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FutureHeights
2843 Washington Blvd. #105
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Roxboro Middle School students walk for water

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

A child's curiosity has the power to change the world.

That's what happened in a case that started in the aisles of Whole Foods grocery store, setting off a chain of events that would eventually wind its way through the classrooms of Roxboro Middle School and end up in a village in South Sudan.

Years ago, Rosemary Pierce's children were curious about an employee at Whole Foods. His accent was heavy and his skin so dark it looked like midnight. After hearing her children's repeated questions, she suggested they ask him directly, and a conversation—and a friendship—began. The Pierce family listened to Akol Madut's story of being one of Sudan's Lost Boys, the child soldiers of the 1980s, left



Roxboro's sixth-graders walked around the track on Nov. 24 to raise money for Water for South Sudan.

parentless and homeless during that country's brutal civil war. Madut,

now 35, spent months wandering the African countryside in search of shelter, before eventually becoming a commander in the rebel army in charge of 6,000 young boys. He was 12 years old.

After a dramatic escape coordinated by the International Red Cross and the U.S. Army, nearly 16,000 Lost Boys (and 300 Lost Girls) arrived in America 15 years ago. Madut was the first of 37 to settle in Cleveland.

Pierce wanted to share this inspiring story with a wider audience and arranged for Madut to visit Roxboro Elementary School, which her children attended. The following year, Melissa Garcar, International Baccalaureate coordinator, suggested that the sixth-grade English classes read a novel about Sudan's Lost Boys and invite Madut to visit.

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Heights Arts thanks Tommy's and announces end of New Year's tradition

Greg Donley

For 14 years, starting in 2001, Tommy's restaurant on Coventry Road hosted a New Year's Day pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for the local nonprofit organization Heights Arts.

Owner Tommy Fello donated all of the ingredients as well as his own time, and a core of his restaurant staff would come in and provide a foundation of competence around which an army of enthusiastic—but not necessarily experienced—volunteers would chaotically swirl.

This year, Fello and his crew will get to spend New Year's Day at home with their families, as Heights Arts and Fello quietly decided last year that the 2015 breakfast would be the final edition.

With great fondness and appreciation for Tommy Fello and his extraordinary contribution to our little organization, the staff and board of Heights Arts wishes everyone who



Tommy Fello mixing batter at the seventh New Year's Pancake Breakfast.

ever attended a Tommy's New Year's Pancake Breakfast a happy, prosperous, and creative new year. And to Tommy Fello and the terrific staff of Tommy's restaurant, a heartfelt thank-you!

Greg Donley is a founding member of Heights Arts and current president of the Heights Arts Board of Trustees.

FutureHeights mini-grants program awards three Cleveland Heights projects

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights launched the first round of its Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program



this fall, approving approximately \$2,400 in grants to support three projects in Cleveland Heights. Through the program, FutureHeights seeks to help Heights communities leverage their many assets and provide tools to enable neighborhood leaders to work together on creative solutions to the challenges that face the community.

FutureHeights awarded grants to:

- Cedar Taylor Merchants Association received \$1,000 for its Public Art Project, which aims to improve the Cedar Taylor Business District in Cleveland Heights through a public art installation.
- Noble Neighbors in Cleveland Heights's Noble neighborhood received \$1,000 for its Beautification Project, in which the group will plant annuals [in] perennial beds. Custom garden markers will identify the gardeners and planters as Noble Neighbors members.
- RAFT in the Bellfield neighborhood of Cleveland Heights received \$414.08 for its RAFT Coexist Project, which aims to highlight place and build community by placing 12-by-8-foot movable wooden platforms on a

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CH resident works to make wind a viable regional energy source

James Henke

Cleveland Heights resident Sarah Taylor is focused on making the world a safer, healthier place. In 2006, she formed Windustrious Cleveland. Its goal is to create a wind farm off the shores of Lake Erie and use wind power to replace fossil fuels as a source of energy in this region.

"Although the use of fossil fuels powered the industrial revolution, their time has now come and gone," Taylor said. "We realize that we are inflicting tremendous harm on our atmosphere and climate with our

continued usage of those fuels, and we should change course as fast as possible. The planet and its living organisms are being rapidly damaged, with some of those life forms already beyond repair."

Taylor, 73, first became interested in energy back in 2002, when she got to know some of the construction workers who were building the Peter B. Lewis Building on the campus of Case Western Reserve University. "I



Sarah Taylor

realized we were a wonderful manufacturing center, and, at the same time, we could address some of the world's needs," she said.

In 2006, Taylor started talking to the Cleveland Foundation about her idea to use the winds of Lake Erie as a source of power for the region. "I thought we should try and focus on using what we have at our doorstep," she said. "If this planet is to survive, we need to make use of the free energy that's out there—free, everlasting and clean."

Ronn Richard, president of the

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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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Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Cleveland Hts v. Solon: Comparing cost and understanding value



Now that we're safely past the election season, maybe we can have a reasonable discussion about taxes. If you say taxes are high in the Heights, heads nod. But what does "taxes are high" mean?

To find out, let's compare some real estate listings from Cleveland Heights, a "taxes are high" place and Solon, a "taxes are low" place. Zillow.com makes this easy by listing the asking price of the house, its square footage, the year it was built, a mortgage payment estimate, and the annual tax bill. And it usually includes a picture so you can get a sense of how attractive the property is, and a map and satellite view so you know its neighborhood setting. Trulia.com and other "data-cruncher" sites do the same kind of thing, but we'll stick with Zillow for this purpose. . . .

Listings change all the time; the examples below are from November 2015:

Mortgage and property tax: Toward the high end we have a new home in Solon, 3,092 square feet, listing for \$598,000 (\$194/square foot), with an estimated monthly mortgage of \$2,225. Assuming it eventually sells for full price, the annual taxes would be \$14,232. That,

added to the annual mortgage cost of \$26,700, would come to an annual cost of \$40,932.

A comparable house in Cleveland Heights is a 3,081-square foot 1930 Tudor on Coventry Road listing for \$324,900 (\$105/sf). The annual tax bill on that house would be \$12,329 and the estimated mortgage if it sells for full price would be \$14,520, for a yearly total of \$26,849.

Cleveland Heights also has some considerably bigger homes in that same ballpark as the Solon house of annual mortgage-plus-taxes cost of around \$35,000 to \$40,000: a 4,568 square foot brick home on Fairmount Boulevard, a 5,440 sf house on Guilford, and a 7,075 sf house on East Overlook, all for sale in the \$500,000-\$600,000 range, all around \$85 to \$100/sf. (And you can safely assume the heating costs on a big old house like that will be pretty frightening.) . . .

