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CH resident Lessie Brown celebrates 110th birthday

James Henke

Not many people make it to 100 years old, and even fewer make it to 110. Those who do reach 110 are called supercentenarians, and there are fewer than 300 of them in the entire world. In the United States, only about 20 people have reached that age, and one of them lives in Cleveland Heights.

Lessie Brown, who lives in the Concord Apartments near Severance Town Center, celebrated her 110th birthday on Sept. 22. Looking at her, one would never guess that she had reached such a milestone in her life. She looks great and is totally coherent.

Brown was born in Stockbridge, Ga., in 1904. "We lived on a farm," she said. "I milked the cows, picked cotton and worked in the garden with my mother." Then, in 1921, her parents moved to Cleveland. "My mom and dad just figured it would be better up here than down there," she explained.

The family lived near East 87th Street and Quincy Avenue in Cleveland. In 1925, Brown got married. She and her

husband had five children—three girls and two boys. Her husband died in 1991, and three of her children are still alive: Veerline Wilson, who's 85 years old, Vivian Hatcher, 86, and Robert Brown, 88.

Brown has 29 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 24 great-great-grandchildren. Not all of them live in the Cleveland area, but she said she sees them a lot.

While living in Cleveland, Brown worked at the old Statler Hotel, which was located at East 12th Street and Euclid Avenue. "I cleaned the rooms and made the beds and so on," she said. She also worked at Mount Sinai Hospital, which was located on East 105th Street and which closed in 2000.

After her husband's death, Brown moved in with her daughter Veerline, who at the time lived in University Heights. The two then moved to the Concord Apartments in 1996.

Asked if she had ever imagined that she would live this long, Brown said, "No, I never once thought that I would live anywhere near this long."

"She has led a good life," her daughter



Lessie Brown in her apartment in Cleveland Heights.

ter Veerline said. "She hasn't indulged in anything that would be detrimental to her life."

Brown said she has had surgery twice in her life, but never for anything serious. She does suffer from arthritis, but otherwise is quite healthy. "I really just think that it was the Lord's will that has enabled me to live this life for so long," she said.

Brown attended services at the Emmanuel Baptist Church at East 79th

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Katz Diner owner hopes to rebuild

Richard Stewart

Two weeks after an early-morning arson fire engulfed the bar car of the Katz Club Diner, owner Doug Katz said, "We definitely hope to rebuild," but estimated it would be six months before his business will be able to move back into the building. "It's unknown as far as what dates or when I can reopen," said Katz. "It's just too early."

On Oct. 7, fire crews responding to a call at the Katz Club Diner found the bar car on fire. Within 20 minutes, fire fighters had extinguished the fire, but the bar car sustained extensive damage. The state fire marshal soon ruled that the fire was deliberately set, and the Cleveland Heights Police Department quickly made an arrest in the case, announcing the next day that James T. Warholak, a Cleveland Heights resident and former diner employee, was in custody and charged with aggravated

arson.

Commenting on the arrest, Katz said, "I'm happy that he's in custody and he's been indicted and there's a process to it. It's my want to sort of stay out of that aspect of it. I don't want to have my life absorbed by it or taken over by that. I'd rather look at the positive side, where we're working with the insurance company to rebuild."

"I appreciate everyone's support—it's been so overwhelming in a good way," said Katz. "To me, that's what Cleveland Heights is about. It's a real community with authenticity. Unfortunately something like this happens in real communities."

Katz reported on the day of the fire that the business's diner car and kitchen remained intact, but did sustain smoke damage. Catering operations, formerly run out of the diner's kitchen, moved over to Katz's Shaker Square restaurant, fire food and drink.

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Judge Matia's Drug Court offers alternative to prison

Peggy Spaeth

"What do you want to share?" "How are you handling your stress?" "Good luck in school!" "Do you need help

with anything?" "You okay today? You're looking a little low key." "Seriously, do you need help with anything?" Perhaps these are not questions expected from a Common Pleas judge. But Cleveland Heights resident David Matia is not an ordinary judge, and Drug Court is not an ordinary court.

Drug Court, where defendants undergo treatment for addiction rather than go to prison, was first established in Cleveland Municipal Court in 1997. In 2008 it was expanded countywide through Common Pleas Court.

Matia became interested in the drug court concept after 10 years on the bench. Experience had shown him that addiction was a disease and that prison did not address the true driver of much criminal behavior: drug dependency. "There is nothing fulfilling about sending people to jail who have drug-dependency issues," Matia has said. "We can serve society much better through treatment."

Today, Drug Court is in the front line of the opiate crisis. Drug overdose is the number-one cause of accidental death in Ohio, having surpassed motor vehicle crashes for the first time in 2007, and killing five Ohioans a day. The crisis has been developing since 1994, when

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David Matia, Drug Court Judge



Maya Fields is the featured soloist on Nov. 21.

perform selections from this year's school musical, "Guys & Dolls," and

continued on page 2

Heights High's IMD concert season opens Nov. 21

Florence D'Emilia

Maya Fields will be the featured soloist when Cleveland Heights High School's Instrumental Music Department (IMD) opens its 2014-15 season on Friday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the school's Dina Rees Evans Performing Arts Center, 13263 Cedar Road. Tickets, which will be available the day of the show, are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

The Heights High Concert Orchestra opens the program, followed

by Symphonic Winds and Heights High Symphony. In addition, chamber groups will perform from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the school's Social Room, and jazz ensembles will perform at the post-concert reception.

Maya Fields will perform the first two movements of George Philip Telemann's *Concerto for Viola in G Major*. The Symphonic Winds will perform Philip Sparke's *Portrait of a City*, a suite in three movements, conducted by IMD director of bands Brett Baker.

The Heights High Symphony will

Letters Policy

The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to: www.heightsobserver.org/members or e-mail: info@futureheights.org

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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
216-320-1423
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PUBLISHER

Deanna Bremer Fisher
dbfisher@futureheights.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Sergio Inglis
city.editor@heightsobserver.org

E-NEWS EDITOR

Andrea Turner
act_one@sbcglobal.net

ADVERTISING

Bob Rosenbaum
216-401-9342
brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Greg Donley, James Henke, Eleanor Mallet, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Dermot Somerville, Clare Taft

EDITORS

Jamison Babb, Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Daniel Budin, David Budin, Greg Donley, Eleanor Mallet, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Dermot Somerville, Clare Taft

WEBMASTER

Dan Ott

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Temma Collins, Ruth D'Emilia, Diane Roberto

DISTRIBUTION

Hannah Baldwin

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About the Observer

The *Heights Observer* is not an ordinary newspaper; it is a nonprofit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The *Observer* has no writing staff; it is written by you—the readers.

Individuals throughout the community decide what stories they want to write, then submit them for publication. Anyone in University Heights or Cleveland Heights is welcome to contribute regularly, occasionally or even just once.

Is there something you think should be covered in the *Heights Observer*? If so, please write it on your own, or with friends, neighbors or colleagues. Our volunteer editors will make sure it's ready to publish and contact you with any questions.

If you're writing a news article, it should be clear and factual. If you want to express an opinion, submit it as a letter to the editor or an opinion piece. Either way, make sure it's about something specific to our two cities.

- To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org and click on "Member Center" at the left.
- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail info@futureheights.org.

Articles to be considered for the December issue must be submitted by Nov. 7. But don't wait that long; we publish articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

What is GOING ON in University Heights?

Last week, I learned that a dear friend and neighbor is moving out of University Heights. In discussing the many reasons, we stumbled together into a briar patch of passion, frustration and, for her, resignation.

"I can't be fighting this school battle all the time. Why would I stay in a city that doesn't want my kids?"

Both of her boys are in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. Until December, anyway. . . .

—Patti Carlyle

Citizens Police Academy – Part VI: Juvenile Diversion Program

. . . When an under-su-

JUDGE MATIA continued from page 1

pain was designated "the fifth vital sign." Beginning in 1996, the highly addictive OxyContin has been aggressively marketed to manage it. Matia can rattle off shocking facts: A quarter of people who overdose have been doctor-shopping for pills. About half of the people who become addicted to painkillers move on to heroin.

Defendants are commonly referred by prosecutors to Drug Court. Qualifications are three or fewer prior felonies with no history of violence, sex offenses or trafficking. Each client is assessed by a case manager, attends residential or outpatient treatment for 90 days on average and appears in court monthly. Mandates include participation in a 12-step program, meeting with a sponsor regularly and weekly drug testing. Matia's team consists of case managers, probation officers, liaisons to treatment centers and public defenders. Graduation is earned through at least 90 days of sobriety, completion of treatment and a graduation application packet. Most graduates will not have a felony on their record, which is often a barrier to employment.

Matia takes a personal interest in each defendant, motivating with firmness, humor and appropriate consequences. He is well-versed in the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 12-step program and opens court by reading

IMD continued from page 1

Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Five Variants of "Dives and Lazarus,"* under the direction of IMD director of orchestras Daniel Heim.

"'Guys and Dolls' gives us a chance to showcase the pit orchestra on stage," said Heim, "and the Vaughan Williams is a wonderful contrasting piece with a rich string sound and features the harp."

Audience members arriving early will enjoy a more intimate musical experience as chamber ensembles, ranging in size from two to six musicians, play selections that run the gamut from classical to contemporary. The students select their own repertoire and work with professional musicians, who coach

pervised kid with a dysfunctional home gets nabbed for theft, fighting or buying drugs, the police are required to make an arrest. But it doesn't mean they're unaware a young life may be circling the drain. . . .

The Juvenile Diversion Program only began this January. It identifies first-time, non-violent offenders, 17 or younger, and tries to help them turn around before they get into more serious trouble. . . .

—Bob Rosenbaum

Ohio's Plunderbund examines correlation of school district ratings with family income

For many years Ohio has used a Performance Index to judge its school districts. The Performance

the step of the month. He advises new defendants to read the *AA Big Book* starting with chapter five, "How It Works." He reminds them to take "one day at a time" and also advocates for big-picture solutions, such as requiring doctors to check the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System before prescribing painkillers, to prevent doctor-shopping; obtaining parental consent before prescribing opioids to minors; setting up drop boxes for unused medications and advocating for more treatment facilities and recovery housing, so that people do not have to return to a triggering environment after achieving sobriety. Matia has successfully advocated for the adoption of Medicaid expansion in Ohio and implementation of Cuyahoga County's Drug Drop Box program.

Dr. Margaret Baughman Sladky, a Case Western Reserve University senior research associate, is conducting an evaluation of Drug Court clients for 2011-2014 through a grant. Her outcome measurements have found that, when an array of Drug Court services address housing, employment, a sense of community and the provision of sober-living activities, the likelihood that the individual will return to the criminal justice system is diminished.

Addiction is a disease that, if left untreated, can kill the addicted person

them throughout the school year. In addition to pre-concert performances, some of the groups perform at special events and venues throughout the community.

Heights High's instrumental music program is considered one of the premier programs in the state. Founded in the 1920s, the program has enjoyed extraordinary music directors and a supportive community and school board. While the emphasis at Heights High is on concert performance, all non-string musicians are required to participate in marching band, a credit-program that rehearses outside regular school hours and performs at football games, rallies and parades. The annual musi-

Index is a formula based primarily on standardized test scores. Not too long ago at a meeting, when someone pointed out that the Performance Index seems to reflect family wealth and may not, in fact, represent school quality, an expert responded that we pretty much have to use the Performance Index as an indicator of school quality in Ohio because it is really the only long standing, reliable indicator we have. I wondered about this at the time. A rating system that is wrong and that unfairly assigns blame, however handy, doesn't seem to me to be a good tool to use. . . .

—Jan Resseger

Click on the QR codes or go to blogs.heightsobserver.org to read these and other blogs in their entirety.

or others. Matia sees Drug Court as "preventative medicine," and indeed he and his dedicated team are saving lives. On a recent Thursday, a defendant told Matia he was going to a 12-step meeting every day. "A meeting a day, really?" Matia asked. The answer: "Well, before, I went to a bar every day. This drug court's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Matia and his wife, Monica, a teacher, have three children—two attending Heights High and one a recent graduate. He enjoys both road riding and mountain biking, and the family skis together at Holiday Valley.

If you or someone else needs help with addiction, call the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Hotline at 216-623-6888 or First Call for Help at 216-436-2000. You can also look online to find a nearby 12-step meeting offered by an organization such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Families Anonymous, for support, strength and hope.

Peggy Spaeth writes about her interests: Heights residents and their impact locally, regionally and world-wide; native flora and fauna; and the disease of addiction. The former director of Heights Arts, she is president of Sober Living Cleveland, a nonprofit initiative to provide sober housing for those in recovery from addiction.

cal's pit orchestra provides another performance opportunity for student musicians. The department also offers classes in guitar, music theory, and AP music theory.

The orchestra has been awarded "superior" ratings, and every year several Heights High students have been honored to join the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, the Contemporary Youth Orchestra, the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, the Camarata ensemble, and other highly regarded performance groups.

Florence D'Emilia is a Cleveland Heights resident and a parent of a Heights High student.

