

INSIDE

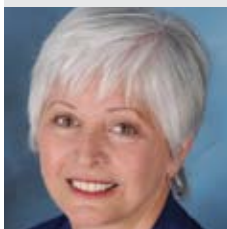


2
'Aunt Rose'
Bucklan
remembered.

Three new columns begin this month. Look for them inside.



3
Opening up the
Observer by
Bob Rosenbaum.



4
UH's mayor
offers ambitious
six-month plan by
Anita Kazarian.



11
Observing the
Heights by
Eleanor Mallet.

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FutureNow presents

FutureNow, the recently formed junior board of FutureHeights, will host a fundraiser on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. at the Grog Shop. The concert will feature an all-Heights line-up of oldboy, Twelve 21, Max Stern and Nicky English (of Posh Army). Admission is \$10 and all proceeds, including a 50/50 raffle, benefit FutureHeights.

FutureNow is charged with engaging the next generation of Heights friends and supporters by creating and planning events and maintaining a social networking presence. FutureNow is always looking for new energy and talent. If interested in joining the committee, contact Mike Kinsella at kinsella@sbglobal.net.

CH-UH elementary schools to extend school day

Angee Shaker

In an effort to provide a positive learning experience for young students, the Cleveland Heights–University Heights City School District is proposing to extend the elementary school day by 25 minutes. Instead of ending at 3:05, the school day would end at 3:30 p.m.

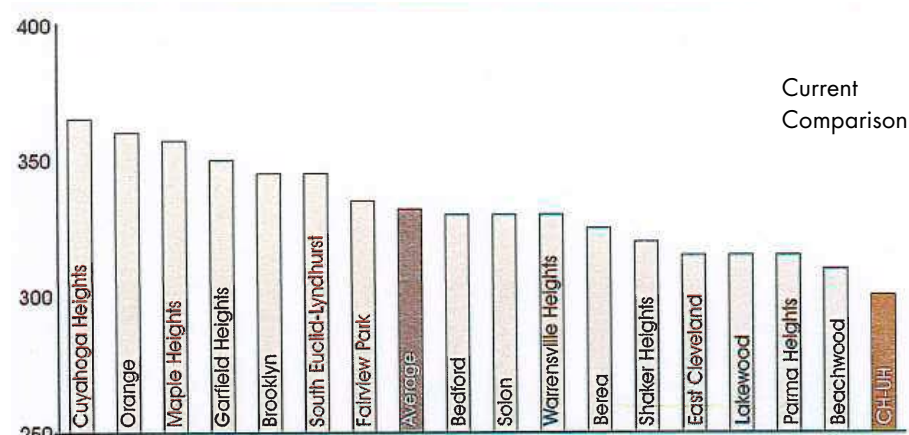
“The fact is, our district has a significantly shorter school day than the nearby districts recently surveyed,” Superintendent Douglas Heuer said. “We don’t have enough time devoted to instruction. This puts our students and teachers at a disadvantage.”

Students in K-3 classes currently spend five hours a day in instructional time. Fourth and fifth graders spend five hours and 15 minutes every day in instructional time. Nearby school districts spend anywhere from 15 minutes to more than a full hour longer than the CH-UH elementary day. That time adds up to 10,000 minutes in a school year.

Sally Levine, director of elementary education said, “Adding the 25 minutes will result in an additional two hours of teacher/student instructional time every week. We have studied this carefully in order to ensure that a decision is made based on the best available data.”

CH-UH administrators presented two

Daily instructional minutes per district



With 25 additional instructional minutes added per day, CH-UH moves up six places.

options to the CH-UH Board of Education: implement the change at the start of the second semester, on Jan. 25, or at the beginning of the 2010–2011 school year.

“A clear case has been made. In order to improve achievement levels, this has to happen. However, we are aware that a sudden schedule change will impact families,” stated Kal Zucker, board president.

“The longer we wait, the more minutes of instructional time we lose. We want to make the best possible decision for our families and our community, so we will ask families to help us determine the best time

to implement,” said Superintendent Heuer.

The district will conduct a telephone survey of elementary school parents. The automated system will be contacting parents on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. For parents who are unable to take the survey on Wednesday, there will be a second opportunity to participate on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m.

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights–University Heights City School District.

Cleveland Heights–University Heights educator named 2010 Ohio Teacher of the Year

Angee Shaker

Deborah S. Delisle, superintendent of public instruction, announced that third-grade teacher Natalie Wester has been named the 2010 Ohio Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Delisle made the surprise announcement and presented Wester with a certificate during an all-school assembly at Gearity Professional Development School, where Wester teaches.

“Providing students with the tools they need to succeed in life is the most important accomplishment for any educator,” Delisle said. “Natalie, our 2010 Teacher of the Year, excels at giving every student a strong foundation, recognizing hidden potential and guiding students to find excellence within.”

“She exemplifies the motto of the Cleveland Heights–University Heights

City School District: ‘Every student, every day. Some success, some way. College Ready. Life Prepared!’” Delisle said.

“While we recognize Natalie today, I thank all educators for their commitment to Ohio’s students,” Delisle added.

In addition to teaching a third-grade class, Wester has served as a data liaison and been active in the professional learning community. She also has presented at the Model Schools Conference at the International Center for Leadership in Education. Last year, Gearity was selected as one of only eight elementary schools nationwide to be named a Model School by the center, in part due to Wester’s efforts.

“Believing in children, empowering them, and exciting and engaging them by stimulating their imaginations are

continued on page 4

HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS MOVES

Heights Observer Staff

Heights Community Congress (HCC), one of Cleveland Heights’ oldest nonprofit organizations, which works to eliminate housing discrimination and promote diversity and community engagement, is making some changes. Beginning January 2010, HCC will be located at the Rockefeller Center, 2475 Lee Boulevard, Suite 2G, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

“We’re excited to relocate to a historical landmark, such as the Rockefeller,” says Kasey Greer, HCC Executive Director. “It’s a beautiful building that can only be found in a community like ours.”

HCC was established in 1972 as an advocate of social justice, a monitor of fair housing and a facilitator of community building. To find out more about HCC, call 216-321-6775 or visit www.heightscongress.org.

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The Heights Observer is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life.
2163 Lee Rd., #103,
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.
216.320.1423
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Heights Observer, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of trustees.

Seed funding for the Heights Observer generously provided by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, the Dominion Foundation, and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation. Powered by the 9th Estate.

'Aunt Rose' Bucklan is remembered for her kindness

Caroline Frankel-Siegel

You may have seen Rose Bucklan's sweet face, flashing that broad beautiful smile, telling jokes, or singing as she walked through the halls of Coventry Elementary School, clad in her jeans and sweatshirt. She may have been small in stature, but she was big on loving-kindness.

Aunt Rose, as she was fondly known, served as a tireless volunteer for 17 years, from the 1980s into the 2000s. She lit up my first grade classroom and warmed the souls of all who were lucky enough to know her—children and adults alike. Rose Bucklan had time for every child and a way of making each one feel special.

As former principal Linda Gay used to say, "If we could only clone you, Rose, and place one of you in each classroom." Yes, our schools sorely need an Aunt Rose in each classroom, wiping tears, giving hugs and encouragement, solving problems and calming fears.

Many of my former colleagues agree that Aunt Rose truly was the best "teacher" they had ever met. Growing up in the Depression, Rose Bucklan had always wanted to go to college and become a teacher, but finances wouldn't allow it. Even Alzheimer's disease could not rob Rose of her best lesson—that of the loving-kindness, for which she was legendary!



Aunt Rose plays a bunny in a play at the Coventry School.

As the disease began to take hold of her, a caregiver continued to bring Aunt Rose to the classroom, where she sat with children as they told her their problems. She reassured them they were wonderful children and she was proud of them, and that things would work out.

The writer Henry James once said, "Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind." Although of humble means, Aunt Rose was rich in kindness and that's the lesson she taught to the children of Cleveland Heights. Rose Bucklan left our schools and our community a better place, indeed!

Caroline Frankel-Siegel wrote this article in gratitude to Aunt Rose for all the love and support she gave to the thousands of children she helped to educate. Siegel taught first and second grades at both Coventry and Boulevard schools for 38 years before retiring last year.

Oakwood Golf Course offers opportunity for a new community asset in the Heights

Fran Mentch

The buzz around town and in the Heights Observatory Forum (www.heightsobserver.org/deck/) is that the Oakwood Golf Course may be for sale.

This is an opportunity to add a valuable amenity to our area: a passive park. Urban land use rotates; maybe, at some point, the best use of this land will be housing. But that is not its best use now.

When I did an Internet search for homes in Cleveland Heights that are for sale for over \$300,000, I found 54 properties, including two on Oakwood Drive, located on the golf course. Many of these properties include a 10-year tax abatement.