The tax rate in Solon is 2.38%, while in Cleveland Heights it is 3.8%. $116 \times 2.38 = 276$ and $73 \times 3.8 = 277$. In other words, in Solon according to the most recent Zillow data you'll pay on average about \$2.76 per square foot of house in annual property tax, while in Cleveland Heights you'll pay \$2.77 per square foot. There are a couple of reasons one would expect it to be a bit higher in Cleveland Heights: one, the CH-UH schools spend more per pupil, probably because they have more special-needs students, who are more expensive to educate; and two, Solon has more commercial and industrial property kicking into the funding pool.

The other factor evident in the square-foot valuation is the cost of the house in the first place: in Solon, on average, you'll pay \$43 more for every square foot of house, which is to say an additional \$86,000 for a 2,000-square foot home (and you would expect eventually to end up with more equity after paying more). Even those averages are deceptive, though. Cleveland Heights currently has quite a few foreclosed homes and extremely low-priced properties that drag that average per-square-foot value down considerably (some are below \$30/sf). Solon has foreclosed homes as well, but it also has numerous new-construction properties that are well over \$200/sf, distorting the average in the other direction. . . .

—Greg Donley

To view Greg Donley's blog in its entirety, click on the QR code above. To view other *Heights Observer* blogs, click on the QR code at right. Visit the *Heights Observer's* blog site at blogs.heightsobserver.org.



City should consider fewer parking restrictions to attract more visitors

To the Editor:

Those of us that live in the Cleveland Heights/University Heights area know what wonderful restaurants and "mom and pop" stores are available here. I love telling people of all the places we have within walking distance of almost every area in the two cities.

We want to attract people from outside our area, and make shopping and eating here available to all. So what do we do—put in parking meters that only accept quarters and have paid parking from morning through evening.

At one point in time, the city had meters that allowed people to park for free after 6 p.m. How wonderful that would be, to have it back again. It would certainly be more friendly and inviting, and be good for all involved.

Chloris Wolski

University Heights

GRANTS continued from page 1

vacant lot, to encourage neighbors to stop and talk.

Do you have a great idea to improve your neighborhood? FutureHeights invites you to apply for a grant. Attend an upcoming workshop to learn more about how to apply, and get tips about completing the application and process.

The application deadline is Monday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Workshops are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m., at Noble Neighborhood Library (Noble Meeting Room), 2800 Noble Road, and Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m., at Lee Road Library (Meeting Room A), 2345 Lee Road.

The Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program is a component of FutureHeights's Community Capacity-Building Program that awards small grants of up to \$1,000 to fund citizen-led neighborhood projects, events and activities that benefit Cleveland Heights.

Through grants, FutureHeights seeks to build community with increased resilience through grassroots resident participation in civic life. In so doing, Cleveland Heights will become better equipped to address challenges in the physical and social environment, drawing on and activating the assets of residents, nonprofit organizations and public resources and departments.

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program is guided by a grant-making committee comprising seven Cleveland Heights residents with a history of community involvement. The committee reviews and approves all grants. For more information and to apply, visit www.futureheights.org.

Sruti Basu is the director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.

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 February issue must be submitted by Jan. 11. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

Community Forum Discussion

County Government Initiatives: What's Coming? Sunday, January 17, 2016, 9:30-10:45 am

Cuyahoga County Executive **Armond Budish** will discuss priorities in county government for job growth and opportunity, fairness and equity in government programs, and other core initiatives for 2016. Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.



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Student refugees build new lives in Heights schools



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

I wanted to make my guests feel welcomed so I baked my mother's ginger snaps. The cookies made my house smell good as five thoughtful high school students, Ruth, Ornela, Oshin, Tapash and Raja, chatted around my dining room table. They were accompanied by Carla Bailey, their cultural interpreter, advocate, coach, advisor, prod, driver and, at times, surrogate parent.

The students are refugees. The civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and religious persecution in Bhutan led their families to refugee camps in Namibia and Nepal. After several years, their families' petitions to be permanently resettled were approved by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. US Together, a resettlement agency located in Cleveland Heights, supported the startup of their lives here, along with families fleeing the war in Iraq. New arrivals have just 90 days to become self-sufficient!

Ruth and Ornela arrived in September, while the other students have been here for two to four years. They are among 80 school-aged refugees currently enrolled in the Heights schools, and part of Northeast Ohio's growing refugee presence. In 2014, the Refugee

Service Collaborative, which includes the CH-UH school district, helped about 700 families resettle in Lakewood, Cleveland Heights and Cleveland.

I felt awkward, not wanting to intrude, yet wanting to understand what it's like to plunge into a foreign reality, cut off from the homeland that defined their parents' lives but will not be theirs. They were polite and warmed to the conversation as they talked about surprises and challenges:

- "Americans don't eat at home."
- "I thought Cleveland Heights would be like the movies."
- "Some days I don't go to school, because it is exhausting."
- "I can feel lost. Everyone else is familiar with what is being taught, but it's all new to me."

These newcomers are thrown into the deep end and expected to swim. They have so much to learn: a new city, American culture and social norms, a different education system with different expectations, a new language. Many also hold jobs.

It is new to their elders, too, hampering their ability to provide the adult guidance that these young people need as they navigate new terrain and make important decisions.

The school district offers refugees the same support it offers other English Language Learners. Currently, the ELL department, chaired by Kathleen Scully, provides cultural orientation and language assistance to 129 students dispersed across the schools in the district.

Because the best way to acquire a new language is to use it, the district

uses language immersion. Students are assigned to regular classrooms and are expected to achieve. They can receive up to three sessions of language support a week. Scully's department also operates a welcome center for two hours each morning at the Delisle Center, to help orient new families to the basics of adapting to our system.

The school district is also helping in another way. The aforementioned Carla Bailey, a community volunteer and AFS-sponsored programs coordinator, works as the CH-UH refugee school-community liaison to help these students and their parents navigate the details that affect school success. The role is a natural extension of Bailey's experience hosting AFS exchange students. She is riveted by the opportunity to help young people navigate a new culture. Her involvement started in 2011 when a refugee friend of her AFS student was invited to prom. "The parents didn't understand that it was all part of high school life," she recalled. "As high school students, my children lived in Thailand and Japan. That cultural exchange transformed their lives, so this is my way to pay it forward."

Over the years, Bailey has identified key strategies that students and their families need to fit in, be safe, access transportation, stretch their resources, keep a job and get the most from the education system. She doesn't hold back from telling them what they need to know. Last year, Bailey focused on the five refugees who were seniors at Heights High.

All of them earned their diplomas, and four are now in college!

I feel fortunate to have shared cookies with these worldly students who have thrown themselves into high school life. They are enriching our schools while creating a positive adult future for themselves. Regardless of the hurdles, they are excited about the chance for a better life.