Class differences in the Heights

Normella Walker

We seem to embrace racial integration, ethnic integration and religious integration with much more effort than class integration. When families move to the Heights who are apparently middle class or above, we welcome them into our circles and invite them to join community groups, serve on committees, enjoy recreational activities and so on. But I haven't observed the same type of hospitality and warmth offered to people coming from lower-class areas who might be trying to escape the dysfunction of poverty and provide a better environment for their families. There is no welcome wagon or integration process for them.

One might ponder whether we tend to be more comfortable with people who look alike but think different, or think alike but look different? Based on the behaviors that I have seen I would say the diversity we tend to value more is the latter. We like the idea of an "eclectic looking" community as long as we all share the same basic values, educational attainments and economic status. We tend to harshly judge, discount or even ignore those who don't, and I think there is a tacit resentment of their presence in the neighborhood.

One of the many concepts that I found useful as a participant in the CSU Masters in Diversity Program was how difficult it is for people on either end of a spectrum to move beyond their comfort zones to engage with someone different, and how vitally important it is to be able to do so to promote inclusion. In the program we learned how to comfortably embrace that awkwardness.

We boast about how much we value diversity in public spaces throughout the community but I rarely see those values broadly demonstrated. The community at large would fare better if we could find a way to embrace all of our citizens instead of only tolerating many of them. I would like to see more formal and informal opportunities to integrate a variety of people regardless of their backgrounds. Those who experience a connection with their neighborhoods develop a sense of pride and affinity and are more likely to make constructive contributions than those who feel disregarded and overlooked. We certainly have the diversity, now we need to work on the inclusion. Social isolation is unhealthy for people and ultimately will adversely affect the entire community.

Normella Walker has lived in both Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, and considers both places home.

Welcome Home: Heights Authors was a blast

Susan Prendergast

On the beautiful Sunday afternoon of Oct. 5, the Friends of the Heights Libraries, FutureHeights and Reaching Heights gave a wonderful event for newcomers to the Heights. Thanks to the host, Nighttown, and generous sponsors Simply Charming, Motorcars, realtor Susan Delaney of Howard Hanna, DVUV, and Keller National. Appletree Books and Mac's Backs, our local independent booksellers, helped FutureHeights organize this event.

Author Tricia Springstubb, whose *What Happened on Fox Street* was an Indie 2010 Pick of the Year; James Henke, a former writer and editor for *Rolling Stone* magazine and author of several books; and poet George Bilgere, winner of a 2003 Cleveland Arts Prize and 2014 Creative Workforce Fellowship, whose work has been frequently featured on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" on National Public Radio, read and discussed their work. Kathleen Cerven, Cleveland Heights poet laureate, moderated the panel.

Listening to the banter of the panelists was great fun. They enjoyed themselves and we in the audience loved it. I certainly did, but I was reminded of a painful realization I'd come to years ago.

As the end product of a thousand years of Irish inbreeding, I was telling funny stories in the womb. After I'm overheard saying something amusing, my friends who have been published tell me I should write, and write seriously, not waste time making up rhymes and songs for my cats—the Meat Song, for instance, which I'll sing for you one day if you're good. I think I shouldn't write, though, for good reasons.

First, it doesn't seem to me that the ability to tell a good tale or pass a funny remark necessarily accompanies the ability to write well. My friend Holly is enchanting in a conversation, but has a learning disability which she refers to as "the hole in my head where the letters fall out." She can barely read or write, but is a favorite of mine because she's so much fun to listen to. Other conditions can hamper a career as a writer, too: laziness, for one. Chatting is my favorite activity (after lying on the bed and reading, of course), but writing is work. No less an authority than Dr. Samuel Johnson, who called

himself a harmless drudge, declared the only reason to take up writing was to make money. He said he'd never do it otherwise.

Second, no one can deny that too many mediocre writers are published every year. There's no reason to add to their number. Many years of reading, far from outfitting me to write, have convinced me that—considering how few authors do write well—I'll never live up to the standards I admire. So few writers do live up to those standards. I have taught myself to be a discerning reader, though, which I've been told is an author's dream. I think I bring some gifts to my love of reading: understanding allusion and delighting in a well-wrought phrase give my appreciation a lot of depth. It seems to me my value is as an audience member, not another voice in the choir.

Finally, I know one more thing about writers: They write. They can't not write. I can cheerfully not write, believe me. I've no compulsion to share my ideas in print. Far from needing and wanting to write, I feverishly need and want not to write. I hope future generations recognize the outstanding common sense with which I do not sit down, I do not take up pen, and, thankfully, I do not write. Much.

A Cleveland Heights native, jewelry designer Susan Prendergast has worked in galleries and popular eateries since she attended the Cleveland Institute of Art.

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Noble Neighbors are on the move

Mary E. Weems and Brenda H. May

In January 2014, in response to a random, violent attack on one of our neighbors while she was walking, Noble Neighbors was born.

Thanks to Cynthia Griggins, who took the lead, and others, we began meeting in our homes and with local police and city representatives, as a show of support, and because we wanted to do something to reclaim our area as a beautiful, welcoming, inclusive community. We continue to grow in numbers and are partnering with local churches that are providing space for monthly meetings, which have already outgrown our living rooms.

Noble Neighbors is committed to doing our part to make this area an even better place to live, work and raise families. Efforts encompass attracting new homeowners, safety, beautification and community-building events. We realize this can only happen by reaching across our rich cultural boundaries for a common purpose—the revitalization of Cleveland Heights.

Prior to the founding of our organization, several community gardens were started. While the gardens are not part of Noble Neighbors, many of the gardens' members belong to our group.

A blog on the Noble Neighborhoods website (www.nobleneighbors.com) describes five neighborhood gardens: Woodview Hope Community Garden; several kitchen gardens at the Noble Road Presbyterian Church, cultivated by the Nepalese refugees that call the Noble neighborhood their home; a children's garden at Noble Neighborhood Library; Oxford Garden; and Montford Garden—the neighborhood's newest community garden.

Check out each garden for some very clever critter control techniques! Here's a shout-out to the Heights Community Garden Network, which supports all of these efforts. We've got good eating in the neighborhood!

A clean community sends a positive message. On June 7, Noble

Neighbors held our first Pick Up for Pride event, where 50 people spent several hours picking up trash and cleaning up Noble Road between Noble Elementary School and Woodview Road. The event was a big success, with Noble Road shop owners helping and expressing their appreciation.

We've held meetings and formed committees based on what we identified as our main goals. These include our Beautification Committee, which organized Pick up for Pride, and is currently working on perennial plantings beginning at the Noble Road and Monticello Boulevard intersection. Research has shown that the inviting "look" of a community is directly linked to crime reduction. The Community-Building Committee is responsible for increasing publicity and visibility and has reached out to the Noble Elementary School PTA. A fall event, Make Noise for Noble, was held at the school on Oct. 5. Adults and children gathered to meet and greet each other, participated in a drum circle followed by a drumming parade around the school, and had fun doing what all good neighbors do—spend time together.

Noble Neighbors is aware that several Block Watch groups have recently been started and block parties have been held during the summer. We ask that anyone who has been part of these efforts contact us via the Noble Neighbors website, to let us know what you're doing.

We are working to partner with the city, real estate and marketing professionals, business owners and anyone else interested in participating in our efforts. Noble Neighbors is on the move, and we need others to help. Please contact us through www.nobleneighbors.com, and stay tuned!

Mary E. Weems, a former Cleveland Heights poet laureate, is a poet, playwright and social foundations of education scholar. Brenda H. May, one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors, has lived in the Noble area for 30 years.

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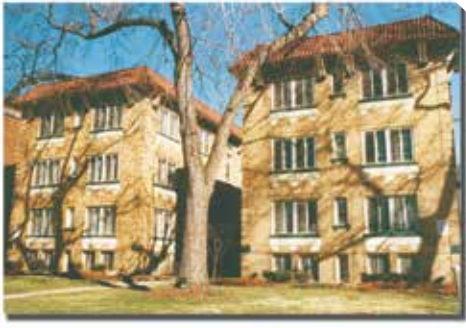


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THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

In 1948 George Orwell wrote *1984*, his famous indictment of the totalitarian state that made 1984 a dreaded year for me.

Another dreaded year is 2014. This time the cause of the dread is the U.S. Congress and its 1,000-plus-page No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, which became law in 2002.

NCLB required that, by 2014, every public school student be proficient in math and reading, or else. "The goal set by Congress of 100-percent proficiency by 2014 is an aspiration. It is akin to a declaration of belief. Yes, we do believe that all children can learn and should learn. But as a goal it is utterly out of reach," observed Diane Ravitch in her 2010 book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*. No one has ever achieved it.

Students with special needs, English-language learners, homeless children, and, in Ravitch's words, "children lacking in any societal advantage, and students who have every societal advantage but are not interested in their school work," must all demonstrate their proficiency on standardized tests. Any school that falls short—where one or more children fails to achieve a proficient score—is defined as "low performing," a failure. The consequences: schools closed, teachers fired and educations disrupted.

The year 2014 is here. As predicted, thousands of schools and school districts have earned the label of "low performing," including all the schools in the state of Vermont. Vermont demonstrates the absurdity of the law. According to Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont's secretary of education, measures of school quality that are more robust than the NCLB-mandated standardized tests indicate that Vermont's is one of the most effective school systems in the country. For example, Vermont consistently performs at the highest level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress and has the best graduation rate of any state. When 12 different education performance indicators are used, Vermont comes out third in the nation.

In August of this year, complying with the requirements of failing to meet 100-percent proficiency, Holcombe wrote to the parents of all students enrolled in that state's public schools,

informing them that, according to the U.S. Department of Education, all of the schools in her state were underperforming. Further along in her letter, though, Holcombe stated that, "The Vermont Agency of Education does not agree with this federal policy, nor do we agree that all of our schools are low performing."

In noting that NCLB had not closed the gap for children living in poverty, she called for a "different approach that actually works," and included a description of how Vermont would evaluate school quality, taking an approach with a broader vision than the one set out in federal policy.

For now, the majority of states will escape the failure label because they elected to get waivers exempting them from meeting this unattainable goal in exchange for using test scores to evaluate teachers, another punitive policy.

The law was built on faulty reasoning, disrespect for educators, disregard for the many factors that affect learning and distaste for investing in human beings. It promised a significant infusion of federal funds which has never materialized. NCLB changed the federal government's role from a source of funds to support the extra costs associated with educating children living in poverty to a heavy-handed judge of educational quality. It was a power grab from local communities, which are the primary funders of their public schools, and from local boards of education, the bodies responsible for accountability.

The law did not improve education; it undermined public confidence in this crucial resource for our democracy. Who builds a system based on an unattainable goal and attaches significant and damaging consequences to not achieving that goal? Who benefits when the day of reckoning arrives and the predicted failure occurs? It is not school children.

The narrative of failure attached to NCLB's focus on judgment will stand unless challenged every day by education leaders like Vermont's Holcombe, parents who know that their children are learning, teachers who know they are effective, and political leaders who can acknowledge that politically motivated goals can produce terrible public policies. It is the law that has failed, not the schools.

2014 is here. We can't wait any longer to reject this faulty and damaging system!

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, former director of Reaching Heights, and serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.



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Nov. 6: Thomas Mansbacher, who recently retired after playing for 37 years in the cello section of the Cleveland Orchestra, will reflect on his career, and the uplifting influence of music in his life.

Nov. 13: Marcia Pledger, a longtime resident of University Heights and veteran reporter for the *Plain Dealer*, will discuss strategies of business, development,

manufacturing and entrepreneurship, to reinvent Northeast Ohio's economy. She recently took a round-the-world tour in the company of 17 other journalists, to explore the economies of other nations.

Nov. 20: Steven Mitchell, an anesthesiologist from Akron, is an active participant in the lifesaving missions of Doctors Without Borders. Currently assigned to Sri Lanka, Mitchell has also served in Nigeria, Syria, Haiti, and Southern Sudan. He'll talk about his and his colleagues' experiences of bringing humanitarian aid to those affected by the devastation and displacement of war and natural catastrophes.

Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Day, no talk scheduled.

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Image: José Carlos Teixeira

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The world is coming to Cleveland with the exhibition, *Community Works: Artist as Social Agent*, opening Friday, November 7. Community Works will explore multi-layered narratives of identity, exile, and displacement through works of photography, video, installation and other media.

Community Works is made possible by support from The George Gund Foundation, the Cleveland Foundation, the Danish Arts Council, the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Murphy Family Foundation.

For more information, visit cia.edu/communityworks

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University Heights City Council



Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

[Town Hall Meeting]

All council members were present.

Public comment

Two residents asked for an explanation about reduced staffing in the ambulances and not using the third ambulance. They stated that in 2009 the fire staff was reduced, but residents' taxes were not. Mayor Susan Infeld said that the city always had only two ambulances and the third was extra. The city no longer needs the third ambulance and may donate it to East Cleveland. East Cleveland is not financially sound and is currently using a donated ambulance from Shaker Heights, which is extremely old.

Responses regarding fire and ambulance issues

Because University Heights is part of a joint dispatch, emergency calls are heard by many cities. If a city needs extra help and an ambulance or fire truck is available from another city, that city will help out the city in need. University Heights has seen a sharp increase in ambulance runs to East Cleveland. That city's ambulance is in disrepair and its staffing is low. The fire chief feels that donating the extra ambulance to East Cleveland is a good idea. A low resale value, about \$2,000, further justifies the donation.