Cleveland Heights has plenty of empty or low-quality commercial space that can be demolished or reconfigured if demand for commercial property increases. Remember the empty school properties when you are looking for large tracts of land to put to new uses.

It's time to think big. What if the founders of Cain Park in the 1930s had failed to act on the opportunity

to create something long-lasting and meaningful for the community?

Without amenities we will not attract and keep the best and the brightest residents. There are wonderful possibilities of tying this in with other sections of the Nine Mile Creek watershed, including the completed Nine Mile Creek wetland project in South Euclid.

We have a successful model to follow just a short distance away: The Geauga Park District recently acquired Orchard Hills Golf Course and turned it into a passive park in perpetuity.

During the recent political campaign, candidates, nonprofits and the Step It Up citizens group all talked about sustainability, regionalism, collaboration and quality of life. This project includes all of these concepts. It is time to do something to improve our community.

Leaders of our community, private citizens and the governments of Cleveland Heights and South Euclid must work collaboratively on this exciting project.

We have to create our own future. Otherwise the failure of leadership that created the devastation in East Cleveland and other parts of our region will also destroy our city.

All that is needed is citizen leadership. Will someone willing to take this project on please contact me? I'm ready to help and I know a lot of other people are, too.

Fran Mentch is a Cleveland Heights resident and ran for City Council in the most recent election.

A legacy of love

Kathy Dawson

The city of Cleveland Heights lost an ambassador of love last month. Rose Bucklan, whom many knew as "Aunt Rose," was a resident of Cleveland Heights for 54 years. Seventeen of those years she spent as an assistant teacher for Caroline Siegel's first grade class at Coventry School.

In the classroom, it was Rose's job to help students with their reading, writing, and arithmetic. When a child's mind struggled to add two numbers, Aunt Rose was there to help him or her find the sum. Where she made the largest impact, however, was with a child's heart. It was when a child was worried he wasn't smart enough or felt she had no friends, that Rose worked her magic. The frequently asked question, "Can I have a hug, Aunt Rose?" was like an "open sesame" as Aunt Rose's arms would spread wide and become a safe haven for every child who knew her.

In her late seventies, Aunt Rose's memory began to fade. Alzheimer's had begun to sneak into her brain and steal her ability to remember math facts and names of children. The blank spots in her mind made it just too difficult to volunteer, so she dropped out of school. But Alzheimer's couldn't keep Aunt Rose away for long. A few years later, she went back into the classroom at a time in her life when Coventry School, the streets of Cleveland Heights, and even her own home no longer looked familiar. The one thing that was familiar to Aunt Rose, and something even advanced Alzheimer's couldn't rob, was her heart's ability to recognize a child who needed a hug.

Rose Bucklan passed away on December 1, 2009 at the age of 90, leaving a legacy of hugging a minimum of 20 to 25 children a day, three or four days a week, for 17 years. How many children did Aunt Rose hug? You do the math.

Kathy Dawson is a Cleveland Heights author and relationship coach.

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



NOVEMBER 16, 2009

All council members present.

School-neighbor-city communications

Melvin Russell of 3432 Euclid Heights Boulevard related progress on agreements with Mosdos Ohr Ha Torah School, which is razing the house next door to his, and requested more space between the school's planned playground and his property line. Law Director John Gibbon pointed out that the school had received a conditional use certificate to place the playground equipment and suggested that the Russells talk to the school and then again with the planning commission. Russell thanked Planning Director Richard Wong for facilitating communication and expressed appreciation for the planting of a natural fence. Later in the meeting Council approved amendments to the complex resolution involving variance requests in setback and drive aisle specifications by the school and then voted for continuance for 30 days with the consent of the school principal so that further progress could be made on this unusual situation.

Water rates set

City Manager Robert Downey reported that water rates for the fifth year of the current five-year plan will be \$56.50 per 1,000 cubic feet for a home and \$42.77 for homes qualifying for the homestead rate. Negotiations have begun for the next five-year plan.

Truck purchases approved

Council authorized the purchase from the International Truck and Engine Corporation of a 2008 International Model 8600 truck cab and chassis with a wet line kit for the Public Works Department for \$90,769.

City employee wins Oscar

Linda Dulick, the administrative assistant to the service director, was given an award at the Solid Waste Oscars event.

Occupancy permit revocation modified

Council approved an amendment to the city code providing for the revocation of a certificate of occupancy in cases in which a residential structure is being maintained or used in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance. Council Member Bonnie Caplan commented on how well Council has responded to quality of life concerns, providing more avenues to protect neighbors.

Cadwell property declared nuisance

The property at 1779 Cadwell Road, at the corner of Hampshire Road, which had been vacant with numerous violations since 1990, was declared a nuisance and abatement authorized, up to and including razing the house.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

DECEMBER 7, 2009

All council members present.

Monticello and Community Center bids

Council granted the city manager authority to advertise for bids for the first phase of resurfacing Monticello Boulevard from Taylor Road East to Noble Road as well as for the Community Center Energy Efficiency Project.

Budget proposals

An ordinance amending the 2009 budget to ensure that it would be balanced at the close of the year was introduced for first reading. Overall the final budget of \$39,691,575 represents a \$2,796,203 decrease from the original proposal. Also introduced for first reading was the

appropriations budget for 2010. The proposed expenditures come to \$40,178,177, a 1.2 percent increase over the 2009 budget, with the largest increase in the police budget.

Monticello engineering work approved

Council authorized a \$52,100 contract with CT Consultants to provide the engineering services needed to replace the water main on Cleveland Heights Boulevard between Monticello and the Kirkwood/Oxford intersection to coincide with the Monticello Boulevard paving project.

Electric power agreement extended

The city's electric power aggregation agreement with First Energy was extended by three years from the current end point of May 2012 to May 2015. For this contract First Energy will pay the city \$338,436 by Dec. 31, 2009.

Secondhand merchandise regulations

Council Member Mark Tumeo introduced for first reading new legislation proposed by the police department to regulate all businesses that deal in the purchase and sale of used merchandise. Existing legislation regulates pawnshops in part to make it more difficult for people to sell stolen property.

Citizen reappointments

Council approved five residents for reappointment to city boards and commissions: architect Todd Anderson for a new three-year term on the Architectural Board of Review, architect Michael Benjamin for a four-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and three-year appointments for James Edmondson, Marjorie Kitchell and Charles Miller to the Landmarks Commission.

Recreation fee proposals for 2010

Council Member Phyllis Evans introduced for first reading three ordinances to set rates for

recreation programs. The first opened access and set fees, effective Feb. , for use of the Field House at the Recreation Center to certain non-residents: people who live within the school district, are employed in Cleveland Heights or have children in the ice skating program. The rates for an annual pass would be \$330 for those 18-24 years old and \$384 for those over 24. The other ordinances proposed the 2010 rates for recreation programs in Cain Park and at Cumberland Swimming Pool with about a 10 percent increase.

LWV Observers: Susie Kaeser and Lisa Peters.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Marilyn McLaughlin and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an email to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through google groups using "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

Opening up the Observer



Bob Rosenbaum

For those who have been most involved in producing the *Heights Observer*, one frustration arises every month: Readers have a lot of great suggestions for topics we should cover, and we want to pursue them.

We're facing the reality that we can't, and have decided not to get frustrated about it.

The *Observer* is a community newspaper in the truest sense. That means:

- It has no resources, staff, structure or assets of its own; and no pool of reporters to follow up on great ideas.
- It's a collection of individual voices from University Heights and Cleveland Heights. It has no voice of its own: no editorials, no seat of power to determine what will or won't be covered.
- It runs what people turn in. By contributing—just once or every month—you decide what is covered.
- Nobody is paid anything to write or edit. Ever. (Our advertising rep earns commission, and the *Observer's*

nonprofit parent, FutureHeights, dedicates about half the time of its executive director to make sure everything gets done.)

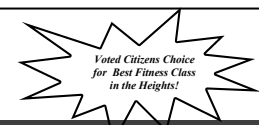
- A volunteer editorial committee, which reports to the FutureHeights board, provides guidance to help the paper improve.

I think it's an impressive product for such a loose confederation of individual effort. But I also recognize that not everyone is going to examine how it works. Which is the point of this new, monthly column.

If there is something you'd like to see covered, please jump in and cover it. It's your paper—to read and write.

Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the Observer Editorial Committee and a member of the FutureHeights board, has started writing this column to provide transparency about the newspaper. If you have questions or comments, send them to bob@therosenbaums.net.

You can write for the Observer by registering at the Observer Member Center: <http://heightsobserver.org/members/login.php>.



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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



NOV. 16, 2009

All council members present.