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

Liberty Oaks tree markers merit explanation

To the Editor:

Re: the Liberty Oaks—a few years ago the *Observer* published an article that answered my question about the markers at the base of trees that surround Horseshoe Lake. Though I don't recall them being called Liberty Oaks, the article said they were planted and labeled in honor of WWI soldiers who had lost their lives. A lovely memorial, but one with no explanation, not even a date, just a person's name. I hope when they put signage up, as mentioned in the current article [*Heights Observer*, December 2015], they will remember the trees around Horseshoe Lake.

Susan Murray
Cleveland Heights

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Form-based zoning code fosters revitalization of urban places

Roger Bliss

Can urban design terms like “walkability,” “place making” and “high-quality public realm” save our cities? The answer lies in our ability to harness their value.

The other day, a friend described her husband’s aggressive but loving questioning of her day as

“har-asking”—a blend of the words “harass” and “ask.” It made me laugh, because it described my style of caring. It’s a good fit for this line of questioning.

Living in a first-ring suburb, we’re familiar with the challenges of our post-industrial cities: the downward spiral caused by accelerating infrastructure costs and a shrink-

ing population. Fortunately for the Heights, an invisible asset was left behind by B.R. Deming (a founder and developer of Cleveland Heights) and it can be harnessed to pull us out of our descending path.

When talking about architecture, people often focus on a home or building’s shape or surface. I’m describing something which, in many ways, is invisible. It is the space between objects. The architecture of urban design is about the distance between the buildings and not the buildings themselves.

There is a sense of safety and well-being created when the building height along the street edge is in proper proportion with the width of the street and sidewalk. It creates an outdoor room and a sense of place. We have these qualities in the Heights, but are they valued by the commercial real estate industry?

I’m not a fan of the fake urban retail experience, but I wanted to see why Legacy Village attracts so many retail clients and is considered the unofficial town square of Lyndhurst.

The Bar Louie hostess sat me at an outdoor table where I could people-watch and get a sense of things. The human-scale attributes were clearly present. The walking experience from store to store was pleasant, with on-street parking and buildings positioned near the sidewalk. The small, grassy park is smartly surrounded by restaurants, and this creates an appealing courtyard atmosphere and a sense of place.

Some people consider this patch of urbanism disconnected and inauthentic; but Legacy Village’s popularity demonstrates an appreciation for characteristics which many people, especially those in the real estate industry, abandoned or undervalued for decades (consider Severance Town Center).

The Heights is in a good position to compete with the fake urbanism in Lyndhurst. We have a culturally rich location, the patina of the City Beautiful Movement, and proximity to world-class healthcare. But it will require a cohesive marketing effort and a design approval process which is uniform and predictable.

Walking through the Cedar

Fairmount neighborhood provides an example of a high-quality public realm. Thanks to the creation of FutureHeights, a developer’s uninformed plans were blocked in the 1990’s, and the neighborhood’s character is intact and remains a city asset. Unfortunately, battles like this indirectly discourage real estate investment.

If we can agree in principle that our urban fabric is valuable and worth protecting, then let’s explore the best tools to do so. Cities and towns of all sizes are changing to form-based codes. Form-based codes replace typical zoning regulations and communicate through diagrams and shapes, instead of relying on words—a picture (or a form) is worth a thousand words.

This type of zoning code fosters the creation, revitalization and preservation of vibrant, walkable urban places. The City of Cleveland is currently in the process of updating its code to include it.

Builders and developers love it because it creates reliable parameters for design and pro forma modeling, while providing guidance for fitting into a neighborhood’s context.

A high-quality public realm is a tangible quality and is not a matter of style or nostalgia; it is neither traditional nor modern. Its importance is already contained within the pages of the Cleveland Heights Visioning Plan, and its neglect can be uniformly prevented. Furthermore, once we better understand how to curate our architectural heritage, it will be an appreciating asset, increasing tax revenue and regenerating our city growth and predictability.

Let’s continue to promote our city’s remarkable architectural heritage, and work these new buzzwords and terms into our social gatherings: walkability, place making, high-quality public realm and, my favorite, form-based code.

Roger Bliss, LEED-GA, is a developer specializing in infill locations, pedestrian-scale urban design, mixed-use projects, and multifamily project construction. He is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Severance Subcommittee of the FutureHeights Civic Engagement Committee.



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Teachers union promotes consumer awareness

Ari Klein

T-shirts are often available for fundraising, group cohesion, and to show commitment to a common cause. Over the years, I have become choosier about the T-shirts I wear because sometimes the message on the shirt is overpowered by its origin.

When I look at the label on many T-shirts, I am uncomfortable with who might be making and assembling the fabric, and under what conditions, and who is printing the shirt. I know that it is virtually impossible to place these kinds of standards on everything I wear, but for me, and many people I know, trying to be socially conscious consumers of printed T-shirts is important.

The T-shirts that the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union designs are always printed at a union shop on a union-made shirt. Some argue that this practice is prohibitively expensive. That has not been our experience. Our T-shirts cost less than \$8, even when we buy a small number of them.

Last spring, the governing body of our local directed me to ask the CH-UH Board of Education to examine purchases made by the school system and organizations that serve our students. We asked for purchases of blank T-shirts (blanks) to be made from union or fair trade providers. Of course, we preferred the screening/embroidering/printing



Heights students Aviva Klein (left) and Gabriela Wolin model the new union-made Heights Tigers spirit shirt.

to be contracted to union shops, but understand that many organizations have relationships with small family businesses in the district that are important to maintain.

The board did not give a formal response to our letter, so a few of us decided to see what it would take to produce a T-shirt that we could proudly wear for spirit days at school. We ended up producing a Heights Tigers T-shirt that is deeply rooted in socially conscious purchasing.

One of our high school art teachers, working with her students, produced the artwork. The shirts were bought from a family-owned company in Pennsylvania that is a union shop. Every step in producing the blanks takes place in the U.S., from growing

the cotton to sewing the fabric together. The screen-printing was completed in a Career Tech classroom at Warrensville Heights High School, which is in our Career Tech consortium. The Tiger Shop at Cleveland Heights High School, where students in special education programs get a chance to learn job skills, is processing the shirt orders.

Profits from the sale of these shirts are earmarked for special education scholarships for graduating seniors. Moreover, they look great, only cost \$10, and still give us \$3 profit per shirt.

The message on the back of the shirt states "Fair Trade, Union Made, Student Produced." Everything about this product is morally right and completely in sync with the values of our

community.

If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, contact the Tiger Shop, run by Pam Fishman (216-320-3064, p_fishman@chuh.org) and Laura Stuart-Lilley and their Heights High students. We are also helping sell some of the shirts at our office, 2490 Lee Blvd., Suite 106 (216-321-0020). Mac's Backs on Coventry has also expressed interest in perhaps selling the shirts at the store in limited quantity.