Regarding staffing, a pilot program was implemented to see if two paramedics per ambulance would be sufficient. Two are always in the ambulance and, if needed, a squad car and sometimes a fire car are dispatched as well. If the call comes in as cardiac, three paramedics will be in the ambulance.

When asked by Councilman Mark Wiseman whether East Cleveland reimburses the calls or provides mutual aid, the fire chief said no to both. He hoped that donating the ambulance might alleviate the issue. Councilwoman Pamela Cameron stated that, as a former East Cleveland resident, she was sympathetic to its fiscal issues but was not aware that when University Heights purchased a new ambulance it would discontinue using the old one. The fire chief stated that of 375 ambulance calls between May and August, 32 percent required more than two paramedics. The staffing of six paramedics daily will not stop because of the two-paramedic pilot.

Commercial zoning request

At Mayor Susan Infeld's request, council added a rezoning item to the agenda. By a four-to-three vote, council approved rezoning parcels on Cedar Road for Waterway Gas and Wash. Councilmen Steven Sims, Philip Ertel and Mark Wiseman voted no.

Larry Weiser, who owns the four houses up for rezoning, spoke, and brought Waterway Gas and Wash representatives to discuss the

proposed building. Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, Weiser stated that parking would be better because the current parking at the nearby Jack's Deli, which Weiser also owns, would be restructured. Responding to questions about traffic congestion, Weiser said that a traffic study would be conducted and, if a light [is] needed, he would pay for it.

LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

OCTOBER 6, 2014

All council members were present.

Leaf pickup

Leaf pickup will begin Oct. 15 and continue through Dec. 5.

Hazardous waste

Hazardous waste drop-off will be held Oct. 31 through Nov. 1.

Rezoning application

Larry Weiser presented his proposal again, along with representatives from Waterway Gas and Wash. He wants to rezone four parcels of land from residential to commercial. He already owns the commercial strip adjacent to the lots. Weiser reminded council of the creation of jobs and increased property taxes, [and said the project] would also enhance the entrance to the city. Council just received the traffic study, and some members did not want to vote until they had reviewed the study. Council members Wiseman, Pardee, Cameron and Ertel all wanted more time. Councilwoman English and the mayor wanted to proceed. The vote was to put this on the agenda again at the next council meeting.

Ambulance sale

Council approved putting the third ambulance up for sale on the govdeals.com website. Councilman Ertel asked what happened to the proposal for donating it to East Cleveland. The mayor said she wants to see how much the city can get for it first.

Legislation for administrative expenses

A resolution authorizing that administrative and other expenses be paid, and necessary city council approval for other written contracts, expenses or services, was presented on first reading. Vice Mayor Pardee, who is the finance committee chair, stated that this resolution was approved by the finance committee. The mayor was still confused by the language so the law director said he would take another look at the policy.

Vendor contracts

Council discussed whether vendor contracts still need approval because of the new policy that the finance committee drafted. Council decided that for now every vendor would need a contract.

LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

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These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail 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.

Sweetie Fry closes on Lee Road



A passerby reads the notice of Sweetie Fry's closing posted on the window.

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Two days after the 2014 Heights Music Hop, which brought hundreds of people to Lee Road, two of its well-loved businesses—Sweetie Fry, and Cedar Lee Pub and Grill—announced that they were closing up shop.

At 1:51 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 13, a Cedar Lee Pub and Grill staff member posted on Twitter, “We regret to inform you we are closing permanently. Thank you all for your support. We’ve had some great memories.” The owners could not be reached for comment. The pub had been a music venue for the Oct. 11 music hop.

Keith Logan, owner of Sweetie Fry, posted a letter announcing the closing of his business at its storefront at 2307 Lee Road, and on its Facebook page, on Oct. 13. “It is with great sadness that I announce that Sweetie Fry will be closing this week,” the letter began. “It turns out that we just couldn’t sell enough indulgent snacks to

support a restaurant. Most successful restaurants these days are focused on healthy food meal—and that’s a good thing. I guess Sweetie Fry was a little too quirky.”

With flavors such as sweet corn and black pepper, the restaurant may have been a little edgier than the typical ice cream parlor, but Heights residents loved it. They voted Sweetie Fry the Best New Business in 2012, the year it opened, and honored it with the Best Place for Sweet Treats award in this year’s FutureHeights Best of the Heights contest, announced in September.

“We gave it a try for three years, and we just weren’t able to get over the hump—the break-even hump,” said Logan. “We needed more space, and although the city—particularly Greg Zucca [economic development director]—was very helpful and pointed us in the right direction, in the end, we couldn’t make the financing work.”

Logan said he had tried many ways to tweak the business model, such as wholesale

and sales to restaurants, but had limited success. “We were heading into our slow season and didn’t have the reserves to keep it going.”

Logan invited residents to write notes to the business on sticky notes he placed in a dog dish by the restaurant’s front door, and many notes were left on the storefront’s windows. Sweetie Fry fans also shared their thoughts on Facebook, expressing disbelief and sadness at the news.

Logan pledged that Sweetie Fry would remain open “until our freezers are empty for both ice cream and French fries.” By Oct. 15, Logan had sold his last pint and closed up shop.

“Please continue to support the small businesses on the street,” wrote Logan on Facebook. “We’re all at our best when we treat this block like part of our home.”

Logan said he has no idea what he will do next. “I have nothing planned,” he said,

although he said he has learned a lot about hospitality and food as a craft.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

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Three arrested in connection with Sept. 24 shooting at S. Taylor Road bar

Bob Rosenbaum

The Cleveland Heights Police Department issued a statement late on Wednesday, Sept. 24, that it had made three arrests in connection with the shooting death of Arrion Smiley. The shooting occurred shortly after 2 a.m. on Sept. 20, outside the Double R Bar & Grill, 1940 S. Taylor Road.

Jamahl Drake and Darius Wills have been charged with aggravated murder; bond for each has been set at \$500,000. Anthony Hunt has been charged with complicity to aggravated murder, with bond set at \$250,000.

The investigation is ongoing, according to the statement.

Reports indicate a fight had apparently taken place inside the bar shortly before the shooting. Several people were escorted outside, after which bullets were fired into the bar through the front window. Smiley and another woman were struck; the other woman is expected to recover. Neither was believed to have been involved with the initial disturbance.

Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is co-chairman of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development.

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

All council members were present.

Nuisance property

Council declared the property at 890 Woodview Road to be a nuisance and authorized abatement.

Childhood cancer awareness

Council declared September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, joining with the St. Baldrick's Foundation and numerous other nonprofit groups and communities throughout the nation.

New website features

New features on the city's website include the results of the 2014 Residents Survey and, in the police department section of the website, annual crime reporting data from 2011-13 and other statistics.

Gas aggregation program

Council approved a renewal agreement with Integrys Energy Services-Natural Gas LLC for the continued provision of natural gas services to city residents and businesses under the city's gas aggregation program. Integrys will be the service provider for an additional three years, beginning Nov. 1, 2014.

Emergency paving

Council approved an agreement with Ronyak Paving to perform emergency paving work on Thorne, Greyton and Cedar roads. The 2014 street resurfacing contract was awarded to Kokosing Construction Company, which completed all the streets on the city's list at a lower-than-expected cost, resulting in a surplus of \$137,072, which can be used to treat additional streets. Because Kokosing cannot do this work until late October, the city is now contracting with Ronyak to undertake these projects. The cost is not to exceed \$137,072, of which about \$98,000 will be put toward repairs to Cedar Road, which will be fully repaved in 2017.

Tax agreement with health care provider

Council accepted the recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) to continue a Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) agreement with HealthSpan Integrated Care (formerly known as Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Ohio Inc.). In 2005, the city signed a development agreement with Kaiser for the construction of a 49,000-square-foot addition to its medical facility at 10 Severance Circle. The agreement provided for a 30 percent ten-year tax abatement on the improvements. The tax benefits of the abatement include more than \$5 million in total actual annual payroll (as of Dec. 13, 2013) attributed to the new employment resulting from the tax abatement, and more than \$9 million in cumulative property taxes paid over the term of the tax abatement.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

OCTOBER 6, 2014

All council members were present.

Public comments

Meatless Mondays: Resident Laurel Hopwood, backed by a large group of supporters, spoke about a global project called Meatless Monday (www.meatlessmonday.com), which addresses

personal and environmental health by advocating a decrease in meat consumption. The project does not seek to dictate but rather to educate. She asked council for a resolution in support of Meatless Mondays, as several other cities have already done so.

FutureHeights study: Rebecca Price and Diane Allman, members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, which advises the city on allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG), expressed their support for a FutureHeights CDBG request to study the assets of each community within the city and develop a neighborhood-strengthening action plan that would yield more immediate results.

Law director appointed

Council approved the appointment of acting law director Jim Juliano as the permanent law director for the city.

CHPD honor guard

Council Member Melissa Yasinow congratulated the Cleveland Heights Police Department Honor Guard who recently laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. The honor guard members are all retired U.S. Marines.

Tree lawn pickup

Tree lawn leaf pickup begins Nov. 3. Until then, leaves should be bagged.

Outstanding Neighbor of the Month

Council Member Jason Stein presented his Outstanding Neighbor of the Month Award to David Yen of Fairmount Boulevard for clearing snow from neighborhood sidewalks last winter.

LGBT discrimination protection

Two pieces of legislation on LGBT discrimination were presented on first reading:

- The first would amend the Fair Practices chapter of the city code to expand the role and jurisdiction of the Fair Practices Board to hear complaints concerning discrimination against sexual orientation and gender identity in both employment and education context. It would also create a complaint officer to conduct preliminary investigations of complaints and increase the efficiency of the Fair Practices Board. Council seeks to continue its leadership role in prohibiting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) discrimination in any context—something not currently covered by state or federal law.
- The second piece of legislation encourages enactment of two bills (S.B. 125 and H.B. 163) currently in the Ohio General Assembly, to protect Ohioans from discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity. Twenty-one states currently protect LGBTQ rights. Because Ohio does not, it is at a disadvantage in attracting business and other potential assets.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

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St. Paul's former rector ordained as Massachusetts bishop

Andrea C. Turner

Boston University's Agganis Arena was transformed from sporting arena to sacred space on Saturday, Sept. 13, as the Episcopal Church ordained and consecrated the Rev. Alan M. Gates as the 16th bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Gates, 56, served as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights from 2004-14.

More than 3,000 participants and guests from around the country and across the globe attended the event, including 28 bishops. Among them were 115 supporters from St. Paul's Church.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr., Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, and formerly a priest of the Diocese of Massachusetts, served as the event's preacher. Hollingsworth and his family reside in Shaker Heights.

Following the sermon, participating bishops solemnly placed their hands on the bishop-elect's head during a sacred prayer of consecration—a passing on of episcopal authority in what is believed to be an unbroken line from Christ's apostles.

Several St. Paul's clergy, staff and parishioners took part in the ceremony, which included the presentation of gifts to the newly ordained bishop. One gift, a crozier (a symbolic staff similar to a shepherd's crook), was designed by Hollingsworth and crafted by him and Abe Hoder, an Amish craftsman from Baltic, Ohio. It is made of white oak, harvested in the heart of Ohio's Amish



Alan M. Gates, his wife, and two sons wave to supporters after Gates' ordination and consecration as the 16th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

country.

The event included music from a combined choir of 550-plus singers from nearly 75 parishes, and featured a brass ensemble, a steel drum band and a handbell choir in addition to traditional and gospel choirs. Parts of the service were read or sung in multiple languages—among them English, Spanish, Chinese and Xhosa—to reflect the church's diversity.

At a reception following the ceremony, Gates thanked the attendees for their outpouring of support.

Gates was elected bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts by the clergy and lay delegates of the diocese at a special electing convention held April 5 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

Gates is a Massachusetts native

and a graduate of Middlebury College. Prior to attending seminary he was a Russian language translator, researcher and intelligence analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense and the State Department. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and was ordained to the priesthood in 1988. Prior to his call to Cleveland Heights, Gates served congregations in the Episcopal dioceses of Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts and Chicago. He and his wife, Patricia J. Harvey, have two adult sons.

Andrea C. Turner is the Heights Observer e-news editor and owner of ACT One Communications, LLC. Turner, a member of St. Paul's parish, attended the ceremony in Boston.

Women's empowerment workshop to be held Nov. 15

Bob Rosenbaum

A workshop titled Release Your Inner Superwoman will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Forest Hill Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd. in Cleveland Heights. Facilitated by three area experts, the workshop is designed to help participants optimize health of mind, body and environment, to develop their strengths and achieve their goals.

The workshop will be led by Cleveland Heights residents Judith Eugene of Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki, and Jeannine Gury of Freshwater Coaching; and Lyndhurst resident Christina Hidek of Streamlined Living. Eugene will discuss achieving strength and balance through simple stress-relief techniques. Gury's presentation will concentrate on internal thought work, unleashing and enabling one's life. Hidek will highlight alignment of one's external environment with the internal self.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for registration and check-in. Pre-registration is required at www.bit.ly/superwoman2014. The cost of the workshop is \$60, and participants will receive a \$15 credit for services provided by each speaker—a \$45 value. For more information, contact Christina Hidek at christina.hidek@gmail.com or 216-586-4738.