Disposition of property

Sheila Hubman asked the present council [the newly elected council will be installed in January] to resolve the disposition of the property at 2603 Ashurst Road. Although the house had been demolished and the property cleaned, Mayor Beryl Rothschild doubted there would be a decision whether to sell the lot or use it as public space before January. Hubman also asked for the efficiency report to be reviewed by the current council. The report, compiled by David Akers of the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office, had been delayed awaiting the outcome of the election and the voters' decision regarding the city administrator position. It has since been delayed due to scheduling conflicts. Several council members expressed the desire to see a copy of the report if the presentation must be delayed.

Water and sewer bills combined

Rothschild reported that as a requirement of the Federal Clean Water Act, the city's water and sewer bills would be combined into one bill and would include an added fee of approximately \$4.75 monthly for storm water containment. The mayor felt the fees were excessive given that University Heights is located at the top of the watershed; therefore, she is applying to receive some of the funds collected to help pay for storm drain repairs and maintenance.

Report on NOPEC meeting

Councilman Steven Sims reported on the Nov. 10 Northeast Ohio Public Energy council meeting (NOPEC). Founded as a utility aggregator in 2000 to provide gas and electricity to communities, and to serve as a watchdog over the utilities, NOPEC now serves 106 communities in nine counties and continues to expand.

Temporary appropriations

As a standard practice, an ordinance to establish temporary appropriations for the period commencing Jan. 1, 2010 and ending March 31, 2010 was presented on first reading. The budget is open to revisions and Sims stated that some of the categories are still blank.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

DEC. 7, 2009

All council members present.

The rift caused by the charter review

Sarah Wilder presented suggestions about how council could heal the rift created by the charter review process and at the same time improve the future effectiveness of the council. Her suggestions included regularly scheduled town hall meetings, the reinstatement of the "Series of Discoveries" programs, events to recognize the work of city employees, and a search for new ways for elected leaders to meet with the residents.

Could council install a city administrator?

Ken Eiker expressed concern that council could

still vote to install a city administrator despite the clear vote against such an action by residents. Rothschild noted that she could not say what council might decide to do next year, but she certainly hoped they would follow the wishes of the residents.

Update on the Exception Report

Rothschild announced the availability of the completed Exception Report (or efficiency report) at City Hall. David Akers of the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office will present a preliminary report to Rothschild on Dec. 8 and summary reports to council the following week. A formal presentation of the complete report is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2010. Rothschild announced she plans to attend that meeting because the process began during her term. The report has been paid for in full. Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg suggested that the January meeting be moved to a larger room to accommodate members of the community.

Acting law director

Council unanimously approved the appointment of Dennis A. Nevar as acting law director. According to PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) rules, Ken Fisher was required to retire. The mayor swore in Nevar.

Audio-visual surveillance

Council approved a contract for audio-visual surveillance equipment for the police department to American Inc. for \$24,750. Stimulus

funds will be used to cover this cost.

Payment to Cleveland Heights

Council authorized payment to Cleveland Heights for resurfacing the east half of South Taylor Road from Cedar to Silsby. The cost of \$56,344.98 was \$800 more than the original bid. The work has been completed and approved.

Arman Ochoa, former finance director

Rothschild and Nevar stated that discussions regarding the current case against Arman Ochoa, former finance director, do not need to be held in executive session since Ochoa was no longer a city employee and the case was now a criminal matter.

Final leaf pickup

Service Director Chris Vild announced the city's final leaf pickup of the season. Any further pickups would be handled on an individual basis.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 3.

UH's new mayor offers ambitious six-month plan



Anita Kazarian

An interview with University Heights Mayor-elect Susan Infeld on Dec. 15, 2009.

It's been 32 years since someone has been in your position—starting the job of mayor of University Heights. What would you like to achieve during the first six months of your administration?

First, I want to realign the citizen advisory committees to study areas of interest to residents. I plan to reinstitute the Communication and Development Commission that has been dormant, in order to study ways the city delivers communication to the residents. A new Green Space Development and Sustainability committee is also on my list. It will make recommendations on public spaces and how best to use the land/spaces we currently have or may become available to the city.

I also will adjust the hours of City Hall to be more flexible for residents, by adding early evening hours. Furthermore, a new Web site, capable of taking on-line payments is also needed. This would allow residents to do their business with the city from their home computers.

This is ambitious, what do you have planned for the following six months?

I'd like to deliver city news more conveniently to the citizens by mailing a quarterly newsletter. The city needs to build a citizen e-mail distribution list for paperless communication. This will eventually save the city money in mailing costs.

I will evaluate current collaborative agreements with other governments and agencies to ensure maximum cost

savings and productivity for University Heights. Also, researching and evaluating new collaborations for additional services, such as senior programming and road repair programs.

The unused space at University Square is a concern to me. I intend to meet with the owners of Inland Realty to determine how the city can help attract businesses there.

It is important to provide transparency to residents in the building inspection program. A published list of items that inspectors check during inspections can be helpful to residents. Homeowners can then make repairs in a targeted fashion.

What are the three most pressing issues that the city needs to confront at this time and how should they be resolved?

1. The growth needs of John Carroll University. I intend to work with JCU and Shaker Heights to balance the needs of the University and residents in the Fairmount Circle area.
2. The vacant and foreclosed properties in the city. I want to make use of the Cuyahoga Land Bank programs to address this.
3. High taxes. I will vigilantly evaluate city services being delivered to residents to determine their efficiency and effectiveness with the intention to offer new services, with no additional taxes. Finally, I will work with local business and property managers to encourage growth of our retail sector, and also take advantage of any opportunities to bring new employers to University Heights.

Anita Kazarian, a University Heights resident, is a frequent Observer contributor who took a six-month hiatus while running for city council. Her new column will focus on University Heights.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR continued from page 1

key to my teaching philosophy," Wester has said.

"When students are encouraged to think creatively and imagine all possibilities—for solving classroom problems and for their own lives—their excitement builds and interest grows. They become engaged as exuberant participants for whom learning is irresistible," Wester has added.

Wester's passionate belief that the teacher is the most important component for student learning has driven her to take a leadership role in teacher training and mentoring. She developed the concept for the New Teachers College's Center for Cultural Competence and Teaching, an innovative, graduate-level teacher preparation program that has provided summer professional development workshops to private and public school educators. Since 2006, she has helped train, develop and serve as a role model for student teachers from John Carroll University.

Wester graduated from Kent State University with a bachelor of science degree and then earned a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. After a successful 22-year career in public relations and marketing, including 14 as president of her own advertising agency, Wester went back to school to obtain a master's in education at Ursuline College. She made the decision to become a teacher because she wanted to help foster in every child "an unwavering confidence and belief in their own absolute genius."

Outside of school, Wester is involved in the community, volunteering her time and talents with organizations including the United Way, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Shaker Heights Public Library and the Cleveland Scholarship Program.

The 2010 Ohio Teacher of the Year was selected from nominations submit-

ted by schools across the state. Nominations were reviewed by a statewide review panel composed of representatives from a wide range of professional organizations and school constituencies, including community and business representatives, elementary and secondary administrators, principals and teachers—including teachers who have been recognized for their excellent performance in the classroom.

The review panel chose five finalists and personally interviewed each of them before selecting Wester. The four other finalists for the 2010 Ohio Teacher of the Year are:

- Michael Andric, Barberton High School, Barberton City Schools;
- Sheri Halagan, Gurney Elementary School, Chagrin Falls Exempted Village;
- David Harms, Penta Career Center, Wood County; and
- Lynne Krug, Allen Elementary School, Strongsville City Schools.

The Ohio Teacher of the Year program was initiated by ODE in 1969 to honor and promote excellence in teaching and the teaching profession and to build a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in school improvement initiatives.

All Ohio school districts and chartered nonpublic schools are invited to nominate outstanding teachers who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership to classroom, school and community activities.

Wester will succeed Jennifer Walker, an English teacher at East High School in Youngstown City Schools, who served as the 2009 Ohio Teacher of the Year.

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

CH-UH Public Library Board

Meeting highlights

November 16, 2009

Five-star rating from Library Journal

The library earned a five-star rating, the highest, from *Library Journal*, a premier library publication. Categories in the ratings include circulation per capita, visits per capita, and Internet use per capita.

Change in hours and other services

To conserve funds, there will be a change in service hours beginning Jan. 2. Only the Lee Road Library will be open on Sundays, from 1-5 p.m. This has been a difficult decision but necessary because of the reduction in the state's public library funding. Keeping the branch libraries closed for almost 48 hours will result in savings in utilities.

Board Member Jim Posch commented that the branches are a measure of the library's strength and regretted that kids will have to walk to the Lee Road Library on Sundays. Board Member Esther Moss noted that other organizations with Wi-Fi networks need to step up at this point to augment the library's



services.