The Tiger Shop is able to facilitate the production of shirts for organizations both within the school and outside, using the same materials and student workforce. For more information, contact Fishman or Stuart-Lilley.

My dream would be to expand this type of work to more organizations and products, helping more people become aware of what they are buying, and helping provide our students with valuable experience in both the production and retail part of business. The Cleveland Heights Teachers Union believes in promoting social justice, democracy and fairness as core values that guide its activities. We are proud to help facilitate this type of venture and hope that you will help support and expand it.

Ari Klein is a lifelong community member, math teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, and president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union.



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Inner-ring suburbs create community development corporations

W. Dennis Keating

Community development corporations (CDCs) first emerged in the 1960s in the most distressed neighborhoods of central cities. They now number in the thousands. In the city of Cleveland, they took hold in the late 1970s in several neighborhoods, and now there are several dozen in Cleveland, all supported by the city.

Cities like Cleveland also have created economic development departments to retain and attract businesses to strengthen their tax bases and gain jobs for residents. Many suburbs, including Cleveland Heights, have followed suit. Currently, though, the Cleveland Heights economic development director's position is vacant.

Some of the inner-ring suburbs

have also created CDCs. These are nonprofit corporations with their own boards which work with their city government but also offer separate advantages. These advantages include more flexibility, the capacity to innovate more freely and the ability to seek grant funding. Three of these suburban CDCs are profiled below.

Established primarily to promote economic development, the Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC, www.shakerdevcorp.com) is perhaps the best model. It was formed in 2012 with the exclusive goal of improving the city's commercial districts. Shaker Heights had previously formed a community improvement corporation but never activated it. SHDC was created when the Fund for the Future of Shaker

Heights, which promoted integrated housing, was being phased out. Its assets were transferred to SHDC. The city provides in-kind support, including an office in Shaker Heights City Hall, but no direct funding.

SHDC developed its own strategic plan but also operates within the framework of the city's strategic investment plan. It works with the city's economic development director and can promote the city's existing economic development incentives.

SHDC has a 21-member board, which includes five city administrators and two city council members. It has five committees (executive, real estate, fund development, entrepreneurship and governance). In 2014, it hired Nick Fedor, the former economic development director of Cleveland's Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, as its first executive director. He works full time and is currently the only staffer.

SHDC is concentrating its efforts on the Chagrin-Lee district. It is seeking to supplement existing property uses and also working to replace outmoded and underused structures.

Lakewood Alive (www.lakewoodalive.com) was created in 2004 to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods. Its programs include housing programs aimed at assisting residents to maintain the housing stock. For this, it received more than \$15,000 in CDBG funding in 2015. It engages in design activities, organizes major events and works with the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance. In 2014, it engaged 312 volunteers on 32 community projects. The Lakewood Alive board has 25 members, which include citizens and representatives of Lakewood businesses. Lakewood's mayor, a member of Lakewood City Council, and the city's directors of planning, economic development, and building and housing are non-voting members. It has eight committees. Lakewood Alive has five full-time staff members.

One South Euclid (www.one-southeuclid.org) was created in 2009. Its primary programs are the re-use of vacant land and the rehabilitation of homes, a storefront art initiative and engagement with businesses. It has hosted community events and promoted community gardens and neighborhood pocket parks. One South Euclid has a 13-member citizen board and six committees. Its priorities are found in its 2015-17 strategic plan. The City of South Euclid provides some staff assistance as its in-kind contribution.

There are already three Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) in Cleveland Heights that promote businesses in Cedar Fairmount, Coventry Village and Cedar Lee. A Cleveland Heights CDC could provide another vehicle for economic development.

W. Dennis Keating is professor emeritus at the Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University. He is a longtime Cleveland Heights resident.

ROXBORO continued from page 1

Thus began an ongoing interdisciplinary unit that had the power to change a child's perspective.

Roxboro Middle School purchased class sets of *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, a fictionalized account of two real stories of 11-year-olds in Africa: Salva Dut, a refugee of the Sudanese conflict in 1985 who, like Madut, wandered the continent searching for his family and a safe place to stay, and Nya, a girl who made a two-hour journey to a pond for fresh water twice each day, which prevented her from attending school.

The entire sixth grade at Roxboro Middle School read the novel last October. Students' reactions underscored the power of the story. Janya Franklin said the book made her "feel grateful because I don't have to walk all those hours just to get water." Her classmate Ryan Coleman added, "The book made me sad because I wouldn't want to have to go through that. . . . And it wasn't fair that only boys could go to school because girls have to fetch water."

According to Amanda Sell, humanities teacher, "Reading the book was a difficult and emotional experience for students as they learned about war, tragedy and death from a first-person perspective." When they completed the book, many were relieved that Salva had survived, but "devastated that so many had died."

The real-life Salva Dut, who was adopted by a Philadelphia family in 1996, returned to his homeland in 2003 and started the Water for South Sudan project, a nonprofit organization that builds wells in rural villages. Access to fresh water not only improves the health of entire villages, but also frees girls to attend school.

After reading the book, Roxboro students wanted to do something to help their Sudanese counterparts. What more natural thing to do than to walk themselves to raise money to help provide access to fresh water?

The teachers set a modest goal of \$500 for their first walk-a-thon in support of Water for South Sudan, which occurred on Nov. 24. Of the 204 sixth-grade students at the school, at least 150 made donations, qualifying them to participate in the morning walk around the school track. Students raised a total of \$1,800, more than triple their initial goal.

Miles Anderson, who raised nearly \$300 from 12 donors, captured the feelings of many of his classmates on the eve of Thanksgiving weekend, when he said, "Even though I have everything I need, there are some people who don't. And I'm just happy that I'm helping them."

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. An active member of the Fairfax PTA, she blogs at <http://krissygallagher.wordpress.com>.




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ENERGY continued from page 1

Cleveland Foundation, brought in Bill Mason, Cuyahoga County prosecutor, and together they formed the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force and initiated studies. In early 2007, in front of a Windustrious video, the task force announced it would be concentrating its efforts on establishing an offshore wind project. After further studies, in 2009, the task force created the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo), a private, nonprofit regional corporation, to initially build wind turbines in Lake Erie and

eventually help stimulate an entire offshore freshwater wind industry.

In 2010, Sweden built the world's first freshwater wind farm on Lake Vanern. If LEEDCo is successful in creating such a windfarm in Lake Erie, it would be the first in the United States.

The Ohio Senate delivered a blow to the project, however, when it passed Senate Bill 310 in 2014, which put a two-year freeze on Ohio's renewable and energy-efficiency standards. The bill stopped providing incentives to investors and utilities for using wind power. Scientists through-

out the United States wondered aloud why Ohio chose to be the first state to renege on its renewable standards.