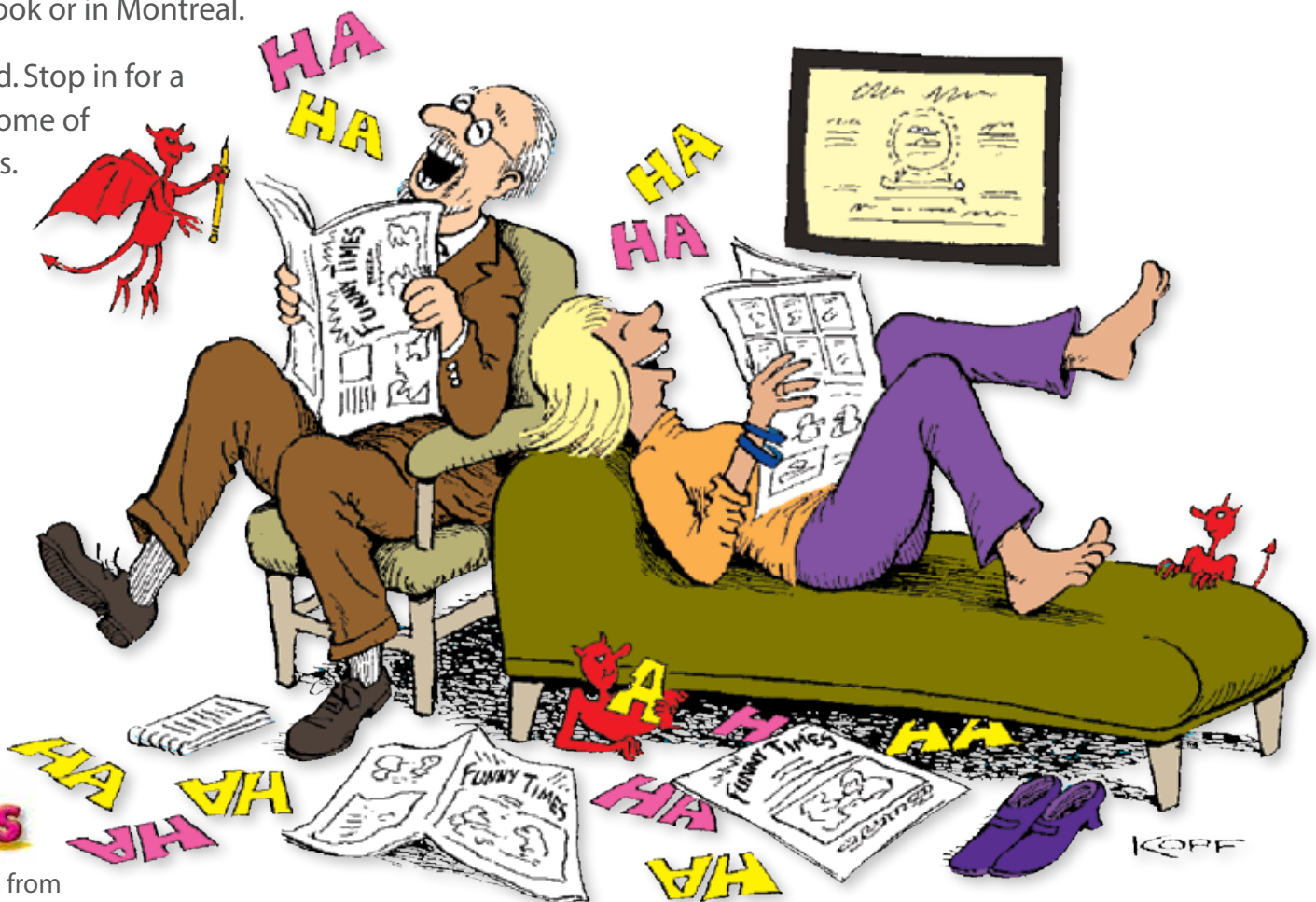
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KATZ DINER continued from page 1

With the fire kitchen “definitely too tight,” Katz wants to rebuild as soon as possible, but said, “There’s a lot of questions and a lot of leg work and research that we have to do. I’m someone who really believes in authenticity, so one of my biggest challenges is that I don’t want to just rebuild a structure that looks like a diner car. We have a lot of demolition work to do first and we have a lot of detail in terms of what

to do exactly—whether I can find an actual diner car. I don’t think it has been a 1952 [car] exactly, but there has to be authenticity to it. I don’t want to create something that’s sort of a fake.”

Richard Stewart, president of Digizoom Media, is vice president of the Future-Heights Board of Directors. Kim Sergio Inglis, editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, contributed to this article.

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Cedar LEE
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CH resident to lead AAOA

Jonah Rosenblum

Cleveland Heights resident Steven Houser, M.D., became the new president of the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy (AAOA) on Sept. 20.

Otolaryngologists—head and neck surgeons—diagnose and treat disorders of the ear, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck.

Director of Rhinology, Sinus and Allergy for The MetroHealth System, Houser will lead a national group of approximately 1,700 ear, nose and throat doctors, with 2,300 members overall.

Houser will be president of the AAOA for one year, during which he’ll help the academy respond to allergy issues, such as insurance coverage and government validation of allergy treatment. He will also provide leadership to the AAOA in its mission of supporting its membership “through education, research and advocacy in the care of allergic patients.”

“MetroHealth doctors serve our community but they also serve nationally in their specialty organizations,” said Alfred F. Connors, chief medical officer of The MetroHealth System. “They’re leaders in their fields, and Dr.



Dr. Steven Houser, new president of the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy.

Houser is a perfect example of that.”

Houser is one of Northeast Ohio’s sole providers of immunotherapy drops and tablets for allergies to cats, dogs, dust, grass, mold, pollen and ragweed.

A Strongsville native, Houser has lived in Cleveland Heights for nearly 20 years.

“I have lived in Cleveland Heights most of my adult life,” he said. “Yes, I crossed the river and lived to tell the tale. We enjoy the neighbors and neighborhoods, the parks, the restaurants and the close location to all things in Cleveland.”

After graduating from Strongsville High School, Houser went on to the University of Notre Dame and The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He is a fencer, watercolorist, hockey parent and hockey husband—his wife plays as well.

Houser spent his first several years in Cleveland Heights on Rydalmount Road, before moving to St. James Parkway with his growing family.

His wife, Margaret Bigg, also a doctor, is a “huge Cleveland Heights fan,” according to Houser, and does her skating at the same Cleveland Heights rink that sons Joey and Teddy used to use. They are now students at Benedictine High School.

Houser sees patients at MetroHealth’s Beachwood location, as well as its brand-new Middleburg Heights health center and its main campus on West 25th Street. He can be reached at 216-778-5791.

Jonah L. Rosenblum, a Cleveland Heights resident, is the media relations assistant at MetroHealth, Cuyahoga County’s public hospital. Originally determined to live downtown near the ballpark, Rosenblum quickly fell in love with the architecture, greenery and restaurants of Cleveland Heights.

“Judson’s artist-in-residence program connects mom with her love of music.”

—K.J. Montgomery, daughter of Judson assisted living resident Goldie Montgomery

Goldie Montgomery enjoyed a prolific career as an opera singer in Cleveland during the 1950s. One of the gowns she wore when performing for visiting dignitaries is now part of the Western Reserve Historical Society’s permanent collection.

When the time came for her family to look at assisted living options, they chose Judson Manor.

“The artist-in-residence program, where Cleveland Institute of Music students live at Judson Manor, was a huge pull given mom’s background” says daughter K. J. Montgomery. “As she adjusted to the environment, the welcoming staff gently encouraged her to attend programs, while also respecting her privacy. Knowing she has options and choices, she couldn’t be happier!”

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Canadian scholar explores 'How the Zohar Came to Be' at Nov. 15 lunch

Carol Bruml

Renowned Canadian Jewish scholar Ira Robinson will address the topic, "How the Zohar Came to Be," at a Lunch and Learn event at Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Kabbala (Jewish mysticism) is one of the most significant ways of understanding Judaism that developed in medieval times. It started out as the expression of a closed circle of scholars and transformed itself in the 16th century to become a popular movement. One of the ways this happened is through the emergence of the Zohar as the primary Kabbalistic text. Among followers of Kabbalistic teachings, the Zohar is a holy book. Yet from the time it became widely known, it has been the subject of controversy in terms of its origins, whether it should be printed, and whether ordinary Jews should study

it. This talk will examine the history of the Zohar and provide approaches to understanding these issues.

Ira Robinson is professor of Judaic studies in the Department of Religion of Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. He earned his B.A. at Johns Hopkins University, his B.H.L. at Baltimore Hebrew College, his M.A. at Columbia University, and his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University.

The luncheon and talk are free to all, but non-members should call Joel Genuth at 617-943-2076 to make lunch reservations. Lunch will start at about 12:15 p.m. Beth El – The Heights Synagogue is located at 3246 Desota Ave. in Cleveland Heights.

Carol Bruml is the communications chair and newsletter editor for Beth El - The Heights Synagogue.



Guild women in the early years.

COURTESY SARAH VLIK

Fairmount Presbyterian's Women's Guild celebrates a century of service

Sarah Vlieg

The Women's Guild of Fairmount Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. For the last century, guild members have been meeting for fellowship, study, charitable giving and service.

To honor this milestone, the guild has invited the Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, vice-moderator of the General Assembly—the ruling body of the Presbyterian denomination—to lead the church's worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9. The services will "lift up" the gifts of women to the church.

Also that day, Kwong Abazia will lead a 10 a.m. discussion on the work of the General Assembly, and will also hold a Q&A session at 5 p.m.

All are welcome to participate in celebrating the guild's century of service to the church, community and the world.

Fairmount Presbyterian Church

is located at 2757 Fairmount Blvd., in Cleveland Heights.

Sarah Vlieg is coordinator for Fairmount Presbyterian Church's Women's Guild.

How to keep the 'old ticker' ticking



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Statistics show that the chance of suffering a heart attack greatly increases over the age of 55, for both men and women. Fortunately, there are some simple things one can do to limit, and even prevent, the chances of having a heart attack.

A heart attack happens when a part of the heart muscle dies or becomes damaged due to reduced or blocked blood supply. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), risk factors for having a heart attack include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, smoking, physical inactivity, an unhealthy diet, and a family history of stroke, obesity or diabetes.

The American Heart Association (AHA) has published a simple guide for preventing heart attacks, called "The ABCs of Heart Attack Prevention." The ABCs are: Avoid tobacco, Become more active, and Choose good nutrition.

The AHA recommends that one should quit smoking, be physically active every day, maintain a healthy weight, reduce stress, eat a healthy diet, reduce blood pressure and cholesterol, manage diabetes and not drink excessive amounts of alcohol.

The CDC lists the five major symptoms of a heart attack as:

- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck,

or back

- Feeling weak, light-headed, or faint
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Pain or discomfort in arms or shoulders
- Shortness of breath

The University Hospitals Center for Healthy Aging reports that patients often attribute their pain or discomfort to something else, and don't seek the medical attention they need. If blood flow to the heart is not restored within minutes, irreversible damage to the heart will occur, or the heart may stop beating altogether.

If you think that you, or a loved one, are experiencing a heart attack, it is important to call 911 immediately. If you're not sure, call anyway. While waiting for emergency personnel to arrive, ask for help from anyone nearby who may be trained in CPR and in using a defibrillator.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center offers blood pressure checks and other health screenings on a regular basis. It also offer classes and programs to help keep one physically active, maintain a proper weight, and reduce stress. Call 216-691-7377 for more information.

The AHA can be reached at 800-242-8721, and the CDC can be reached at 800-232-4636.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through www.lovingbandsgroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or judith@lovingbandsgroup.com

LESSIE BROWN continued from page 1

Street and Quincy Avenue for many years. Though she can no longer make it over to the church, the minister comes to her apartment and gives her communion at least once a month.

"I read library books and the Bible," said Brown of her life these days. She also walks around her apartment quite

a bit to get exercise. "Overall, I'm just very thankful that I have lived this long," she said.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

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Heights historical photo of the month



Some things never change! Kids having fun on the playground at Canterbury Elementary School in 1933.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. For more information, and to view additional historical images, visit www.chhistory.org or www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical.

Cumberland gardening team wins two awards

Joanne Westin

On Sept. 22, five members of the Cumberland gardening team, of Cleveland Heights, participated in the Freshtoberfest Youth Garden Cook-Off. Dee Jay Doc Harrill, who runs the Fresh Camp youth garden program in Cleveland (<http://fresh.deejaydoc.com/>), planned the event, which took place at Dunham Tavern Museum on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland.

The Cumberland gardeners, Kira Cicerchi, Maeve Ialacci, Bridget Katholi, Jackson Walker and Ella Watterson, made zucchini-corn fritters with the assistance of Chef Eric Wells. They enjoyed the chance to meet other young gardeners and taste their culinary creations. The Cumberland gardeners



Bridget Katholi, Maeve Ialacci and Kira Cicerchi prepare corn.

were excited to win the judges' prize for "Freshest Taste" and also "The Crowd Favorite" award.