Other cuts in services include stopping one-on-one computer tutorials and a 50 percent reduction of story hour programs. However, phone reference is up 25 percent, and circulation is up 15 percent. In 2000 the library had 73 full-time employees as opposed to 63 at present. The circulation staff will assume more duties at the welcome desk to free librarians for other tasks.

Joan Cable retires

The board passed a resolution in honor of Joan J. Cable, retiring after 20 years with the library. She began as a part-time circulation services assistant. In 1993 she was promoted to page supervisor and has hired and trained many local teens for their first job. In addition, she has helped out in many areas of the library when need arose, and in 2004, she received the Detlef Fabian Award for the staff member

who, according to the resolution, "exemplifies a positive outlook and care for coworkers that make the library a better place for all staff members."

Coventry Library history

In a recent meeting the Music Settlement, which plans to open a preschool at the former Coventry Elementary School discussed the architecture of the Coventry Library and the Settlement's desire to complement it. The building was designed in 1925 by John H. Graham & Co. Architects. The original plans may be available.

LWV observer, Anne S. McFarland.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 3.

Delicious detecting

Jo Ann Vicarel

Winter is the perfect time to snuggle up with a good book and delicious comfort food. Here are some of our favorite books and an easy recipe.

Bleeding Hearts by Susan Wittig Albert

Just Desserts by Claudia Bishop

The Chocolate Mouse Trap by Jo Anna Carl

Blood Orange Brewing by Laura Child

Espresso Shot by Cleo Coyle

Sweet Revenge by Diane Mott Davidson

Mumbo Gumbo by Jerrilyn Farmer

Cherry Cheesecake Murder by Joanne Fluke

Death on a Silver Platter by Ellen Hart

Gourmet Detective by Peter King

Custard's Last Stand by Tamar Myers

Body in the Snowdrift by Katherine Hall Page

Cook's Night Out by Joanne Pence

Woollybear Dessert

- 1 16 oz. can of cherry pie filling
- 1 15 oz. can of crushed pineapple
- 1 box of yellow cake mix
- 1 cup of shredded coconut
- 1 cup of nut meats
- 2 sticks of margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter bottom and sides of a 9x12 inch pan. Layer ingredients as they are listed above, except for the margarine. Dribble the margarine on top of layered ingredients. Do not mix. Bake for 60 minutes.

This recipe was submitted to the Friends of the Heights Libraries by Dick Goddard, TV8 meteorologist, and was published in the Friends cookbook, A Taste of the Heights. For more recipes, stop in to purchase a cookbook.

Jo Ann Vicarel has been the branch manager at the Noble Neighborhood Library in Cleveland Heights since November 2000.

What's Going on at Your Library?

Stay warm at the library with one of these great programs!

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
"Explorastory,"
 Fridays, Jan. 7-Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m.
"Tai Chi and Qi Gong,"
 Saturdays, Jan. 5-26, 10 a.m.
"Step Out of Time,"
 Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
"Jumping Flea Night,"
 Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
"Reading Rumpus,"
 Fridays, Jan. 8-Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m.
"Stay and Play,"
 Fridays, Jan. 8-Feb. 26, 12 p.m.
"Karaoke Fridays,"
 Fridays, Jan. 8 and 22, 4 p.m.
"Noble Knitting,"
 Thursdays, Jan. 7 and 21, 6:45 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
"Adventures in Dramey,"
 Mondays, Jan. 4-Feb. 22
 Grades K - 5, 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
 Grades 6 - 12, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
"Stop Spending So Much Time Doing Your Homework,"
 Mondays, Jan. 4-Feb. 1, 4:30 p.m.
"Knitting Night at Lee,"
 Tuesdays, Jan. 12 and 26, 7 p.m.
"From Soup-To-Soup,"
 Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
"Cuentos y Cosas,"
 Fridays, Jan. 8-Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m.
"Teen Talk Radio,"
 Mondays, Jan. 4 and 18, 5 p.m.
"The Senior Spot,"
 Wednesdays, Jan. 6-27, 12:30 p.m.
"Stay and Play," 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 6-27,

Playaways are here!



Morgan Loggins checks out a Playaway at the Lee Road Library.

Sarah Biscuso

The Lee Road Library now carries a selection of Playaways especially for children. So, what is a Playaway? It is the newest rage in audio books and the easiest way to listen on the go. The book is preloaded to a small, simple device that includes battery and earphones.

Playaways can also be used in the car. Simply connect the device to the car's MP3 port with a cable adaptor. For about \$6 an adaptor can connect a cassette deck to the Playaway.

Children can now check out these popular devices with a newly expanded collection of Playaways. With everything from popular titles like *39 Clues* to classics such as *Anne of Green Gables*, the Lee Road Library is sure to have the right Playaway for any young person.

Playaways will be incorporated at the other Heights Libraries locations sometime in 2010, so keep your eyes open and ask a librarian for assistance.

Sarah Biscuso is a children's services librarian at the Heights Libraries.



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CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights



NOVEMBER 17, 2009—work session

Update of district policies

The policy notebook needed an update—the last update was in the 1980s and some policies go back to the 1970s. John Britton, the board's consultant on district policy services from NEOLA, stated that certain updates had to be made at the end of each legislative session, to incorporate changes in laws and their interpretation. The board was essentially finished with the series 2000 policies that dealt with educational programming, such as class size and homework. Currently, the board has been dealing with the series 5000 policies that concern students and their rights and responsibilities. Ahead of them is the series 9000, which deals with communication with various sectors of the public, such as students, staff, parents, and the general public. The board plans to finish this last series in the spring.

Distribution of handbooks

After the board completes its update of series 9000, the handbooks will be printed for all levels of students. Some board members expressed concern about the distribution. Each student will receive one handbook along with a form to be signed by a parent to show that the parent is aware of the handbook. In addition, all adopted policies and all handbooks will be on the district's Web site.

Library board candidates

The board will begin to interview candidates for a library board seat that is to become vacant at the beginning of 2010. On Dec. 1 there will be a special meeting to begin this process. A

regular meeting is scheduled for Dec. 15.

LWV observer: Anne J. Cook.

DECEMBER 1, 2009—library board interviews
All board members present.

The meeting's purpose was candidate interviews and the selection of a library board member to fill the seat of Eric Silverman, whose term is up at the end of the year.

Applicants for library board seat

The following citizens had applied to be on the library board: Mary Dunbar, Fran Mentch, Eric Silverman, Jason Stein and Allen Wilkinson.

Topics of board members' queries

School board members questioned each candidate. The topics for these questions included the following: the library budget and how the library was funded, library support for the schools, challenges faced by the library, the role of a library board member, library support for the youth in the community, and the seven-year commitment to the position.

Board member selection

After completion of the questioning of each applicant, Jason Stein was chosen to fill the vacant seat on the library board.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 3.

Chinese culture at Roxboro

Joy Henderson

First graders at Roxboro Elementary say *ni hao* (hello) and *zai jian* (goodbye) when entering and leaving their classrooms. They raise their hands enthusiastically, eager to respond with *shi!* (yes) or *bu shi!* (no). Roxboro Elementary kindergarten and first grade students receive Chinese language and culture instruction four times a week.

Instructor Grace Chen comes to the CH-UH district from Olmstead Falls, where she taught Chinese for eight years. She is excited to join the district, and says the staff and community members have been extremely welcoming and supportive.

Chen knows her young students are visual learners. They enjoy seeing pictures of Chinese families and imagining how typical school-age boys or girls in China would go about their day. She also incorporates physical movement into the lessons. "Young children like

to get up and sing songs and have fun," Chen says.

The program is part of a five-year plan designed to follow these same students through their elementary career, while gradually expanding instruction to include all six grade levels.

Though the program is still in its early stages, Roxboro principal, Tara Grove, is enthusiastic about the possibilities. "Exposure to Chinese language and culture could open many doors for our children," she says.

Roxboro is one of three schools in Ohio to receive a Foreign Language Assistance Program Grant (FLAP), a federal grant to support cultural enrichment in the schools. Chen recently received a grant from the Confucius Institute at Cleveland State University, which will provide classroom resources, including technology.

Joy Henderson is the assistant director of Reaching Heights.

College preparation workshop series for families

Jacalyn Elfvin

The Cleveland Heights High School Guidance Department and the Parent Connection Council are hosting a series of workshops to help parents and guardians prepare their student for college.

"These workshops are targeted toward parents of students in grades 6-10, but any parent is welcome to attend," said Kristie Cooper, school counselor. "We want parents to know about college requirements so they can help prepare their students for a future that includes some kind of skilled training after high school."

The workshops will also air on Time Warner Cable Channel 22.