Taylor is optimistic that a freshwater wind farm will eventually become a reality here. A native of England, Taylor grew up in Torquay and studied zoology at London University. In 1964, when she was 22, she was offered a job as a research assistant in the biology department at Western Reserve University, and moved to Cleveland. She has lived here ever since. "I fell in love with America," she said. "I love the combination of innovation and inclusiveness. In the U.S., it matters who you are, not who your father is."

Her husband, Philip Taylor, also grew up in England. They met in Cleveland and married in 1966. He is a professor of physics at Case Western Reserve University. They have two

daughters, Camilla, 45, and Imogen, 42. Taylor and her husband bought their house on Meadowbrook Boulevard in 1969, and have lived in Cleveland Heights ever since.

More information about Windustrious can be found at www.windustrious.org. Taylor hopes readers will view, and share, a four-minute video she put on YouTube earlier this year called "Our Windustrious Future." The more clicks the better, said Taylor, to help spread the word—and the enthusiasm.

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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



Zoning appeal denied

Ilana Avraham of 14490 Summerfield Road appeared before council to appeal the zoning board's decision to deny the Avrahams' request to widen their existing driveway by nine feet to create a concrete parking pad in front of their home. Linda Johnson of the zoning board noted that the board receives many homeowner requests to increase the paved area on their property for parking, and solutions have always been found to avoid the permanent impervious surface and appearance of front yard parking lots. The board had suggested a paved pad be placed behind the home instead. Avraham explained that she and her husband are building an extension onto the back of their home and did not want to take any more of their backyard play space away from their four children. She also said that she has difficulty maneuvering her large van and that the snowplow piles up snow by the garage behind the house. Mayor Infeld noted that their lot is exceptionally deep compared to most properties in University Heights, and Councilman Phil Ertel explained that residents can request that the plow driver bring the snow to the front of the property. Council denied the appeal, with Councilman Mark Wiseman voting in favor.

Finance disaster minimization

Council approved the new finance office disaster minimization policy, which spells out the city's financial priorities and procedures to recover from a large-scale disaster. The policy prioritizes the order in which to restore functions; designates a second off-site location; and designates the storage of backups and secured copies of records and policies.

City services

The service department has completed a dozen circuits of leaf pickup since snow removal has not yet been needed. They have now moved on to tree work and pothole patching. The park project is 30 percent complete, although most of the work has been on its infrastructure and below ground.

Executive session

The meeting was adjourned to executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

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.

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

All council members were present.

Public comments

University Heights Library parking expansion: Jane Lewis of Washington Boulevard expressed concern on behalf of many neighbors regarding the library's plan to expand parking by tearing down three houses behind the University Heights Library. They do not see the need for expanded parking. They conducted a survey of the lot and found that spaces were always available. The neighbors were also reluctant to lose the buffer those three homes provide against the noise and lights of Cedar Road. Mayor Susan Infeld promised to notify the community of the upcoming planning commission meeting on Dec. 3 at which the library's plans will be reviewed.

Vacant Tullamore Road home: Kathy Adams Case of Tullamore Road asked council to tear down the home at 3505 Tullamore Road. The city has already declared the home, vacant since 2010 or 2011, to be a nuisance. The city has applied for funding through the county's land bank program, but if funding is not received, the city must come up with an alternate plan for this severely blighted home. It is attracting vagrants whom Case is chasing away. Patrick Grogan, community development coordinator, reported that he plans to submit the application to the county for demolition funding. The county land bank manages the demolition process once funding has been granted.

Mayor's appointment to the municipal league board

Mayor Infeld announced that she has been appointed to the board of the Ohio Municipal League, a lobbying group which takes municipal issues to the state legislature.

3478 and 3509 Raymont Blvd.

Council declared the home at 3478 Raymont Blvd. a nuisance. Building Commissioner Eric Tuck-Macalla reported that the home looks like it is falling down. The backyard is full of construction debris, appliances and an apparently abandoned truck. The home was initially foreclosed in 2007, and then purchased in 2011. The new owner seems to have disappeared and has not responded to notices from the city.

Council declared the home at 3509 Raymont Boulevard a nuisance. Tuck-Macalla reported that there have been several different owners since property violations were recorded, but the owners do not respond to the notices, nor address the issues. Because the home has transferred ownership through the courts by way of sheriff sales, there has been no escrow filed. The most recent owner of this home paid \$12,000.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

DECEMBER 7, 2015

Councilwoman Adele Zucker was absent.

Tree work

Tree pruning and removal work has begun. An orange dot on a tree indicates that it is slated for removal.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



NOVEMBER 16, 2015
All council members were present.

Coryell thanks residents
Council Member Jeff Coryell expressed thanks to the many residents who sent kind words and best wishes since he announced his resignation from council, which will be effective at the end of December. He plans to rejoin his wife in Detroit, where she has been Dean of the School of Law at University of Detroit Mercy since 2014.

Council seat replacement
Council Member Coryell noted that it is incorrect to assume that had he announced his resignation earlier, the seat he holds could have been included with the other three seats on the Nov. 3 general election ballot. His term does not expire until January 2018. According to the city charter, when any council member resigns before the end of a term, the resignation is always followed by council appointment of a replacement. Although, depending on timing, there may be a special election in which the appointed incumbent defends the seat for the remainder of its term, no seat can be added to the general election ballot before its time. Coryell encouraged all who wish to serve on council to apply for appointment when the process is announced.

Income tax code update
Council amended the city code chapter on income taxes, effective Jan. 1, 2016, to meet the municipal tax code requirements enacted by the Ohio General Assembly in December 2014. This state legislation comprehensively reformed the way income taxes are imposed by municipalities. Before the vote, Council Member Melissa Yasinow noted that the state has continued to cut funds to local governments.

Traffic signal study
Council authorized an agreement with GPD Group for a citywide traffic signal study to determine what signals are needed and if there are currently any signals that are not needed. The fees to be paid to GPD Group shall not exceed \$90,750.

Architctural review board appointment
Council approved the appointment of Melissa Fleigel to the architectural review board for a three-year term (Dec. 1, 2015 to Dec. 1, 2018).

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

DECEMBER 7, 2015
All council members were present.

Traffic light changes
Council authorized bidding for upgrading the traffic light at the intersection of Lee Road and North Park Boulevard and for removing traffic lights at Lee and East Monmouth roads and at East Overlook and Coventry roads.

Finance legislation
Council heard a first reading of three pieces of legislation regarding financial matters. The first item would create a Budget Stabilization Account to allow the city to set aside

a designated percentage of revenue each year to build up a reserve for use in times of decreased revenue or increased expenses. The second would make adjustments to general fund and special revenue fund activities for the current year. The third would make appropriations for the expenses of all city departments for the 2016 fiscal year.