Joanne Westin is the leader of the Cumberland Gardening Team.

Lake Erie Ink launches fall workshops

Jessica Davids

Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication, beginning as an oral tradition and eventually bringing us to a digital age in which stories are consumed through every possible media outlet. After all, who can resist a good story?

Cleveland Heights's Lake Erie Ink (LEI) kicked off its fourth fall session with a creative writing workshop on the power of storytelling, featuring Cleveland resident and author Jack Ricchiuto. This workshop is one of many that will take place throughout the year as part of Lake Erie Ink's Weekend Ink program.

Consisting of monthly workshops, Weekend Ink focuses on genre-specific writing activities in collaboration with guest writers and artists. On Saturday, Nov. 22, LEI will host a story-driven sci-fi and fantasy workshop called Rewrite the World, which will enable participants to explore the world of science fiction and fantasy.

Ink Spot, a popular after-school program for fourth through eighth graders, is also underway at LEI this fall. Ink Spot offers homework help and creative writing exercises that encourage children to explore the elements of storytelling.

Ink Spotters recently collaborated with Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion artist Pablo Serra Marino on a multimedia project combining story and art. Each child wrote a short story—less than 10 sentences—and created a DVD cover for his or her story. The finished products will be displayed as a part of

Serra's exhibit at the Cleveland Print Room on Nov. 20.

Peter, a fifth-grade student and Ink Spot participant, wrote the following story:

I was digging in my garden and found a map. I did some research and it was real! A man named Scar, a pirate, hid his treasure long ago where the X marked on the map. I went searching to find that treasure, so I took my bike and rode a good 20 miles to the biggest USA bank, which was in L.A. I went in and my map directed me to the bathroom. It then said make this rhythm by flushing the toilets and I did it and a hole appeared. I went in and found myself a real pirate ship. I took as much money as I could from the ship and left to go home. I showed my mom how much money I found. I took it to a jeweler and they said my whole find could have cost a trillion dollars.

LEI will also offer college essay workshops throughout the year to help students construct their personal narratives during the college application process.

LEI's story began in 2011, when co-founders Cynthia Larson and Amy Rosenbluth decided to create a writing space for Cleveland youth to develop distinct voices through creative writing and to provide academic support. With the help of staff and volunteers, Lake Erie Ink hopes to continue to foster and encourage a new generation of storytellers. For more information about upcoming workshops, including dates and fees, go to www.lakeerieink.com.

Jessica Davids, a recent graduate of John Carroll University, currently interns at Lake Erie Ink.

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All-district production of ‘Guys and Dolls’ features students of all ages



Wyatt Sudduth, Michael Carder (back row, from left), Johnna Marotta, Miranda Coble and Evan Adeen (front row, from left) play lead roles in Heights High’s production of “Guys and Dolls.”

Joy Henderson

More than 550 CH-UH City School District students will play a part in the eighth annual all-district musical, a production of “Guys and Dolls,” Nov. 6–8, 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 9, 4 p.m. Performances will take place in the Heights High Auditorium. Call

216-320-3015 for ticket information or visit the Heights High Web page, www.chuh.org/GuysDollsTicketInfo.aspx. Ticket prices are \$6 (orchestra and balcony) and \$10 (dress circle and mezzanine).

More than 550 students will perform in two casts, and participants include 250 high school singers,

dancers, and pit orchestra and stage crew members; 100 middle school singers and dancers; and 215 elementary school chorus members.

Craig McGaughey, the show’s director and Heights High’s vocal music director, selected “Guys and Dolls” for this year’s show because this year’s group of students is strong in both singing and dancing. “This show is a great way to use our amazing lyric sopranos, tenors and baritones,” he said, “and our dance talent is just phenomenal!”

Students who will play lead roles in the production are Wyatt Sudduth (Nathan Detroit), Michael Carder (Sky Masterson), Johnna Marotta

(Sarah Brown), Miranda Coble (Adalaide) and Evan Adeen (Sarah Brown).

In addition to learning vocal, dance and acting skills, the participating students also learn about life and culture. “Theater is a living history book,” said McGaughey. ““Guys and Dolls’ takes place in the early 1950s, when U.S. citizens could go to Havana, Cuba for the music scene. It also depicts the changing role of women, economic disparity after WWII and, of course, love.”

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.

Heights announces National Merit Scholarship semifinalists



Heights High seniors Thomas Pharis, Abraham Mendes and Isaiah Pressman.

Joy Henderson

Cleveland Heights High School seniors Thomas Pharis, Abraham Mendes and Isaiah Pressman are semifinalists in the first round of the 60th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

More than 1.4 million students nationally take the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) as juniors, and the 50,000 with the highest scores can qualify as semifinalists. The semifinalists are eligible to apply to become finalists, a designation that includes scholarship opportunities.

Mendes is a committed musician and writer. He is sergeant of the Marching Band trombone section, first chair trombone in the Jazz Ensemble, and plays in the Brass Quartet and Symphonic Winds. He also recently helped start a board game club. Mendes plans

to attend a liberal arts college to study creative writing, as he is interested in storytelling and hopes to write for TV someday. His top college choices are Bennington College in Vermont, Carlton College in Minnesota and Reed College in Oregon.

Pharis is currently taking all of his classes at Cleveland State University, through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program. He loves math and is taking multivariable calculus, linear algebra, introduction to discrete mathematics, university physics and introduction to fiction. His first choices for colleges include Washington University, St. Louis University and University of Oklahoma, and he plans to study math, physics or computer security.

Pressman is very involved in the Vocal Music Department, where he has learned important vocal, drama and leadership skills. He is a co-president of the Barbershoppers and Singers, and will play the role of Nicely-Nicely Johnson in this year’s fall musical, “Guys and Dolls.” Next year Pressman plans to attend a liberal arts college, and is considering Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and St. Olaf College in Minnesota. He will be a third-generation Heights High graduate.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.

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New grant supports Holocaust education

Joy Henderson

The Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation received a \$5,000 annual renewable grant for Holocaust education at Cleveland Heights High School from the George F., Stephanie M. and George L. Traub Fund of The Cleveland Jewish Federation.

Stephen Hoffman, president of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, presented the grant to Lessons of the Holocaust teacher Mark Sack at a ceremony on Sept. 29 at the federation.

The funds will be used for field trips and guest speakers, and also to support two local scholarships for Lessons of the Holocaust students.

The scholarships will honor two women who have been instrumental in Holocaust education at Heights High for many years.

The Dr. Leatrice Rabinsky



Stephen Hoffman, president of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland (back row, left) with Mark Sack and honorees Leatrice Rabinsky (front, left) and Gita Franke.

Scholarship honors the founder of Holocaust education at Heights High and will be awarded to a student who shows academic excellence in the class.

The Gita Frankel Scholarship

honors a Holocaust survivor and University Heights resident who is a frequent guest speaker at Heights High. It will be awarded to the student who demonstrates exemplary community service.

Rabinsky began the Holocaust education course at Heights High in the early 1970s. The current class, a social studies elective, is taught by Sack, one of her former students.

Started in 1903, the Cleveland Jewish Federation has a long history of supporting education and social welfare in the greater Cleveland community.

"We are very grateful for this support from the Jewish Federation," said Sack. "These funds will help us continue our strong history of Holocaust education by providing unique enrichment experiences for students."

"Holocaust education touches students' hearts and guides their actions. We are building citizens that are upstanders—proactive people who will stand up to cruelty and intolerance," he said.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.

Heights Coalition for Public Education sponsors forums

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

The Heights Coalition for Public Education will sponsor a free community forum on Monday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Social Room at Cleveland Heights High School. The public is invited to join the conversation about current state and federal education policy that emphasizes testing and the privatization of public education.

The forum—titled The Myth of Failing Public Schools—will feature Rob Weil, national director of field programs for the American Federation of Teachers. Weil's presentation will cover the history of the current test-and-punish culture, and take a closer look at misleading international comparisons based on test scores. Small group conversations will follow his presentation.

The Heights Coalition for Public Education was formed this past spring following the community reading of Diane Ravitch's *Reign of Error*. More than 130 community members participated in three guided discussions of the book, which describes federal policies that encourage the privatization of public education, and the controversial use of test scores to make high-stakes decisions.

CH-UH school district parents, teachers and concerned residents, who make up the coalition, believe that the current accountability system, i.e., testing, is not an accurate or meaningful measurement of school quality, nor does it reflect community values, and that the current over-reliance on tests and test prep narrows the curriculum, harming all students.

The coalition is seeking endorsements of its position statement, which can be found at <http://chub.net/coalition>. This statement calls for an end to high-stakes testing, equitable funding for public schools, teacher-driven assessment of students to inform instruction, a halt on the transfer of public funds to for-profit charter schools, and trust and investment in teachers as respected professionals.

Co-sponsors of the event include the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Reaching Heights, FutureHeights and the CH-UH PTA Council. Additional forums are being planned for January and March 2015.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and an active member of the Fairfax PTA. She blogs at <http://krissygallagher.wordpress.com>.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

[Work session on facilities, schematic design phase]

Board Member Kal Zucker was absent.

Square footage

The meeting began with a report on balancing the budget with the design. The square footage has increased from 335,000 to 352,000 square feet in the current redesign in order to work within the existing 1926 framework of the building. The initial design square footage was 380,000 sq. ft., but was reduced to stay in budget.

Heating, ventilation and cooling system

Three heating and cooling systems are being considered:

- A traditional system with high-efficiency natural gas boilers and water-cooled electric chillers would cost \$2 million to install and have a 35-year life-cycle cost of \$25 million.
- An electric geothermal heat pump system with underground geothermal borefield would cost \$4 million to install and have a 35-year life-cycle cost of \$23 million.
- A geothermal/hybrid system with an underground geothermal borefield, ice storage system, and supplemental high-efficiency natural gas boilers would cost \$2.8 million to install and have a 35-year life-cycle cost of \$25 million. However, it would require twice the technical capacity, parts and tools.

Parking and school bus circulation

Bus circulation would include drives on the building's east and west sides, with a bus drop-off for special needs students. Limited visitor parking adjacent to the building would be available. For staff parking, the city prefers that off-site parking be used across Cedar Road with traffic signal relocation to accommodate pedestrian traffic.

Environmental impacts

Reducing on-site parking by 200-plus spaces decreases hard surface paving by 67,000 sq. ft. and reduces stormwater runoff. The redesign also reduces the roof area by 48,322 sq. ft., giving a 30 percent reduction in runoff. Stormwater could be recycled for irrigation.

Exterior space

Auto tech would share a screened delivery court/service yard and dock with building services. The front yard facing Cedar Road

would have a low-maintenance lawn area and a simple walkway with facilities for bicyclists.

Interior space

The pool would be reduced from 10 to 8 lanes. Two additional lanes will be bid as an alternate option. The black box theater [idea] was replaced with a drama classroom with a small platform stage, and a mini-auditorium was relocated adjacent to the main entrance. Other rooms, e.g., competition gym, wrestling room, and locker rooms, will be based on budget and available space. The Career Technical Education (CTE) space is also included in the redesign.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

All board members were present.

Gilbane Building Company

The board approved Gilbane Building Company to be the construction manager at risk for the enabling projects. These projects consist of preparing Wiley Middle School to be used as a temporary high school while Heights High is under construction.

Modular classrooms

The board approved leasing new modular classrooms from Satellite Shelters. The district will save \$700,000 in capital costs and it can extend the lease if needed. The bid amount is \$3.6 million.

Cost estimate for schematic design

The current estimate of the high school schematic design is 4.4 percent over budget. Steve Zannoni, the project management consultant, reassured the board that this overage is normal during this phase of the design and that the project will be brought within budget during the design development phase.

A final schematic design package including a budget will be presented to the board for approval at the regular board meeting on Oct. 7.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

OCTOBER 7, 2014

All board members were present.

Summer programs

The third-grade Tiger Reading camp was a six-week program consisting of a writing workshop, test prep, study island, and guided

reading. The 84 enrolled students included 45 who had received a reading score qualifying passage to fourth grade, but still attended. Only eight students were retained districtwide in third grade, and not all eight had attended the camp.

The middle school summer program included a four-week period of two two-hour blocks of pass/fail instruction. Summer school fees were \$50 for one class and \$25 for additional classes, and 178 students attended. One hundred percent of the sixth grade, 99 percent of the seventh grade, and 94 percent of the eighth grade passed.

The five-week high school summer program was online (the Aventa program), where students worked at their own pace, with some finishing early. Students who attended numbered 217. Tuition was \$100 for one class, and \$50 for additional classes. Twelve percent of the students earned an A; 57 percent, B; 27 percent, C; two percent, D; and 11 percent, F. The F's were from lack of attendance. The total budget was \$115,983.41; tuition collected was \$39,947; and the teachers were paid \$42 per hour.