Choosing a College Thursday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m., CHHS Social Room.

Topics will include:

- Researching colleges
- Campus visits, resources
- Choosing a major

Applying to College Thursday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., CHHS Social Room

Topics will include:

- Paper and online applications, fees,

deadlines

- Recommendation letters, essays, interviews, portfolios, auditions

Financial Aid Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m., CHHS Social Room

Topics will include:

- Calculating the cost of attendance
- How financial need is determined
- Types of financial aid, FAFSA
- Local scholarship opportunities

College Realities Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m., CHHS Social Room

Topics will include:

- Differences between high school and college
- Time management, self-motivation, study skills, and remedial courses
- Accessing support services

For more information, contact Dr. Kristie Cooper, Heights High College Information Counselor, at k_cooper@chuh.org or 216-320-3067.

Jacalyn Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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Family-School Connection presents parent roundtables at Boulevard

Tracy Hill

Heights Parent Center's Family-School Connection is offering a new parenting series, called Parent Roundtables. These sessions are divided into the Women's Roundtable and the Men's Roundtable. Sessions are being held at Boulevard Elementary, 1749 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. All parents in the community are invited to attend.

The Women's Roundtable is facilitated by Valerie Dowery-Houi, a licensed social worker with Beechbrook. She has been conducting parenting sessions and the Parenting Plus workshops at Heights Parent Center for several years.

The Men's Roundtable is facilitated by Darnell Carter, otherwise known as "The Family Man." Carter has conducted parenting workshops in Cleveland, Lakewood, Shaker and other communities throughout Northeast Ohio.

A light meal and childcare will be provided. These sessions are free, but

registration is required. Call 216-321-0079 to register and join the center for stimulating dialogue on a variety of topics.

Women's Roundtable

- Jan. 20 - Women Raising Boys
- Feb. 17 - Parenting in the age of the World Wide Web
- March 24 - Helping the Angry and Troubled Child
- April 28 - Discipline or Punishment? Are your strategies working?

Men's Roundtable

- Dec. 9 - Maintaining Healthy Relationships
- Feb. 3 - Talking about Difficult Issues
- March 3 - Stress and Its Effect on Parenting
- April 14 - Discipline or Punishment? Are your strategies working?
- May 19 - Open Discussion

Tracy Hill is coordinator of Family-School Connection for Heights Parent Center.

Monticello Middle School teacher receives award for outstanding physical education

Angee Shaker

Physical Education at Monticello isn't just the typical gym class. Instead, it's about promoting a lifestyle of fitness, and the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance has taken notice for a second year in a row. Physical Education teacher Vincent Nemeth has been awarded silver-level recognition for his commitment to the health and wellness of his students.

"It's all about instilling a better understanding of how every aspect of our lives is affected by what we eat, how much we exercise, and the confidence we all gain from living a healthy life," Nemeth said. "A lot of schools have a weight room, but not a true fitness circuit. We chart our data, compare classes, and know that students have better results earlier in the day than after lunch. This information is helpful in winning the war against obesity, and we're eager to share what we learn."

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from General Mills Corporation in 2007, Nemeth was able to purchase equipment and implement a fitness circuit at the middle school. His students look forward to using the machines and reaching their individual goals. He

teaches them how to adjust the equipment to their body type and determine if they're pushing too hard or not enough by tracking their heart rate. The students have 14 different stations to get through, enough for a full workout. "For the rest of their lives, they can walk into any gym with confidence and find something to increase their heart rate, burn calories, and feel better."

There have also been some healthy changes in the Monticello cafeteria. Manager Sharon Davis has replaced the pop and candy vending machines with a water and juice vending machine. Whole milk has been replaced with 1 percent milk, pizza now has a whole wheat crust, and there are more baked foods available. This makes Nemeth even happier, and he doesn't hear the kids complaining about the changes either.

Sheldon Smith, Monticello principal, expressed his gratitude for dedicated staff members who work for the well-being of students and inspire with integrity, and said he was glad Nemeth's hard work was being acknowledged.

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.



Monticello Middle School physical education teacher Vincent Nemeth stretching with students

CH-UH celebrates #1 basketball fan Adele Zucker on her retirement from UH Council



(left to right) University Heights Councilwoman Adele Zucker, the Heights High Tiger, Superintendent Douglas Heuer, and Athletic Director Kristin Hughes.

Angee Shaker

Just before the Heights High School boys' basketball team took on Bedford High School on Dec. 19, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools honored outgoing University Heights Councilwoman and Vice Mayor Adele Zucker for her longtime support for the Heights boys' basketball team and all Heights athletics.

"Adele Zucker and her husband Henry have been our most vocal and dedicated supporters for years, and we truly appreciate their commitment to our student-athletes," said Superintendent Douglas Heuer. "As

Councilwoman Zucker prepares to retire from University Heights City Hall, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank her and congratulate her for her service."

"Whether we are playing at home or on the road, Councilwoman Zucker is always there cheering on the Tigers to victory. We just wanted to take this moment to cheer her on as well," said Athletic Director Kristin Hughes.

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Spanish Influence learned through art and culture



Students display their cubist shoe art work: Caelin Evans, Nicholas Bernard, Kyle Finnegan, Kathryn Collyer, back row, (L to R). Andrew Bennett, Katherine Miller, Kayla Mitchell, Erica Gray, Phillip Moreland, front row, L to R

Joy Henderson

Cuban artist Augusto Bordelois spent two days at Heights High in Olivia Fatica's Spanish classes following up on class research and discussions about two notable Spanish artists—Salvador Dalí and Pablo Picasso.

Bordelois not only spoke to the students about these artists, their styles, and the time period of their work, he also discussed Cuban culture, including the differences among Spanish speakers, and the Cuban approach to time. "Cubans are less worried about being on time for events," he said.

He also worked with students as they created a pastel drawings based on each artist's style. Dalí inspired a surrealist nightmare, Picasso a cubist picture of a shoe.

Students were attentive, listening to

every word and asking the artist questions about Cuban food, education, and weather, as well as Bordelois' personal history.

"When students learn about Spanish artists, it gives them a window into Spanish culture," said Fatica, a teacher at the Mosaic School. "Part of our mission is to weave the arts into the curriculum."

The students' artwork will be displayed in the main hallway showcases in February.

Augusto Bordelois is a multimedia artist whose work is in galleries and private collections worldwide. He currently works and lives in Cleveland. Mosaic School contracted with Young Audiences to bring the artist into the classroom.

Joy Henderson is the assistant director of Reaching Heights.

JCU hosts volleyball national tournament

Tesa Nicolanti

John Carroll University recently hosted the NCAA DIII National Women's Volleyball Championships at DeCarlo Varsity Center. The last national championship hosted by John Carroll was played in 1989.

This year's tournament took place Nov. 19 through 21 and welcomed eight teams from across the nation, including Hope College (MI), Tufts University (MA), the University of Redlands (CA), Washington University (MO), Juniata College (PA), Southwestern Texas University, New York University and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

When they weren't competing or practicing, the teams participated in a community service project in which they read books to local elementary school students. The players interacted with the students and also handed out autographed mementos.

As part of the tournament, a free, two-hour youth volleyball clinic was offered. The clinic was open to local volleyball teams, individuals, and youth in the community who were interested in learning skills and techniques from college-level coaches and players. Participants watched demonstrations and received volleyball instruction, as well as a free event T-shirt, a volleyball, and a

ticket to the championship game, which followed at 7 p.m.

The championship game packed the gym to nearly standing room only. The stands overflowed with local youth volleyball players and their families, JCU students and faculty, community members, and family and friends of the two remaining teams: Washington University and Juniata College.

The two teams had last faced off on Sept. 18 in a game that earned them the record for most points scored in a three set NCAA match during the 25-point scoring era. Washington won all three sets with scores of 28-26, 41-39, and 27-25. However, Juniata came into the finals without a tournament loss.

The game was intense with Washington losing the first set, but coming back to sweep the next three. Washington's coach, Rich Luenemann, now holds three national titles in his 10-year career at the university.

John Carroll University lost in the OAC tournament quarterfinal to 6th-ranked Ohio Northern University and did not advance to the national championship tournament. JCU ended the year with a 12-17 record.

Tesa Nicolanti is a stay-at-home mom in Cleveland who pursues a career as a freelance writer whenever her two preschoolers are sleeping.

Ruffing Montessori welcomes visitors to open house on Jan. 10

Carol Provan

Ruffing Montessori School invites parents to attend an open house on Jan. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the school, 3380 Fairmount Boulevard. This is an opportunity to meet with faculty and other parents who can answer questions about the curriculum for children from 18 months of age through eighth grade.