Nuisance properties
Council declared the following residential properties to be blighted and health and safety hazards, warranting abatement by demolition:

- 3337 Desota Ave.
- 1030 Nela View Road
- 1689 Lee Road

Council Member Coryell urged his colleagues to consider a foreclosure bond ordinance that would require owners, usually banks, of properties that are in foreclosure and/or vacant, to post a \$10,000 bond to the city. If the owners fail to maintain their properties, the city can use the posted bond to do so.

Citizen appointments
Council approved the following appointments:

- Board of Zoning Appeals: Gail Bromley, reappointed to a four-year term for Jan. 31, 2016 through Jan. 31, 2020.
- Fair Practices Board: Jeff Smith, appointed to a three-year term for Jan. 1, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2018.
- Landmark Commission: James Edmonson and Margaret Lann, both reappointed to three-year terms for Jan. 1, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2018.

Liberty Row Oaks
Council Member Coryell noted that two signs have been installed on North Park Boulevard calling attention to the Liberty Row Oaks—trees planted after the Armistice of Nov. 11, 1918, that ended World War I. A plaque at ground level, honoring one of the fallen, accompanies each tree. The new signs were designed by city staff and incorporate some of the design elements of the original plaques. These are the first signs to be installed; there may be more in the future.

Mayor thanks the vice mayor
Mayor Dennis Wilcox noted that Vice Mayor Cheryl Stephens will not be present at council's next meeting, which will be his last as a member of council and mayor. Therefore, he took the opportunity to voice his appreciation for her service as vice mayor and chair of the finance committee, citing in particular her work to pass Issue 53 this past November. He credited the current upswing in Cleveland Heights, in part, to her efforts.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

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Reaching Heights honors award winners at annual meeting

Lisa Hunt

“Behind Every Great Student is a Great Community.” This was more than a slogan at the Reaching Heights annual meeting on Dec. 3. Ashlie Dyer, incoming board president, described Reaching Heights’s posters, hanging in businesses around the community, that advertise the slogan and celebrate the teachers, coaches, parents and community members who represent everyone that supports Heights children. At the meeting, two members of this “great community” received awards for their extraordinary efforts.

Zoraba Ross, Heights High’s administrative principal, presented the Outstanding Community Partner Award to Zagara’s Marketplace for its decades of generosity and active support of public school students. Accepting the award, John Zagara spoke about dramatic changes in grocery retailing—competition, consolidation and consumerism—and the special role of the few remaining independent, family-owned grocery stores, like Zagara’s Marketplace. Zagara shared a lesson he learned from his father, as a teenager working at Zagara’s grocery stores at 143rd and Kinsman, and then at Shaker Square: Local businesses can make a difference by hiring the community’s young people for their first



John Zagara of Zagara’s Marketplace accepts the Outstanding Community Partner Award from Heights High principal Zoraba Ross.

jobs. He explained how such early business experiences can teach important life lessons: do your work well, dress properly for your job, work hard, and learn to keep the job. “We are all responsible for raising the next generation,” concluded Zagara.

Reaching Heights honored Don Frederick, a parent, community member and catalyst for positive change in the school district, with its Friend of Public Education Award, honoring a citizen who em-

braces our shared responsibility for the success of our public schools. Frederick regularly attends board of education meetings, and has managed the distribution of yard signs for school levy campaigns since 2000. For years, Frederick has been an outspoken advocate for Career and Technical Education.

Presenting the award, Krista Hawthorne, executive director of Reaching Heights, described Frederick as a “thinker and listener, who cares deeply about students and promotes what is going well but doesn’t defend what’s going wrong.”

Frederick remarked on his own childhood, when school played a stabilizing role in his life, and echoed Zagara’s remarks: “It is a moral responsibility for us all to be involved and help all kids in our school district.” He challenged community members to “pick something” that they are interested in, that would support public education, and work on it.

Reaching Heights is a community nonprofit that promotes student achievement, honors teachers, and connects the Heights community to its public schools through programs, events and communication. To learn more and become involved, visit www.reachingheights.org or call 216-932-5110.

Lisa Hunt is assistant director of Reaching Heights.

Volunteer Match

Finding volunteer opportunities in Cleveland Heights and University Heights should become much easier with the *Heights Observer’s* Volunteer Match, a new regular column that lists ways for people to give their time and talent to the many worthy organizations and causes around town.


Submit your organization’s volunteer needs by e-mailing Sruti Basu at sbasu@futureheights.org or calling the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423.

Items submitted on or before the *Heights Observer* print issue’s monthly story deadline will be considered for that month’s column.

Peer to Peer: Peer to Peer is a new program at Noble Elementary School which pairs English as a Second Language (ESL) students with English-speaking students. Volunteers are needed for this before-school and after-school program. Please read the information from the CH-UH City School District if you are considering volunteering: www.chuh.org/volunteers.aspx. For more information, contact Gail Larson at gaillee49@yahoo.com.

Heights Observer: FutureHeights publishes the *Heights Observer* and delivers it throughout Cleveland Heights and University Heights on or around the first of every month. Volunteers are needed to assist with deliveries to local businesses and institutions. Most routes take about an hour to complete. For more information, contact FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or info@futureheights.org.

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Cedar Fairmount and Roxboro PTA kick off Rox Eats partnership



Roxboro families participate in Rox Eats at Vero Bistro.

Gennifer Hurtt

Wednesday nights. The after-work, after-school scramble. Mid-week, and it looks like leftovers or mac'n' cheese out of a box. Sound familiar? The grand meal plans of Sunday are gone and the week is only half over. The Roxboro Elementary School (Rox El) PTA and the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement

District (CFSID) have a way to get you over the hump.

On Nov. 18, Rox El PTA and CFSID kicked off Rox Eats Third Wednesdays, at Vero Bistro. The third Wednesday of each month will feature Rox Eats events at different Cedar Fairmount neighborhood restaurants. A portion of the proceeds from meals purchased during the event will benefit Rox El PTA and

Roxboro students. The next Rox Eats will be held on Jan. 20 at The Fairmount.

"This program not only allows the PTA to raise necessary funds to benefit our students, but also helps us support the local businesses that support us and our neighborhood," said Clare Taft, Rox El PTA president. "The PTA will use the funds raised to benefit students directly, through funding field trips and providing mini grants to Rox El teachers for educational enhancements. The money raised goes back to the kids."

Diners need to indicate that they are dining at the restaurant to benefit Rox El. PTA representatives and families will be present each third Wednesday to answer questions about Rox El and help promote the school.

Kaye Lowe, CFSID executive director, said, "We are pleased to have the vibrant Roxboro schools in our community. The Cedar Fairmount businesses are pleased to assist the Roxboro Elementary PTA to raise needed funds with Rox Eats at Cedar Fairmount."