Approval of high school design

The board approved the Heights High reconstruction project schematic design site plan, floor plans, building elevations and system narratives, and the schematic design phase project schedule. It also approved the schematic design phase estimate of \$82,667,984 contingent upon the design team achieving target savings of \$3,711,486 during the design development phase. It also authorized BSHM Architects to proceed with the design development phase. The major spaces in the building are set.

Ron Register, board president, stated that this approval of the schematic design was a major step, but the community will still be able to give suggestions at the facilities meetings.

Meetings with city councils

The joint meeting with the Cleveland Heights City Council is still to be scheduled. The board is also planning a meeting with the University Heights City Council because of the high school's move to Wiley.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 6.

Library board member invites applicants to fill vacant seats

Julia Murphy

Rick Ortmeier joined the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board of Trustees



Rick Ortmeier

COURTESY JULIA MURPHY

in 2012. Ortmeier is an architect, which doesn't necessarily mean that he is a library expert, but he has actually been building libraries for more than 20 years.

"It's been a great privilege to work with libraries and I've been able to really learn what libraries do for their communities," said Ortmeier. "In order to make a building that is best suited for its purpose, I need to know what happens in that building."

The board is officially responsible for guiding library functions, and a big part of that is ensuring fiscal responsibility. "We talk a lot about how services are funded, where services are funded, including how long libraries are open, which days they're open, and where we choose to spend our money in terms of collections," he added.

There are seven trustees on the board, and each serves for seven years. Every year a new board member

is elected as one member's term ends. Ortmeier explained that a strong board consists of diverse voices from all parts of the community.

The current board includes a schoolteacher, an attorney, a small-business owner, and a professor at Case Western Reserve University, among others. Due to the relocation of one board member, and the term limit for another, there are two open seats this year, and, said Ortmeier, "We'd love to have more representation from University Heights."

Although there are no requirements to join the board, besides living in Cleveland Heights or University Heights, a serious dedication to the library system is important. Ortmeier views the CH-UH libraries as a vital extension of the education system in the community.

When it comes to early literacy, the library is the point of contact for children under the age of three—even before the school district has the opportunity to engage them.

For school-aged children and teens, the library serves as a place for learning that is separate from school. It is a place where they can go to explore their own interests at their

own pace.

For adults, the library provides lifelong learning opportunities, employment help, and opportunities for social and civic engagement.

Interested in joining the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board of Trustees? Applications are available at the Lee Road Library. The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, Nov. 20, at noon. For more information, call 216-932-3600.

Julia Murphy is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

Rick Ortmeier, secretary, was absent.

Friends partners in Welcome Home

In partnership with FutureHeights and Reaching Heights, Friends will participate in Welcome Home, a program for new residents. The program will be presented twice a year, in October and June. The Oct. 5 program, at Nighttown, will feature local authors.

Friends events

The annual meeting of members will be held Oct. 12 at 1:30 p.m., with the Native American Read-In at 2 p.m. The Fall Mega Book Sale will be held Nov. 6-9, and a theater outing will be held Dec. 6 with Dobama presenting "A Civil War Christmas."

New immigrant welcoming hub

US Together and Welcoming Cleveland have chosen the Noble Neighborhood Library as the new immigrant welcoming hub. Many immigrants from Nepal have moved into the Noble neighborhood and have been welcomed by the library.

Anti-bullying programming

Board member Abby Botnick has aided another partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. This winter the library will begin anti-bias programming for young children and their parents. The library will also work with the Gay-Lesbian and Straight Education Network to provide anti-bullying programs for older children.

State funding for libraries reduced

The Ohio Library Council reminds voters that Ohio's state funding for libraries has been reduced by 24 percent since 2008—a loss of more than \$105 million. This means that Ohio's public libraries are



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being funded at 1996 levels.

Public service report highlights:

- The "Gandalf Returns to Hobbiton" mural was installed in the children's room at Coventry Village Library.
- At Noble Neighborhood Library, the African Drumming and Dance program attracted 28 children, teens and adults who danced along with Youth Services Associate Sheneé King.
- Noble Neighborhood Library's garden yielded the first taste of tomatoes, cucumbers and radishes, and children also made wind chimes from hangers, jars and beads.
- At University Heights Library, customers can now use three new shopping carts with wheels and extending handles.
- Target invited the University Heights Library to participate in its National Night Out family program, which included the sharing of crafts and stories.
- Personal Narratives of the Local LGBT Movement, part of the library's Looking Through the LGBT Lens series, was presented in partnership with the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. The LGBT Artists' Showcase featured theater, poetry and art by three local artists.
- The August Movie Night feature was "Pariah" (2011), the story of a 17-year-old African-American girl quietly embracing her identity as a lesbian.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded
postings of meeting summaries online
at www.heightsobserver.org.
See disclaimer on page 6.

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A bit of history, alive and singing



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

You've never heard of one of the most important people in history. Probably. A tiny percentage of the people who read this article will recognize the name Jackie Washington (though some of those might be thinking of one of the two other semi-famous Jackie Washingtons). The Jackie Washington I'm talking about is performing

at Nighttown on Nov. 11, which I find amazing, because he's historic, and because it is such a rare appearance.

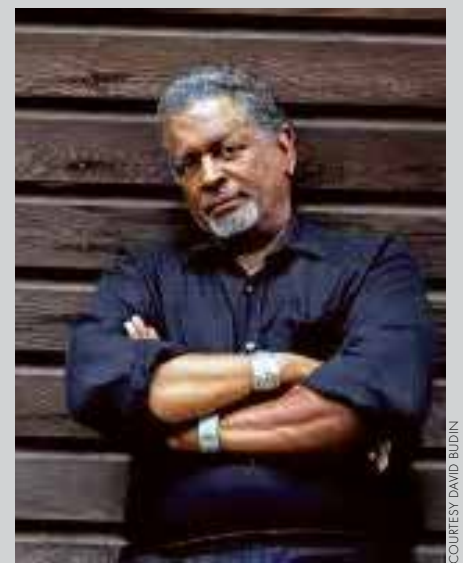
Here's why, in a ridiculously simplified overview, I think Jackie Washington is historically significant: The late-'50s and early-to-mid-'60s folk music scene encompassed the Folk Revival and the original singer-songwriter movements. Following the Kingston Trio's million-selling single "Tom Dooley," on Capital Records, which took everyone by surprise in 1958, all of the other labels signed a few folk artists, hoping to cash in on what they determined was a folk music fad.

There were some smaller, newer labels at that time who did believe that folk was here to stay—most notably Folkways, Elektra and Vanguard—and signed artists who were good, and not necessarily potential commercial successes.

Jackie Washington was one of those who signed with Vanguard Records. But why was that so important? Because several things happened to come together right at that time: The Baby Boomers had reached high school and college age; they had spending money; rock music was becoming insipid (between the first wave of rock pioneers and the Beatles) and many Boomers were looking for something more substantial; radio was now a big deal, with millions of (mostly Boomer) listeners; records were selling in the millions; and, at the same time, there were suddenly a lot of burgeoning social movements—including anti-war, civil rights, women's, ecology, Native American, and others—and folk music was a great way to impart messages about those movements.

So, what about Jackie Washington? Well, though there have been musicians throughout history who have written and sung message songs—like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie in the 1940s—the songs were heard by relatively small numbers of people, who may have heard the songs only once or twice. But in the '60s—when Bob Dylan, and Tom Paxton (who has written, I'd guess, at least a half-dozen songs you've heard), Phil Ochs (the country's most prolific '60s protest-song writer), Buffy St. Marie (who wrote everything from Native-American message songs to hits by Elvis Presley and others) and several more singer-songwriters sang their topical songs (and Joan Baez, Judy Collins and many others also performed those songs)—for the first time in history millions of people could hear them, and could own the records on which they appeared.

Oh, yeah—Washington: So, when Dylan, Paxton, Ochs and all the others were kids just starting out in the music business and trying to get gigs at Club 47 (the heart of the singer-songwriter movement) in Cambridge, Mass., and



Jackie Washington, aka Jack Landrón, today.

in the Greenwich Village folk clubs, there were already a few folk singers playing in those clubs—performers like Carolyn Hester, Bob Gibson, Dave Von Ronk, Eric Von Schmidt and Jackie Washington. And it was they who taught and inspired those kids, who, of course, became much better known than their mentors.

So because Washington, one of the most popular early-'60s performers at the legendary Club 47, was among those who mentored Dylan and his peers, and because Dylan et al helped, probably more than any other single way, to disseminate the messages about the important movements of the time, and because those movements changed the world, then Washington is one of the most important people in history.

But I can't blame you for not being aware of him. He recorded four albums in the 1960s, but they have not been reissued on CD, so they're rare. Washington, who was born Juan Candido Washington y Landrón in 1938, in Puerto Rico, and grew up in Boston, has mainly worked as an actor, in movies and on stage and TV, using the name Jack Landrón, since the '60s.

In 2012, he released his first album in 45 years, *Curbside Cotillion*, also under that name. When you see him at Nighttown, you'll be watching a bit of history.

Jackie Washington; Nighttown, 12387 Cedar Road, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.; tickets are \$20; www.nighttown.com.

David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Live, an author, and a professional musician and comedian. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop-music history.

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The Wrights are a family focused on music

James Henke

Caleb Wright, who's 23 years old, grew up in a musical family. Back in 1978, his family formed the Wright Family Singers, a 10-person choir that sings gospel and spiritual music. Then, in 1993, his aunt, Toyia Wright-Reynolds, and his uncle, Eric Wright, formed the Wright-Reynolds Project, a group that plays jazz, and rhythm and blues.

Caleb, who lives on Whitethorn Road in Cleveland Heights, is now a member of both groups, which are still performing around the Cleveland area. He grew up in Cleveland Heights and graduated from Heights High in 2009. He also attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. He is thinking about returning to New York and the academy, possibly next spring. Caleb began singing when he was about 16 years old.

"Growing up, there was always somebody playing something or singing something or going to see someone else perform," he said. "It was such a privilege to grow up in that environment." Caleb also is a member of Sonidos Dulces, which combines jazz with pop and some barbershop choral singing.

The Wright Family Singers group was formed by Caleb's grandmother, Willie-Mae Wright. Originally, the group consisted of Willie-Mae and all eight of her children: Beverly Wright (Caleb's mother), Sandra Wright-Humphrey, Willie J. Wright Jr., Deborah Wright-Reed, Bridgett Wright, Toyia Wright-Reynolds, Eric

Wright and Millette Wright. Bridgett died in 1987, while Eric and Deborah both died in 2011.

Willie-Mae Wright, who recently turned 80 years old, still performs with the Family Singers and as a solo artist. In 1974, she sang for Nelson Mandela, and the following year she sang for Pope Paul VI at St. Peter's Basilica. In 1994, the Wright Family Singers performed at the White House while Bill Clinton was president.

The Wright-Reynolds Project now includes Caleb and his aunt Toyia on vocals, Jordan Wright on keyboards and Monica Carter on drums. Various other musicians play guitar and bass for the group. After Eric Wright died, Jordan, who is Caleb's 16-year-old cousin, replaced him in the group. Jordan is also the lead pianist for the

Heights Gospel Choir, which was created by Eric back in 1973.

The Wright-Reynolds Project still makes frequent appearances. They have also played at Legacy Village and at Cain Park. In addition, they appear at various bars and clubs around Cleveland, and they perform at numerous church functions and events. At press time, they were scheduled to perform at the Cedar-Fairmount Halloween/Fall Festival on Oct. 29.

There are many videos of the Wright-Reynolds Project on YouTube, and the group also has a Facebook page. The band is working on creating a website: www.thewrightreynoldsproject.com.

"We are going to be performing a lot around the area," Caleb said. "And we look forward to any opportunity."



Jordan Wright of the Wright-Reynolds Project.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

Grog Shop show to benefit School of Rock

James Henke

A benefit concert featuring all female artists will take place at the Grog Shop in Cleveland Heights on Monday, Nov. 10. The show is a fundraiser for the School of Rock, the organization that provides guitar, bass, keyboard, drum and vocal lessons to students of all ages and abilities. The concert was put together by Hear in Colors, a local group that was founded by Cleveland Heights resident Elliot Nash and Nathan Chojnacki. Hear in Colors publishes a national and international

music blog and also manages concert booking and promotion.

"Having a healthy outlet for today's youth is of extreme importance," said Lauren Aseff, a Cleveland Heights resident who is involved with Hear in Colors. "After talking to people who have worked with School of Rock, we wanted to do something for them."

The concert, which is called Ladies Night, will feature several Cleveland-area artists, including Leah Lou and the Two Left Shoes, Taylor Lamborn, Stephanie Trivison of These Knees, Nicole Thomas, Gretchen Pleuss, J

Lashelle, Brittany Benton (DJ Red-I) and Candi Fresca (DJ Fresca). The show starts at 7 p.m. and admission is free, although Hear in Colors is asking for a \$10 donation from each attendee to support School of Rock.

At the event, Hear in Colors will be raffling off music lessons, recording sessions and other miscellaneous prizes. The show is open to people of all ages. "I think it will be a great event, and there will be a lot of styles of music," Aseff said. "We are hoping to raise a lot of money to help School of Rock."