Head of School Gordon Maas explains, "While Montessori education is most familiar for students in the preschool age group, Ruffing's program serves students, until they are ready for high school, in small classes where all students receive individual attention."

For additional information, contact Julie Haffke, director of admissions, at 216-321-7571.

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CH-UH Middle School teams are winners at Power of the Pen district tournament

Jacalyn Elfvin

Demonstrating their creative writing skills at the "Power of the Pen" district tournament at Monticello Middle School on Dec. 12, the Roxboro Middle School 8th grade team placed first in the area and the Monticello 7th grade team came in third.

At the 7th-grade level, 7 of the 15 medal and trophy winners were students from Wiley, Roxboro, and Monticello. At the 8th-grade level, 6 of 15 winners were from the CH-UH middle schools.

There were over 200 students competing from around the area, including students from the Shaker, Euclid, and Brooklyn school districts as well as parochial and charter schools. This is the second year Monticello has hosted this competition. The regional competition will be held March 13 at Heskett Middle School in Bedford.

Jacalyn Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Book club teaches preschoolers to read



Lily Pinkerton reads by sight from the word wall.

Michelle Bee

Mrs. Bee's Book Club has been a great hit this year at Fairmount Co-op Preschool.

Four- and five-year-olds who are going to kindergarten next year have been learning how to read during this extended-day program, which is offered once a week. The preschool is located at Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Michelle Bee, an elementary teacher with a master's degree in reading and training in the Wilson Reading Program, teaches the class. The focus is on kindergarten reading readiness as well as fostering the love of reading.

Students practice letter sounds. Using the Wilson Reading method, they

learned how to tap the sound of each letter. They use their fingers to blend the sounds into words. Learning about authors and doing crafts and games are included in the lessons. So is learning words by sight.

Students practice writing skills as well. They use themes from books they have read such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* to make class books.

Each week students take home a minibook to practice reading to their parents. Students and parents are excited about the progress they are making.

Michelle Bee is the 'Bee' in Mrs. Bee's Book Club.

Heights High Leading Ladies host Violence Prevention Blue Ribbon Campaign



Members of Heights High's Leading Ladies group: (left to right) Jasmine Price, Laressa Thompson, Joia Humphries, Endia Askew, Krsna Ziyad and Amirah Washington.

Angee Shaker

Following the notorious fight in 2008 between famous singers Rihanna and Chris Brown, which landed Rihanna in the hospital, Leading Ladies, Inc. began discussions about dating relationships at Cleveland Heights High School.

These discussions ultimately led to a violence prevention program called "Respect," which was sponsored by the Akron Children's Hospital. The group's motto is: "Expect Respect. Accept Nothing Less!"

During the week of Dec. 14, the Cleveland Heights High Leading Ladies held its inaugural Violence Prevention Blue Ribbon Campaign.

Sabrina Humphries, founding director of Leading Ladies, Inc. says, "Our goal is to relay the message to Northeast Ohio teens that violence in relationships is never acceptable!"

During the campaign the Leading Ladies wore Respect sweatshirts and passed out literature during lunch periods.

They posted blue ribbons on lockers at the high school and passed them out during the Bedford High Schools vs. Cleveland Heights boys basketball game.

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Heights Youth Club

Louise Westfall

I'll have that hot lunch with a side of school work and a helping of self-esteem! Heights Youth Club continued its mission of providing a positive place for kids in a December packed with learning, special projects, and core attention to academic achievement.

Heights Youth Club, proud to be part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, is grateful for community collaboration, including a hot and healthy meal served daily, provided by the Cleveland Food Bank, volunteer tutors, and corporate support. Recently, employees of the Eaton Corporation toured the facility, and the Great Lakes Science Center hosted a holiday party so that kids could visit exhibits at the science museum.

A day at Heights Youth Club begins with school work. Lessons are reviewed,

and if homework is completed, volunteers listen to kids read a book from the Jeanne Jones Learning Center, dedicated to the memory of a local woman devoted to education. Part of the daily routine includes exercise and participation in the National Football League's "Play 60" program, an hour of physical activity. As a reward for meeting club goals in this program, kids were treated to a visit to Browns Stadium and an opportunity to meet team players.

Club membership is open to all students in the CH-UH City School District. To join the club, fill out a membership form, pay the \$10 annual fee, and be part of the fun.

The club also welcomes contributions. It's a worthwhile investment in helping youth reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring



A Heights Youth Club member works on a holiday craft project.

adults. Send contributions to HYC, 2065 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, or donate online at www.heightsyouthclub.org.

Dr. Louise Westfall is the senior pastor of Fairmount Presbyterian Church, president of the Heights Youth Club board, and a huge Indians fan.

Parenting Q & A

Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Heights Parent Center for the last 12 years, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. If you have questions for Ellen, e-mail her at ebarrett@heights-parentcenter.org.

Q. I am pregnant with our second child, due in the spring. We are excited and scared at the same time. Our first child will be just two years old and is used to being an only child—the center of the family. How can I help him prepare to be a big brother and adjust to the idea of sharing us with another baby?

A. Although your child is used to being the “only” child, the addition of a sibling will be one of the most important and, hopefully, one of the best changes in his short life. Although the adjustment may have some rough spots, you can help him prepare to meet his new sibling

and to be a big brother. Here are several things that you can do to make this family transition smoother:



Make sure your child has well established daytime, nighttime and sleep routines. Routines provide security and predictable patterns during change for your older child.

Empower your child to be as independent as possible. It will also build his self-esteem and make him feel like a “big boy,” while giving you a break. Let your child be a participant in the preparation for the new baby. For example, give him some limited choices while arranging the nursery, such as

“should we put the crib in this corner or over by the window?” Or let him help you sort through the baby clothes and put them away in the drawers. Talk to him about the clothes. “Look how small these socks are! The baby’s feet will also be very small.”

Develop gentleness by patting and using language like ‘soft’ or ‘gentle.’ Pets or stuffed animals are a great way to demonstrate these actions and characteristics.

Finally look through your older child’s baby book with him. Reminisce

about his birth, babyhood and milestones. Remind him he, too, was a baby before becoming a big boy.

There is no reason to assume that the new baby will have a negative impact on your older child. In fact, a new baby can bring added excitement into the home and special visits from grandparents and friends. Two-year-olds love the added attention and are able to enjoy the moment. Remember that if you are relaxed, chances are he will be, too. It’s your best guide.

HANN'S HEATING HINTS

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Heights Observer January 5, 2010 9 www.heightsobserver.org

Executive Arrangements helps sell Cleveland to recruits

Margy Judd

"Cleveland? Why would I want to move to Cleveland?" This is a very typical reaction when a local company tries to recruit an executive from out of town -- and that is why Cleveland Heights-based Executive Arrangements has been in business for 30 years.

Negative impressions of Northeast Ohio are prevalent, especially if a candidate's exposure to Cleveland has been limited to what he or she has seen on the national news.

More than 100 times a year, Executive Arrangement staffers spend a day with a family considering a move to the area. They provide the family with a personalized tour of the city designed to match their interests and needs, and work to overcome any objections the family might have to moving here.

With clients that include Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, Eaton Corporation, Progressive Insurance, American Greetings, Goodyear and Nestle, Executive Arrangements is known as the company that can convince reluctant hires to pack up and relocate to Cleveland.

Because many of Cleveland's best assets don't jump off the page but reveal themselves slowly to newcomers, the firm stays in touch with new arrivals, and helps them to acclimate and connect with Clevelanders who share their backgrounds or interests.

In November, the firm moved into the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood, attracted by the vibrancy of this Northeast Ohio neighborhood. The staff enjoys the pedestrian-friendly streets and the area's variety of locally-owned restaurants and shops.

Four of the firm's staff reside in the Heights—Margie Biggar, Claudia Fulton, Lil Langholt and Brad Withers—and are happy to show people around.

For more information, visit www.executivearrangements.com or phone 216-231-9311.

Margy Judd, owner of Executive Arrangements, is a Shaker Heights native and now resides in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood.



Executive Arrangements staff.

Accessing a path to financial security

Stefanie Richardson

Whether you're a parent planning for a child's education or a small business owner poised for growth, one thing's for certain —there's not much you can control about the future. When you add the backdrop of a turbulent economy, it may be difficult to even think about making long-term plans for yourself, your family or your loved ones.

One key to moving forward may be securing a level of financial protection against life's uncertainties, for however long you need it. Life insurance can help provide that protection. For many households that are juggling multiple obligations including mortgages, auto loans and educational expenses, the prospect of leaving loved ones burdened with those responsibilities can be particularly overwhelming.

All these concerns can be addressed in ways tailored to what you and your family can afford. Life insurance provides coverage at a level you choose, for a period of time you designate. For young families or single parents, term policies are an accessible path to security. And, as your financial circumstances change in the future, a term policy can be easily upgraded to permanent insurance to cover your long-term goals.