Mark your calendars for future Rox Eats nights: Feb. 17 at Night-town, March 16 at Liquid Planet and April 20 at Luna Bakery and Café.

Rox El PTA serves the parents and caregivers, students and staff of Roxboro Elementary School in Cleveland Heights. In addition to providing small grants to teachers for educational enhancements and classroom materials, the PTA coordinates volunteers in the classrooms and school library, including the PTA's "the Village" tutoring program. PTA volunteers and funds support a variety of year-round after-school programming for students.

Each year, the PTA hosts RoxEl Run a 4- and 2-mile fun run through the Roxboro neighborhood, encouraging healthy habits. It also hosts a number of social events for families, including a Halloween dance, Valentine's dance, potluck dinners and a multicultural night.

Gennifer Hurtt is secretary and communications chair for the Roxboro Elementary School PTA.



Cynthia Lundeen, principal speaker at the Cleveland Heights Historical Society fundraiser.

Historic John Hartness Brown home hosts historical society fundraiser

Ken Goldberg

The 1896 John Hartness Brown House was filled to capacity on Nov. 8 for the Cleveland Heights Historical Society's fundraiser, Mysteries of the Heights.

The principal speaker, Cynthia Lundeen, mesmerized the audience with her colorful perspective on the locally famous murder of William Lowe Rice in 1910. Her talk included much information regarding how criminal investigations, along with the related media publicity, were conducted in that era.

Attendees were encouraged to come in period costume—particularly hats—as Lundeen is a locally prominent maker of vintage-style millinery.

The Brown House, a Cleveland Heights Landmark, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is an important contributor to the National Register's recently designated Euclid Heights Historic District.

Ken Goldberg is a librarian, art historian, historian and preservation consultant.

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Resolve to stop resolving



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

The beginning of a new year is a natural time to take stock of our lives and resolve to make positive changes. However, many of us fall short of achieving those changes, and the resolutions just get added to our list again next year.

According to Amy Cuddy, a social psychologist and Harvard Business School professor, we fail to achieve our resolutions because we tend to set unreasonable goals for ourselves, thereby setting ourselves up for failure.

The Mayo Clinic advises that, in order to be successful in achieving our goals, we need to make a specific plan for achieving them. It offers this five-step approach:

- **Aspire:** List your goals.
- **Effort:** Think about the effort it will take to reach each goal, and decide practically whether you are able to make that effort.
- **Plan:** Write down the steps you will take daily or weekly to reach each goal, as well as how you will handle barriers and setbacks.
- **Prepare:** Take the action needed to get started.
- **Work:** Follow your plan and make it happen.

Forbes magazine recommends keeping your list simple (making it short and attainable), tracking your accomplishments (making a chart or list and posting it where you can see it), and continuing to believe in yourself (don't let failures derail your efforts).

According to the AARP's 2014

New Year Goals and Resolutions Poll, getting more exercise was at the top of the list of resolutions that senior adults made last year.

The Huffington Post reports that as we age our exercise achievement drops. While 1 in 1.7 people age 18-24 get the recommended amount of weekly exercise, that number drops to 1 in 2.5 people for those age 65 and older.

If getting more exercise is on your list, take advantage of the many opportunities in our area to do just that. The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (216-691-7377) offers numerous exercise programs, including yoga, line dancing and strength training. The Hillcrest YMCA in Lyndhurst (216-382-4300) offers senior exercise programs, including Zumba Gold, yoga stretching and aerobics.

Whatever your self-improvement goals are for this year, resolve to break the cycle of resolving.

Right now, before you turn the page, write down three action items you are going to take within the next week to begin achieving your resolutions. If you should fall short, remember that failing today does not mean you can't try again tomorrow. Keep trying and eventually that resolution will be a new lifestyle rather than a number on a list.

Happy New Year to all of our readers!

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.lovinghandsgroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or judith@lovinghandsgroup.com.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

Jan. 7: Mayor Susan Infeld reflects on the issues, accomplishments, and challenges of providing service in the City of University Heights. Patrick Grogan, the city's coordinator for economic and community development, outlines various county, state and federal assistance programs available to help senior citizens.

Jan. 14: Sharona Hoffman, professor of law and bioethics at Case Western Reserve University, summarizes her scholarly research and life experiences, and discusses her first

book, *Aging with a Plan: How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly Improve Your Tomorrow*.

Jan. 21: Ron Fowler (the Flower Clown), Stacy Kern-Fowler, and their 6-year-old daughter, Millie, recount their experience during and after the earthquake which struck Nepal last April 25, leaving 8,500 people dead, 22,000 injured and several million homeless. For the past several years, February through April, the Fowlers have called Nepal home. They've made friends across cultures, and are now aiding the relief efforts.

Jan. 28: Talisa Dixon, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District superintendent, will review her first year in office, provide an update on the renovation of the high school, and report on the development of a five-year strategic plan for the district.

CH Senior Center News



The Hum & Strum group at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center.

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center, located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Boulevard, offers a wide variety of programming for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older.

One of the best-kept secrets at the senior center, though not for lack of "tooting its own horn," is a program that has had a storied history and continues to offer Cleveland Heights seniors a weekly, no-cost, good time.

The program, known as "Hum & Strum," meets every Monday morning at 10 a.m. for an hour and a half of music making, singing and stories. Participants can bring their own instruments or choose a rhythm instrument stored on-site, or can come just to join in the singing. Songs span decades to appeal to seniors of various ages, and the music comes in all forms—lyrics with chords, melody

notes on a staff, and full-blown treble- and bass-clef music.

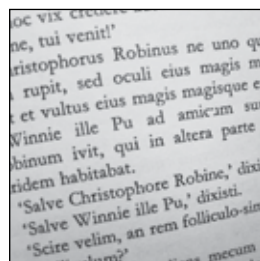
The core group of "Hummers & Strummers" is hoping to add to its numbers, and wants to encourage all interested CH seniors to join in. One need not commit to participating every week—it's always "come when you can" and, most importantly, "come on in."

The Senior Activity Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center's newsletter, which is available at Cleveland Heights City Hall, local libraries, the community center and online at www.clevelandheights.com. For more information and to register for any program, call 216-691-7377.

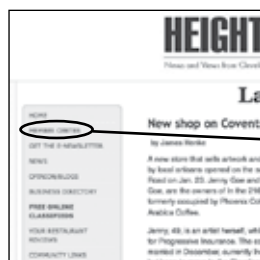
Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

Observe!

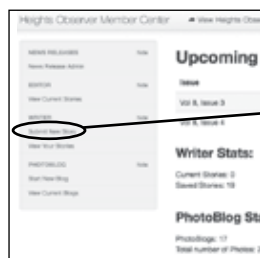
Submitting an article to the *Heights Observer* is a piece of cake!