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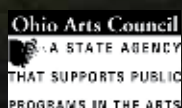
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Film screening Nov. 2 to help fund Heights High alum's next movie

Anthony and Angela Spring

Brandon Spring, a 2008 Cleveland Heights High School graduate, has had a longtime love affair with film. As a finalist, out of 200 Greater Cleveland students, in the 2008 Scenarios USA scriptwriting contest, Spring knew that writing, directing and filmmaking were in his future. Six years later, Spring is literally minutes away from Hollywood and pursuing his dream.

Spring earned an associate degree in business from Cuyahoga Community College, and now attends Biola University in La Mirada, Calif., where he studies and works in cinema

and media arts production. As a writer and director, Spring has created several short films over the years, and is currently taking on his biggest film project yet, "Two Pink Lines," a film that will explore love and romance between a husband and wife living in a futuristic utopian society.

To raise money for the film's production, Spring's family and friends are hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Cedar Lee Theatre. Tickets for the event, which will feature a showing of some of the short films that Spring has written and directed, are \$21, and can be purchased online at www.clevelandcinemas.com. The price of the ticket includes



Brandon Spring

popcorn and soda, and a wine-and-cheese tasting, and the event will also feature a silent auction.

While Spring already has his production team lined up, and access

to state-of-the-art equipment from his university, he is seeking to raise \$3,000 to fund this movie project, which is bigger, longer and more creative than anything he has ever done. For more information about "Two Pink Lines," visit the film's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/twopinklinesfilm.

Anthony and Angela Spring are Brandon's parents, and longtime residents of South Euclid's Cedar Center neighborhood. Anthony is a construction supervisor for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and former Home Repair Resource Center board member, and Angela is a career coach with Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

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Dobama Theatre presents play about likable hit men

Jewel Moulthrop

It's rare to find the terms *nice* and *hit men* in the same sentence, but that is how Dobama Theatre describes the central characters in its upcoming production of "The Norwegians." In fact, Dobama describes them as "really, really" nice hit men!

The play, by C. Denby Swanson, is about two not-so-nice women who hire the Norwegian underworld figures to whack their former boyfriends. The women—Olive, a sweet Texas belle, and Betty, a hard-living broad from Kentucky—are unprepared for the long and cold Minnesota winter. They are also surprised to find themselves falling in love with the two "funny, kind, sweet . . . and homicidal" would-be thugs. This "Fargo-esque" dark comedy would make the Coen brothers smile.

Playwright Swanson is a graduate of Smith College, the National Theatre Institute, and the University of Texas Michener Center for Writers, where she was a fellow in playwriting and screenwriting. She won a 2008 Susan Smith Blackburn Special Prize for her short play "The Potato Feast," which was also nominated for a 2008 New York Innovative Theater Award. She is a former artistic director of Austin Script Works and on the faculty at Southwestern University.

Shannon Sindelar is directing

"The Norwegians." A New York-based director and producer, Sindelar is no stranger to Cleveland audiences. Most recently she directed "Kin" at Dobama Theatre. She was recently named producing artistic director of the Brooklyn-based Brave New World Repertory Theatre.

Earlier in her career, Sindelar co-directed Dobama's Night Kitchen program and also served as a production assistant for The Cleveland Play House's 2003-04 season. She served for four years as managing and programming director for Ontological Theater's Incubator Program for independent artists, which received an Obie grant under her leadership and became its own organization.

"The Norwegians" runs through Nov. 22. The final weekend of this production will be produced in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, and will be performed at the museum.

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. For a complete schedule, ticket prices, and reservations, call the Dobama Theatre box office at 216-932-3396.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Heights Observer's Advisory Committee.

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Gigi's expands and starts new program to benefit nonprofits

James Henke

Gigi's on Fairmount, a restaurant located in the Fairmount Taylor Business District in Cleveland Heights, has started a new program to benefit area nonprofit organizations. Called Magnificent Mondays, the program kicked off in July and has raised more than \$1,300.

Each month, the restaurant selects a beneficiary for the program. Then, every Monday of that month, Gigi's donates 10 percent of its gross sales to the organization.

"We've been so overwhelmed by the support of the community that we were looking for a way to give back," said Gia Patsch, who came up with the idea and who owns the restaurant with her husband, Jim.

"Instead of giving a \$25 gift card, we can give these organizations a check for much more money," Jim Patsch said.

The first beneficiary of the program was Ten Thousand Villages, a group that creates opportunities for artists in developing countries. Gigi's raised \$250 in July for the organization.

Other beneficiaries include the Hope for Honduran Children Founda-



Gigi's owners Jim and Gia Patsch in front of the new addition to their restaurant.

tion, an organization that helps provide a nurturing environment for children ravaged by extreme poverty in Central America; Bright Pink, a group that raises awareness about breast cancer; and the Effective Leadership Academy, an organization that creates after-school programs to teach students life skills.

The November beneficiary will be FutureHeights, the organization that publishes the *Heights Observer* and undertakes community-building programs in the Heights. The December beneficiary will be Roots of American Music, a Cleveland Heights-based group that brings local musicians into

schools across Northeast Ohio and teaches students about music and other subjects. As part of the program, Roots of American Music will provide live music on Monday nights in December.

The Patsches encourage beneficiaries to have friends and associates dine at Gigi's on Mondays to increase the

amount of money raised.

Gigi's is currently expanding into the adjacent storefront previously occupied by duoHome. The new addition, Gigi's After Dark, will have a limited food menu, but it will offer before- and after-dinner drinks for Gigi's patrons. It will also be a space for private parties, live music and wine tastings.

"It will be more like a South Beach/Miami hotel bar," Jim Patsch said.

Gigi's After Dark will be open from 7-11 p.m. on weeknights and 7 p.m. to midnight on weekends. The Patsches expect the new addition to open by Dec. 1.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

Memento Memorials launches heartfelt Hatchfund

Megan Earle

Chris and Shelley Harvan understand that losing a loved one or a pet is a difficult part of life. Since 2003, their woodworking business in Cleveland Heights, Memento Memorials, has evolved to serve grieving families by creating handmade cremation urns, memorial sculptures and other remembrances.

Working in their home-based studio, the Harvans began by making small keepsake boxes and hand-drawn portraits. When close friends suffered the loss of an unborn child, according to Chris Harvan, "we found ourselves frustrated by the available options for cremation urns, and knew there had to be other people who felt the same way."

The grieving couple had playfully referred to their son as "The Squid" during pregnancy, and the Harvans used that as inspiration to sculpt a cremation urn out of walnut and holly that looks like a friendly, child-like squid.

Since then the Harvans have focused their work around memorializing loved ones and pets—though not all products are meant to display cremated remains. "We think memories are worth celebrating and there are an unlimited amount of ways we can do that," Chris Harvan said. "Death happens to be a big part of that, but it's not limited to that."

Product prices range from less than \$100 for small keepsake boxes to customized artistic commissions of several thousand dollars.

With strong memories of the anguish over a child's death in their own close circle, the Harvans are now trying something new; they're using Hatchfund—a crowdsourcing website that funds artistic projects—to support the donation of personalized infant urns to other grieving parents.

They've set a fundraising goal of \$4,680, which will cover the cost of 10 hand-turned urns—etched with information about the child, with his or her footprints hand-carved into the lid. Hitting a stretch goal will allow production of 15 urns. Recipients will be accepted on a first-come basis through online registration at the Memento Memorials website—a process that will begin only after funding is completed.

The Harvans emphasize the project is not limited to recent deaths. Their goal is to ease some of the grief through the personal attention and care that goes into their artwork.

The Hatchfund project deadline is Nov. 15, and it was half-funded by mid-October, with information spreading primarily by word-of-mouth. A brief video about the project, and a link to Hatchfund is available at www.mementomemorials.com.

Megan Earle is a senior at John Carroll University studying journalism.



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Heights Arts Holiday Store offers expanded selection and family workshops

Rachel Bernstein

The term “shop local” is nothing new for Cleveland Heights. In 2001, a group of arts lovers converted a vacant Lee Road storefront into a pop-up gallery for the holiday season. Heights-area artists and artisans offered works for sale, and the community enthusiastically gathered to purchase local, handmade art and gifts. Heights Arts has been a presence on Lee Road ever since.

This month, Heights Arts celebrates its 13th Annual Holiday Store with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 7. More than 80 regional artists are represented in the show, with works ranging from industrial-inspired jewelry and clutches created from repurposed paintings to innovative, contemporary glassware. Participating artists also volunteer to staff the gallery during Holiday Store hours, so shoppers can meet them in person and learn more about their work.

“The Holiday Store is always a great time to celebrate the art being created right here in Northeast Ohio, while giving unique, high-quality gifts to your loved ones, or even yourself!” said

Courtney Young, who this fall became Heights Arts’s gallery manager.

This year, Young and the Heights Arts gallery committee have added more than a dozen new makers to the Holiday Store, with one-of-a-kind works in ceramics, paper, leather, silver, glass and watercolor.

Lakewood artist Gina DeSantis creates colorful ceramic pieces for everyday use. She joins other renowned local ceramic artists—William Brouillard, Kristen Cliffler, Yumiko Goto, Bonnie Gordon, Andrea LeBlond, Lynne Lofton, Mark Yasenchak and Carol Sphar—whose works range from function to fantasy.

New works on paper include linocut prints and cards from Jessica Miroglotta, watercolor paintings by Dennis Balogh, photographic prints by Carrie Gabella and handmade paper assortments from the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory. Shoppers can also find prints and paper goods by Christopher Owen Smith, Julie Edberg, CLE Collective, and Zygote Press’s Kate Snow.

Items created from repurposed and upcycled materials are the recurring

theme in the work of a number of artists: Patti Fields’ jewelry incorporates vintage, natural and cast-off industrial objects in distinctive bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Krista Tomorrowitz creates unique canvas clutches and totes from repurposed paintings. Leather belts and horse tack find new life in Alyssa Woodard’s leather cuffs and accessories.

Besides new artwork, festive family workshops are another addition to the 13th Annual Holiday Store. On select weekends, community members are invited to create hand-stamped greeting cards and gift tags or make a Poetic Paper Pinwheel, which may be used as an ornament or artisanal toy. Reservations are required; visit the Heights Arts website for details.

The gallery continues to present musical CDs by local groups and individual musicians, as well as



Earrings by Pamela Pastoric.



Glass piece by Earl James.

COURTESY HEIGHTS ARTS

functional and decorative works in glass, hand-painted and hand-woven scarves, jewelry, paintings, photography and stained glass. Gift certificates are always available.

The Heights Arts Holiday Store opens with a members’ preview on Friday, Nov. 7, 6–7 p.m., followed by an open reception from 7–9 p.m. The store runs through Dec. 30, with expanded evening and Sunday hours. For more information, visit www.heightsarts.org or call 216-371-3457.

Rachel Bernstein is executive director of Heights Arts.

Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates celebrates 75th anniversary

Anna Matisak

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates in Cleveland Heights has partnered with more than a dozen Greater Cleveland restaurants to give away fine chocolate. Every weekend through Dec. 20, featured restaurants will be giving away limited-edition Mitchell’s chocolates.

Each Friday during the promotion, Bill Wills will announce that weekend’s chocolate giveaway restaurant locations on Newsradio WTAM 1100. The locations will also be announced on Mitchell’s Facebook page. Each restaurant patron will receive a complimentary Mitchell’s chocolate.

“It’s our way of saying ‘Thank You’ to our customers and to Cleveland for 75 years of success in doing what we love,” said Bill Mitchell, owner of Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates. “Over the years, customers kept coming back for my dad’s signature dipping chocolate—a 52 percent cacao signature dark semisweet chocolate. So, we made a special size with special packaging to give away in gratitude.”

Customers also have the chance to participate in additional promotions by

using #MitchellsMoments on various social media platforms. Other pop-up giveaway locations will be announced throughout the promotion.

Founded by Greek immigrant and entrepreneur Chris Mitchell, and now run by his son Bill, Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates began in the late 1930s as a candy store and soda fountain. Bill Mitchell continues his father’s tradition of creating fine chocolates that are handcrafted in small batches for optimum freshness, and the store at 2285 Lee Road offers a wide selection of specialty chocolates.

“My father was selling high anti-oxidant dark chocolate way ahead of the curve,” said Mitchell. “We’ve tweaked the formula over the years to connect with the changing tastes of our customers, but essentially it is the same chocolate my father pioneered.”

For more information, visit www.mitchellschocolates.com, find Mitchell’s on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MitchellsChocolates, or call 216-932-3200.

Anna Matisak is head of the public relations and social media department of Radius Advertising. Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates is a client.

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 Dr. Steven Plank & Dr. Richard Nelson, Associates
 Lois Davis, Handbell Choir Director

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Thank you from the Colony Family

2014 Holiday Gift Guide

Find something for everyone on your list at the many independent merchants in the Heights. Most will gift wrap or ship your items, too. Here are some of our favorites:

STOCKING STUFFERS (\$10 OR LESS)

Buddy Biscuits, Orijen, Grandma Lucy, Primal, Crumps, and Fruitables: All-natural, healthy treats for dogs and cats (\$3.50-\$9.95, Animal Zen).