Let's face it. You can't be prepared for everything. But an insurance policy might help you plan for more than you realize.

Stefanie Richardson is a Heights resident and financial advisor for New York Life.

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Observing in the Heights: Bread and comfort



By Eleanor Mallet

Sunday mornings at On the Rise Bakery, most people know what they want. They have it down, they operate in here like some sticky-bun-seeking-device.

"I'll take a baguette, a brownie and a chocolate chip."

"I'll take two scones and a cinnamon swirl loaf."

You see a lot of this 'now and later' phenomenon. The croissant is for now, the organic multigrain, later.

Others less familiar inhale and gaze when they come in, dazed and intoxicated by what they see and smell. It is, after all, to enter an alternate universe, the luscious and magical way these bakers have of combining butter, sugar, flour, leavening and whatever else that fills the air with a seductive aroma.

As I watch people come in, finishing my own sticky bun, I am amazed at how quickly we can be taken down to our primal selves. The nutrition pyramid evaporates into thin air. The strictures of the no-carb-no-sugar diet suddenly vanish. (Health police: Lighten up here; sometimes there are other things in life.)

There's coffee, too, at this Fairmount Boulevard storefront, and a long table to relax at for the moment. On a weekday, a mother sits with her two

children. She seems to know the others, soaking up a smidgen of comfort that she herself must provide to her brood the rest of the day. Two construction workers order up sticky buns. "Make that three," says one, as they pull crumpled bills from their pockets.

I puzzle over the preponderance of men. On Sundays mornings, are women sending their men out for this gathering expedition? On weekdays, is it a quick stop on the way to work to fortify against the stress ahead, or to counter the strict South Beach regimen at home?

The front of the bakery is a large glass window. Sunny days add another layer of warmth to the place. On a rainy day the dripping condensation on the window makes for a cozy nest. Three young women, hair tied back and remarkably lean for their occupational hazard, work briskly behind the counter.

On any day, it seems, a steady stream of people make their way to this oasis. On the Rise is not alone. With Zoss, Stone Oven and others, the Cleveland Heights pantry runneth over. Each has its own special aroma and flavor. Each sets us up, regularly or on occasion, to be comforted and restored, to share and to go to forth.

Eleanor Mallet is a longtime explorer of the nooks and crannies in the Heights. Her column, Observing in the Heights, will explore the special people and places in the Heights.

A good deal at the Mad Greek

Loren Sonkin

In these tough economic times, many local restaurants are struggling. Some have met this challenge by cutting back on staff, portion size or quality—much to the dismay of their customers. Others have relied on creative solutions and new ideas. The Mad Greek, at the top of Cedar Hill, is one of the latter.

Through the end of January, at least, they are offering any bottle of wine on their list for only \$22. While they still have very good wines by the glass, at \$22 you can put a little more zing into your meal. If you don't finish the bottle, Ohio law allows you to bring it home.

The Mad Greek's wine list offers a good selection of California and Australian wines, with a smattering of wines from other places. What really impressed me, however, were the choices of unique wines. I started with a glass of the 2008 Sula Chenin Blanc from India. This was the first Indian wine I had ever tasted. Aromas of honey and oranges emerged once the wine warmed up a bit. It is substantial, slightly sweet and thoroughly enjoyable, and a great match for spicy foods.



Greece makes some excellent white wines and the list features four of these. I wanted a bit more adventure, though, and decided to try a dry Greek red. I selected a bottle of the 2006

Kouros Nemias, made from the Agiorgitiko grape in the Nemea region of Greece. It drinks a lot like a Bordeaux wine. With a nose of dusty cherries, the palate has cherries and dried cherries with some green bell pepper and a bit of cigar tobacco. This one needed a bit of air to really open up. It's a good choice to go with lamb and other Greek dishes.



Finally, I had a glass of Keo St. John Commandaria from Cypress. This

dessert wine is especially nice on a cold winter evening. It's very viscous with dried apricots and chocolate notes. There are very few restaurants anywhere where you can drink a glass of wine from India, Greece and Cypress all in the same evening. Add to that reasonable pricing and great food and it's easy to see why the Mad Greek is a Cleveland Heights institution.

Loren Sonkin lives in Cleveland Heights. He is the winemaker for SonkinCellars.com in California and writes for Into Wine.com.

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New folk sing-along series

David Budin

La Cave used to be Cleveland's premier folk music venue. That was from 1962 to 1969, when it hosted regional and national artists every week. Most of the top names in folk music—and many rock groups, in its last few years—performed at La Cave, which was then located in the University Circle area.

Stan Kain, the club's owner, and a group of people connected with La Cave are planning a reunion for June 2010. The event is expected to include at least one concert and other related activities.

The first phase of the group's fund-raising effort begins this month. The

Super Second-Sunday Sing-along and Supper Series will be held on Jan. 10, beginning at 5 p.m. The event features an old-fashioned sing-along of traditional and '60s folk songs led by Cleveland's preeminent folksinger, Gusti, along with musician and music journalist David Budin.

There will be a chili dinner with regular, turkey and vegan varieties, plus cornbread, salad, beverages and dessert. A \$5 donation is requested. For more information and to RSVP, send an e-mail to popcycles@sbcglobal.net or call 216-791-5149.

David Budin is a freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights.

HeightsWrites

Meredith Holmes

Listening to those among us who are quiet—even mute—is becoming an increasingly urgent matter.



Mother Turtle

By Cindy Washabaugh

She's trying to tell you something, see how she's straining, her neck taut, her quiet eyes searching out your own? She's come a long way to say this, far from the warm marsh where she left her eggs buried in soft mud, trusting the sun to look after them. It's taken her so many days, pulling herself along, planting her thick feet, pushing off, planting.

She's been turned on her back by thoughtless children, she's braved busy roads, her skin is parched and cracking. But she has to tell you this, it's the only hope she has, the only hope you have. Now study the ridges and whorls, the patterns on her shell. See if you can find some picture hidden there, something that will help you to understand, something that will shape her silent words for you, that will keep her from dropping her sweet, tired face from yours, from drawing herself into a place so deep she feels like she could sleep forever.

Cindy Washabaugh is a poet and writer whose work has appeared in numerous journals, anthologies, and other publications. She teaches courses in creative writing and writing for healing and growth throughout Northeast Ohio and leads diverse community projects and workshops in the creative arts. She has been a Cleveland Heights resident for 18 years.

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Nearly 1,000 volunteers in GESU Day of Service

Anita Kazarian

Gesu Parish in University Heights held its fifth annual Day of Service on Dec. 5 at 46 Cleveland area social service agencies, churches, shelters and nursing homes. Service projects included cooking and serving food, cleaning, decorating for the holidays and planning activities for adults and children. Nearly 1,000 people of all ages volunteered for the 2009 day of service, said Meg Wilson, coordinator.

Carolyn Brinkley and Sandra Rueb were site coordinators for volunteers to the Merrick House at Lincoln Park in the Tremont area of Cleveland. Volunteers arrived early to set up for a holiday pancake breakfast for 100 people. Not only did the women bring food for the breakfast but also boxes of ornaments for the children to hang on the tree provided by Merrick House.

David Smith and his son, Brian, led the singing of Christmas carols. Brian Smith made the rounds of all locations

with Gesu volunteers and his keyboard padded and tied to a dolly, much like Santa with his bag of toys. He played, participants sang and everyone hung ornaments, laughed, talked and learned about one another.

Daycare center parents, the Mom's First program, and former Valleyview Estate adults and children participated in the breakfast. Gesu volunteers included children as young as six years old. According to Carolyn Brinkley, the volunteers needed to not only "welcome and serve guests, but also to mingle and actively participate in the activities." The children played together, adults spent the morning chatting and anyone walking into the room would think this was a typical pancake breakfast of people who were long-time neighbors.

Merrick House was founded in 1919, under the auspices of the National Catholic War Council, and is one of the original Cleveland Settlement Houses. The organization has served families from Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia,



Volunteers serve breakfast at Merrick House.

Germany and Ireland with desperately needed services. The early storefront building of Merrick House provided English classes, childcare, recreation and neighborhood clubs.

Today, Merrick House's neighborhood has changed and it has expanded its programs. The programs include

childcare, youth mentoring, senior services, GED preparation, youth basketball leagues, housing advocacy, health services, parenting education and the Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival.

Anita Kazarian is a freelance writer and University Heights resident.

Teacher as student

Mary Courtwright

Teaching is more than a job, it is a way of life. When I chose to become a teacher, I hoped that I might use my daily work as an instrument of positive change in the world.

