his mother's home. "It's not a very opportune time to be asking" she conceded as the son cast an eye at mom sleeping eternally across the room, "but if I don't ask someone else will." The son saw her point, a deal was struck, and she got her house. "Houses get sold before the caskets get closed," one man deadpans of house-hunting on Troy Hill.*
- *Everything was right where I left it, more or less. I began writing about Pittsburgh's redoubtable neighborhoods in 1979 with Polish Hill. I led that first piece, "The Neighborhood That Time Forgot," with meatcutter Chester Galda saying that he made Jimmy Carter a success, shook his hand, got him elected President. Since then, since both Chester and his friend have been in this book, Mr. Carter received a Nobel Peace Prize. Not a bad day's work.*



The Author: Abby Mendelson has authored a number of books, including *Reckoning with Rainbows: The History of the Pressley Ridge Schools* and *A Century of Care: The History of the Holy Family Institute*. Three major works, *Advanced Technology Concepts for Dynamic Command and Control*, for which he served as primary editor, along with *Pittsburgh: Reflections of a Renaissance* and *No Limits! Re-Engineering for Success and Profit*, for which he was principal writer, should appear in print in 2004. Aside from innumerable contributions to a wide variety of local and national publications, both as writer and editor, his other book credits include *Countdown to Renaissance II* and *The Mural Revealed* (editor); *Pittsburgh: Fulfilling Its Destiny*, *Pittsburgh Characters*, and *The Power of Pittsburgh* (by-line contributor); and *The Pittsburgh Steelers: The Official Team History*. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife and three children.

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