One “Baby & Me” Session. This informal weekly program encourages new parents to get acquainted, share experiences, find support and gain information from one another and staff members (\$5.00, Family Connections).

CLE Collective Letterpress Greeting Cards: celebrating the good, the quirky and the authentic in Cleveland (\$5.00 each, Heights Arts Holiday Store). **1**

Get In Gear Keychain: a multi-functional keychain clip made from a recycled bike chain (\$6.00, Ten Thousand Villages). **2**

Home (Ohio) Shot Glass (\$6.00, Blush Boutique).

Heights Arts Ceramic Spooner Mug (\$7.50, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

Silk Sari Wine Bottle Gift Bag (\$8.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

Usborne Sticker Books and Usborne Wipe-Clean Books for kids combine charming illustrations with thoughtful activities (\$7.95-\$8.95, Pinwheel Kids).



Blue Q Socks (\$8.95/pair, Simply Charming).

Shine On Pen, in black or silver (\$9.00, Revive).

Retro Toy Package. Three classic toys: original Silly Putty, Duncan Yo Yo, and Wham-O Super Ball (\$9.50 for the package, Big Fun). **3**

True Utility in Your Pockets creates clever and original products that belong in people’s pockets. Choose from 12 items, including MicroTool, SkeletonKnife, TinyTorch, KeyTool and FireStash (\$9.99, Heights Hardware).

Eeboo Art Book and Unravels Crayons (\$10.00, Simply Charming).

2014 Heights Music Hop T-shirt, in sizes XS, S, M, L, XL (\$10.00, FutureHeights). **4**

Wine Spot Gift Cards (Prices vary, Wine Spot).

GIFTS LESS THAN \$50

Bird Plate (\$12.00, Appletree Books). **5**

Giant Wine Glass. Holds an entire bottle of wine, for when one glass of wine is suggested/recommended (\$12.50, Big Fun).

One Yoga Class (\$15.00, Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki).

Chevron Mugs (\$16.00 each, Revive).

Goldie Blox. Construction toys made especially for young girls—and boys, too. Voted Best New Toy. (Parade Float, \$19.95; Spinning Machine \$29.95; Big Fun).



Children Just Like Me Book. Take a trip around the world and visit children in 32 countries. See how they dress, what they eat, what their houses and schools look like (\$19.99, Pinwheel Kids).

Soy Candles from the Paddywax literary collection (\$20.00, Appletree Books). **5**

Canvas and Paint (Under \$20.00, Simply Charming).

Ceramic Platter With Whisk (\$24.00, Appletree Books).

The Wreath Recipe Book by Alethea Haramopolis (\$24.95, Appletree Books). **5**

Jewelry-making Classes. Learn to make a leather wrap bracelet, floating pearl necklace, wire-wrap jewelry and more. Make an item as a gift or gift the class to someone special (\$25.00-\$45.00, plus materials, Cleveland Rocks and Beads). **6**

Heights-Themed Candles. Made of soy wax and cotton wicks, hand-poured in the USA. Each candle has a unique combination of essential oils. Choose from FutureHeights, Heights Arts, Shaker Heights, Shaker Lakes, Cleveland Heights, Cedar Lee, Cedar Fairmount, Coventry, Forest Hills, Ohio Christmas, Heights Holiday and Cleveland Holiday (\$25.95 each, Simply Charming). **7**



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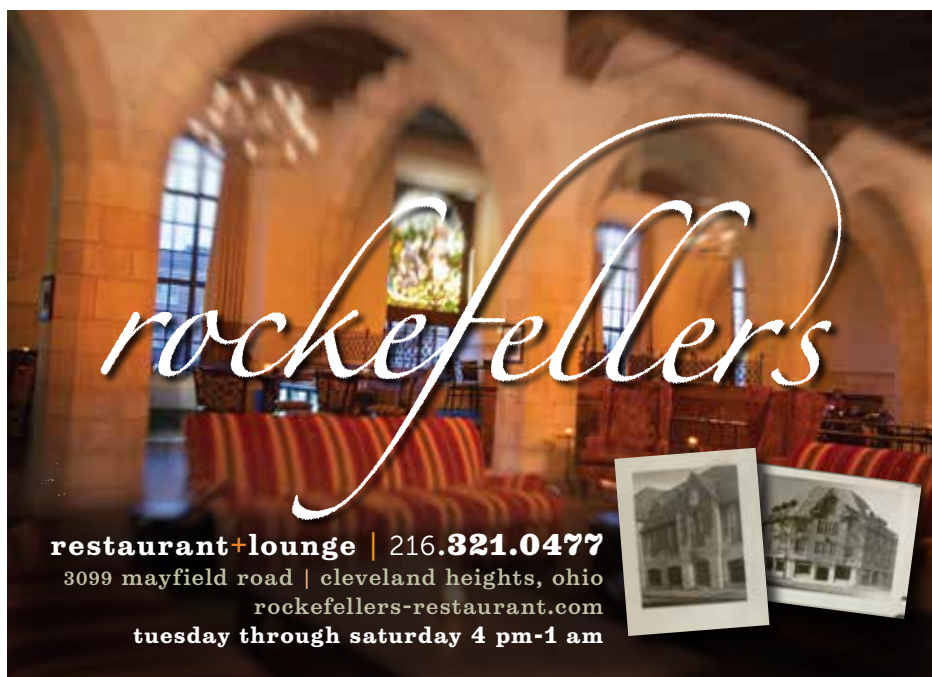
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Topsy Turvy Story Dolls. Each reversible dolls flips upside down to reveal a different doll in a contrasting outfit (\$28.00, Pinwheel Kids).

Slyde Flashlight and Worklight. A 250 lumen LED flashlight and 190 lumen LED worklight; heavy-duty with a strong magnetic base (\$29.99, Heights Hardware). **8**

Share: The Cookbook that Celebrates Our Common Humanity. Global recipes alongside images of the food and faces from Women for Women International, an organization that reaches out to women in war-torn areas, providing knowledge and resources to help them rebuild their lives. Includes foreword by Meryl Streep (\$34.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

Plenty More Cookbook by Yotam Ottolenghi (\$35.00, Appletree Books).

The Giving Key Necklace or Bracelet. These jewelry items feature single words imprinted on them and are made by people transitioning from homelessness. When you meet someone who needs the key's message, you give it to that person and then put your story on the organization's blog (\$35.00-\$49.00, Simply Charming).

Long Sleeve Ohio T-shirt (\$36.00, Blush Boutique). **9**

Tegu Magnetic Blocks. Produced in Honduras from sustainably harvested wood, by workers earning a living wage (\$38.00, Pinwheel Kids).

Double Marquise Earrings of oxidized sterling silver by Valerie Tyler, a 2014 Martha Stewart American Made award nominee (\$38.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

Original Colorforms. These simple vinyl shapes have been engaging children for more than 50 years. In addition to the white and black boards included, Colorforms stick to any smooth surface: refrigerators, dishwashers and windows—including car windows (\$38.00, Pinwheel Kids).

Monster Stuffed Animal, Infant Socks and Bib (Under \$40.00, Simply Charming). **10**

Lush Ikat Scarf (\$44.00, Revive).

Deco Porcelain Cup and Saucer, by Cleveland artist William Brouillard (\$45.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

Spooner Board. The first good step to learning how to surf, skateboard or snowboard. Made in the USA of durable high-density polyethylene (\$48.00, Pinwheel Kids). **11**

Wrought Iron Bookends (\$49.00, Ten Thousand Villages).



GIFTS \$50 TO \$150

Children's Package: onesie, crown headband, book and socks for babies up to six months old (\$50.00, Simply Charming).

Close Encounters Chamber Music Tickets. Hear world-class musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra play chamber music in spectacular Heights homes and other unique venues (\$50.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

Knit Poncho (\$52.00, Blush Boutique).

One Reiki Treatment for You or Your Pet (\$60.00, Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki).

Drop-In Play Sessions for parents/caregivers and their young children. Enjoy a family playroom with a wide variety of quality toys and a large "muscle room" for climbing, running and jumping. Each session enhances learning through play and provides opportunities for families to meet and share parenting experiences. (Three-month pass, \$70; Annual pass, \$140; Family Connections).

One-Hour Interior Decorating Consultation (\$75.00, Judith Eugene Designs).

Skinny Jeans (\$85.00, Blush Boutique).

Flock Together Travel Bag (\$88.00, Revive)

Banana Fiber Elephant Model. This playful elephant figure is handmade in Kenya using banana bark and sisal fiber (\$89.00, Ten Thousand Villages).



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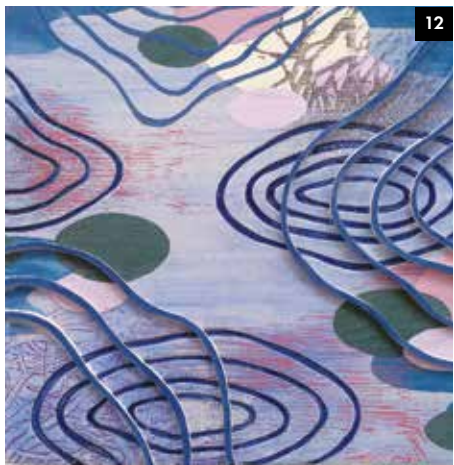
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Limited-edition ceramic wall tile by painter Susan Danko and ceramic artist Andrea LeBlond, 8-by-8 inches (\$100.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store). **12**

Spartina 449 Jewelry. Design your own charm bracelet or necklace with this mix-and-match jewelry line. (under \$150.00, Simply Charming).

Giant Plush Alligator. This gator can be your best friend, and a body pillow (\$119.00, Pinwheel Kids).

Willow Bud Necklace. Handcrafted sterling silver and gray pearl necklace, from Nepali artisans in the Kathmandu Valley (\$125.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

GIFTS MORE THAN \$150

Handwoven, 100-percent Cotton Baby Blanket by Elizabeth Mather, dyed with organic indigo in the shibori method (\$150.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

Plaid Coat with detachable faux-fur collar (\$160.00, Blush Boutique).

Firefly Bracelets, designed in Los Angeles and created by hand in Central America (by fair-trade artisans). Each Swarovski piece is set by-hand (Around \$165.00 each, Simply Charming).

Eco-Leather Shoulder Bag. Indian artisan group CRC produces leather that is certified eco-friendly, using traditional tanning techniques that eliminate toxic preservatives (\$175.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

Organic Reversible Cowl Sweater (\$198.00, Revive).

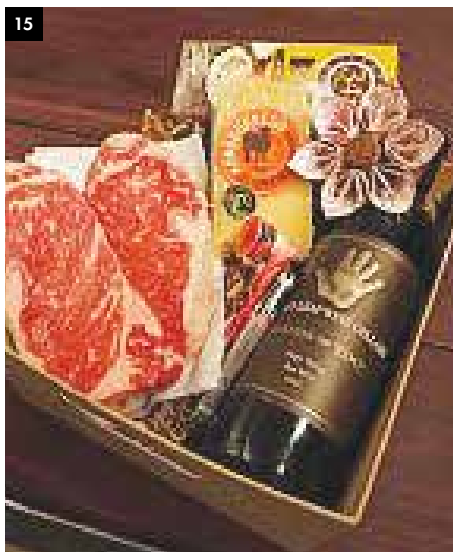


Organic Luxe Chateau Coat (\$210.00, Revive). **13**

Cloisonné Enamel Heart Necklace with sterling silver chain, by Cleveland jewelry artist Michael Romanik (\$235.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

Copper Branch Side Table, made by metalworkers of the fair-trade group Noah's Ark International, in Moradabad, India (\$245.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

Extasia Necklace. Handmade glass intaglias created in Italy and finished in Los Angeles (\$275.00, Simply Charming).



FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS IT ALL

Swim Upstream Teak Cutting Board (\$36, Revive). **14**

Cleveland Heights Gift Baskets. Choose from the Wine Spot/Mister Brisket Basket, which includes two steaks, a great bottle of wine, cheese, and a wine spot corkscrew; Wine Spot/Restless Coffee Basket; Wine Spot/Big Fun Basket; Wine Spot/City Buddha Basket and Wine Spot/Grog Shop Basket. Can be shipped nationwide (Prices vary, Wine Spot). **15**

Cast and Hand-forged Steel Bottle Opener. Nothing celebrates Cleveland like opening a bottle of local craft beer with Stephen Yusko's bottle opener (\$72.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store). **16**

Gourd Graces Necklace. Three precious teardrops of hand-etched gourd hang gracefully from a sterling silver chain. A necklace like no other, the authenticity of the artisan's hand can be felt in the warm red hues of each gourd piece (\$89.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

A Reiki Class (Level 1, \$125.00; Level 2, \$150.00; Level 3/Master, \$250.00; Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki).

Papier-mâché deer, made with recycled materials (\$125.00, Ten Thousand Villages).

Fossil Series: Salurian Shift Glass Vessel by Brent Kee Young, Cleveland Arts Prize-winner and Cleveland Heights resident. The ultimate gift for collectors of regional, museum quality art (\$7,200.00, Heights Arts Holiday Store).

A personalized wine tasting at the Wine Spot for groups of four to twelve. Food matched with hand-selected wines from around the world (Prices vary, Wine Spot).



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