From day one, I found this to be the case, but not always in the way I had anticipated. Teaching is not just a one-way relationship in which I impart knowledge to hungry minds. I am not the expert in every matter. I do not have all of the answers. I am fallibly human. I am reminded of this every day when I am in a classroom full of students who challenge me, who trust me, who share their stories of success and failure, and who very often teach me something in the process.

At the end of a semester, or sometimes on the eve of graduation, a student might tell me: "You changed the way I think." This is very rewarding to hear, as long as the change is positive and empowering.

It is not my intention to shape others' thinking to mirror my own. Rather, I hope to help students in their own pursuit of wisdom—food for the mind, heart and soul.

My goal is to foster a sense of open-mindedness to others, a critical eye with regard to information, an understanding of psychological and sociological concepts, and a greater awareness of responsibility to oneself and others. When students make healthy changes in the way they communicate, deal with problems, and relate to the greater whole of humanity, then I know I have done my job.

Yet the way I may affect others is only half of the story. In the very same classroom where I wear the teacher hat, I am also learning. My students challenge me to adapt in an instant, to shift my perspective even when it tugs at my ego, and to approach situations with a humility that one can find only when put on the spot.

Moreover, these lessons carry

over into my life outside of work. I constantly ask the questions: What am I not seeing? Why am I approaching this situation from a place of blindness? How can I put my ego in check to see things objectively? In essence, the very things I strive to embody in the classroom are continuous challenges for me as well.

The moral of this story is that the profession of teaching is one of the greatest learning roles one can accept. Knowing that renews my commit-

At the end of a semester, or sometimes on the eve of graduation, a student might tell me: "You changed the way I think." This is very rewarding to hear, as long as the change is positive and empowering.

ment to teaching because I know that tomorrow I will be challenged to rise above what I did today. Even if it is not a conscious choice, there will be a student who helps me to see things differently. Every mistake I make will be highlighted under the glaring fluorescent lights of the classroom. There will be opportunities to double-check myself, and I will be better for it.

To my students: Thank you for changing the way I think—today, tomorrow, and every day thereafter.

Mary Carroll Courtwright is a teacher and writer. Her novel "Song of the Messenger", which is set in Cleveland Heights, was published in 2007. For more information, visit www.marycourtwright.com.

Voters keep watch on UH Council

Anita Kazarian

University Heights residents have continued the trend of the past several months to attend City Council meetings in greater numbers, addressing the Council in the first 15 minutes, the open-comments portion of each session.

At the Dec. 7 meeting, one resident requested that the city resume salting side streets. This was suspended last year due to a salt shortage. This year, the issue is how much salt the city can afford to purchase, which will be considered when the 2010 budget is evaluated.

Another resident expressed concern over a letter that appeared in a local newspaper indicating the new Council might create a city administrator position by ordinance, after the position was rejected by voters in November.

Mayor Bery Rothschild responded that, if the new Council tried, it could create a "mammoth disaster within the community ... that the people would rise up." She urged residents to be vigilant and continue to monitor the new Council by attending meetings.

Sarah Wilder, a co-founder of the Concerned Citizens of University Heights, offered several suggestions for the new Council to "regain a sense of community and to promote greater openness and transparency." Wilder wants the Series of Discoveries Program reinstated. She said "this award winning program provided numerous opportunities that promoted diversity and involvement of all age groups."

Anita Kazarian is a freelance writer and University Heights resident.

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Simple steps to get organized in 2010 Side by Side

Muffy Kaesberg and JoEllen Salkin

Overwhelmed by too much paper or too much stuff? Don't know where to start to clean up your home or office?

January is National Get Organized Month, and Organizing 4 U has some simple tips on how to achieve your New Year's resolution of becoming more organized.

Start Small. Choose a small area, a drawer or cupboard. Clear out the contents and clean the space so it is ready for things to be returned to that area.

Identify Categories. Determine the desired use for the space you just cleared out. For example, should the former junk drawer remain a junk drawer;

or would it be better served for supplies such as pens, pencils, tape, etc.? Once the decision is made, sort out the items that will return to the space and think about where the other items can go. Throw out or donate items that are no longer useful to you. Sorting is a wonderful way to help decide if you really need it.

Maximize the use of your space. Do you lack good closet space or attic space for storage? Maximize the use of limited space through the use of shelving and bookcases. This use of vertical space applies to bare walls, closets and basements. Use plastic tubs or file boxes that can be stacked on the floor or placed on shelves. Most households have underutilized vertical space. Look around. What a great way to find storage you never knew you had.

Put things away. After discarding the items you no longer wish to keep, it

is time to put everything away. Finding new "homes" for some items may require some thought. Think about where you will use these items and where you would first look when you needed them. The key to being organized is knowing where to find things when you need them. Be sure to keep similar items together, such as light bulbs and batteries. This way, you will know at a glance when you are low on these products.

Enjoy. It is now time to sit back and enjoy your clutter-free surroundings. Be sure to schedule a brief period of time each week to put things back in their proper places in order to maintain your newly-organized home or office.

Muffy Kaesberg and JoEllen Salkin are the owners of Organizing 4 U. Contact them at www.organizing4u.com.

Kathy Dawson

Q. I am very frustrated because my husband doesn't listen to me anymore about anything. It's like I'm talking to a brick wall. I'll tell him something several times and a few days later he'll say, "You never told me that." I can't take it anymore. Any suggestions?

A. In any type of communication, whether it is between spouses, coworkers, or family members, less is more. When you tell your husband something over and over, you become what I call a "go-oner," someone who goes on and on about a topic. You may not realize it, but you might actually be teaching your husband how not to listen to you. When you go around the block on the same subject, it is most likely because you're afraid if you don't do that, your husband won't hear what you are saying. But in reality, going on and on only dilutes your message. Practice saying what you need to say as briefly as possible, say it once, and let the silence carry the weight of your message. If your husband is used to you staying on one topic for several minutes, don't be surprised if he looks shocked when you say what you want once and stop talking. Although you'll have the urge to repeat what you've just said, don't do it! Trust that your brevity and the following silence will be exactly what your husband needs to digest what you've said.

Kathy Dawson is a Cleveland Heights author and relationship coach. If you would like your anonymous relationship question answered in a future column, send it to Dawson at kathy@kathythecoach.com. To learn more, visit www.kathythecoach.com.

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Graduates of the first CERT class. Seated (from the left): Jean Arnold, Dennis Coughlin, Ann Schmidt, George Ashley, Clifford Lewis, Jeanette Carr and Francine Barnett. Standing (from left): Kenneth Diamond, Michelle Jacobs-Mucha, Mary Kruse, CERT Instructor Karen Seidman, Jill Howey, M.D., Jane Flaherty, Ginny Buchholz, Fire Chief Kevin Mohr, Jeanne Kurtz, Bob Burrows, Fern Jennings, Joe Geiger and Brenda May. Not pictured: John Schellenberg.

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JCU media class helps brand FutureHeights



“Your Voice. Your Community. Your FutureHeights.” is the tag line members of John Carroll University Professor Sara Stashower’s graduate class recommended. FutureHeights board members, Mark Majewski (far left), Bob Rosenbaum (second from left) and executive director, Deanna Bremer Fisher (far right) attended the class’s final presentation on media strategy and planning in December. The class suggested branding opportunities for FutureHeights and its publication, the *Heights Observer*.

Simple steps for staying young in the new year

Lillian Hinds

People always ask me how I stay young and active. Here are a few tips that have worked for me:

1. Work hard;
2. set goals;
3. persistently strive to realize your goals;
4. do not allow things to upset you;
5. exercise daily;
6. eat fruits and vegetables;
7. maintain friendships;
8. continue to work or volunteer;
9. respect the opinions of others, especially when they differ from your own;
10. let your experiences

broaden your ability to think outside the box; 11. listen to your body; 12. listen to others with appreciation; 13. relax with your favorite books; 14. be positive; 15. be hopeful; and 16. find occasions to laugh.

Remember: “Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry alone.”

Dr. Lillian Hinds is 91 years young. A retired professor, she lives at the Alcazar in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood.

More stories online at www.heightsobserver.org



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Contact: Michelle Bee 470-0088

St. Paul's Co-Operative Preschool
2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights
Open House January 11, 6-7:30 p.m.
Contact: Michelle Riechman 397-1033

Heights Christian Co-Operative Preschool
17300 Van Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights
Open House: February 17, 6-7:30 p.m.
Contact: Carly Simonelli 339-9914

Notice of Non-discriminatory Policy as to Students: Church of the Saviour Co-Operative Nursery School, Fairmount Church Co-Operative Preschool, Heights Christian Co-Operative Preschool and St. Paul's Co-Operative Preschool admit students of any race, color, sex, national or ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admission policies or other school-administered programs.



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