1. The *Heights Observer* is written by people like you. So **write something**. Use a computer.



2. **Register/log in** at the Member Center (www.heightsobserver.org).



3. After logging in, click the **Submit New Story** button in the left-hand column (Don't see it? It's nested under "Writer"). Then follow the prompts. Hint: keep your original file open so you can easily copy and paste into the text box.



4. **Reward yourself;** you're about to be published. We'll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.

Community is invited to the Fairfax Cabaret

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

There is nothing quite as endearing as watching eager schoolchildren take the stage to show off their carefully rehearsed routines in their school talent show. Fairfax Elementary School knows how important such an event can be in the life of a child, and takes its talent show to a whole new level with the Fairfax Cabaret.

Fairfax students, families, teachers and alumni will take the stage at Heights High (Wiley campus) on Friday, Jan. 22, to sing, dance, flip, play instruments, recite poetry and perform original acts. The 2016 cabaret, which coincides with the school's 100th anniversary, will feature highlights from

the school's past 100 years, which the students have been learning about since August.

The event is a collaboration between the school's PTA, which organizes the pre-show dinner and runs various raffles throughout the night, and music teacher Tamar Gray, who works with student groups outside of school hours for two months in preparation.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Fairfax PTA, which funds field trips, assemblies, scholarships for after-school activities and mini-grants submitted by teachers for classroom enrichment materials and opportunities.

Everyone in the community is welcome to attend this year's show to celebrate all that Tiger Nation has to offer. Tickets for the show, which starts at 7 p.m., cost \$6, \$10 or \$20, depending on seat location. The pre-show candlelit pasta dinner, which starts at 6 p.m., requires an advance-purchased \$5 ticket. Each grade level will provide a raffle basket with items, including tickets to a Cleveland Indians baseball game, gift certificates to local restaurants and shops, and—a perennial favorite—the lottery tree donated by teachers. All raffle tickets are \$1.

If you're unable to attend the show, but would still like to get in on the action, you can purchase 50/50 raffle tickets for \$1, as the winner need not be present to win. At the last cabaret, held in January 2013, the PTA sold 2,400 tickets, with the winning pot valued at \$1,200. This year, 3,500 tickets were ordered, so the winning half could be as much as \$1,750. Members of the PTA will be selling raffle tickets at Zagara's Marketplace during the day on Jan. 9, 10, 16 and 17. Tickets can also be purchased from any school parent.

If you'd like to purchase tickets to the show, they will be available after Jan. 8 from any current Fairfax student or staff member. You can also contact the PTA at fairfaxptachuh@gmail.com or the school at 216-371-7480.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. She is an active member of the Fairfax PTA, and is proud to raise her two sons in this community. She blogs at <http://krissygallagher.wordpress.com>.



Beaumont students greet Christmas on Campus visitors in the school's foyer.

COURTESY ANNA BEYERLE

Beaumont School welcomes 150 children for annual Christmas on Campus event

Anna Beyerle

Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights hosted more than 150 elementary school students on Dec. 9, for its annual Christmas on Campus event, presented by Beaumont's student council. Children from St. Leo's and Urban Community schools in Cleveland attended the event.

More than 20 Beaumont student clubs organized a variety of activities for the children to enjoy, including games, crafts, ornament-making, life-sized Candyland and pictures with

Santa Claus. Each child paired with a Beaumont big sister for the afternoon, and together they participated in the various activities throughout the school.

Now in its 15th year, Christmas on Campus is an honored Beaumont tradition, and is a way for Beaumont to share its mission of educating women for life, leadership and service to the greater community.

Anna Beyerle is the public relations and marketing manager at the Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights.

Construction begins at Heights High

Joy Henderson

The exterior construction phase has begun and interior demolition is nearly complete at Heights High at the corner of Cedar and Lee roads.

As of mid-December, the north wall of the competition gymnasium, near the football stadium, was standing, and cement footers for the other walls had been poured. Construction of the wrestling room, kitchen and cafeteria are also in the early phase.

Interior demolition is progressing and nearly complete. In the fourth-floor vocal music area, the wall between the two rooms has been removed, along with most of the plaster that covered the clay tile support walls. The wood floors are being prepared for removal, as the wood was too damaged to be

salvaged.

The vocal music area will eventually include two rehearsal rooms, a bathroom, offices and storage areas.

On the first, second and third floors, classrooms, restrooms and hallways are being stripped of plaster, plumbing and electrical infrastructure in preparation for the coming construction phase.

The first-floor auditorium is being renovated, and demolition in that area is minimal. The seats are being removed and the electrical and heating systems are being replaced.

The building's interior demolition will be completed by mid-January and work will then focus on construction.

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



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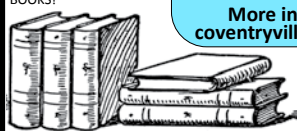
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Young Heights High diplomats win awards in Model United Nations



Heights High students who participated in the Autumn Model United Nations Conference: (L-R) Mary Jane Reinhardt, Georgina Jolivet, Andrew Schellenberg, Anabel Pederson, Ben Schuster, Anya Chew, David Matia, Eli Snow-Rackley and Remi Godard.

Joy Henderson

Nine Heights High students were delegates in the Autumn Model United Nations (U.N.) Conference, and three students won awards.

Juniors Anya Chew and Ben Schuster won the Excellent Delegation award and freshman Georgina Jolivet won the Position Paper award.

Each delegation represented a country in the U.N. Chew and Schuster earned the Excellent Delegation award for their research and preparation, which they demonstrated through written and verbal presentations, and for

their ability to compromise during negotiation. They represented Spain and presented resolutions in the Security Council promoting free trade in the South China Sea and supporting monetary payments for refugees in Yemen. Both resolutions were passed by the member nations in the council.

Chew is president of the Heights Model U.N. club and Schuster is vice president.

"I really like learning about other countries and the negotiating process," said Chew.

"Anya and I worked well together," said Schuster. "To be effective, we both had to contribute

and collaborate."

Jolivet earned the winning Position Paper award for her research and concise description of Jordan's position on the illegal trafficking of organs and transplant tourism. She presented the paper in the World Health Organization committee. "I enjoy researching and learning about less-developed countries and their challenges," said Jolivet.

Social studies teacher Karen Bauer-Blazer is the Model U.N. advisor. "I am very proud of the students' negotiating skill and ability to persuade other delegates to support their position," said Bauer-Blazer. "The Heights delegation displayed excellent diplomatic skills!"

The other members of the delegation are Remi Godard, David

Matia, Anabel Pederson, Mary Jane Reinhardt, Andrew Schellenberg and Eli Snow-Rackley.

The Autumn Model U.N. Conference was held at the Cleveland Bar Association Nov. 4-5 and is sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. Fourteen schools participated in the event.

The Model U.N. is an international organization that hosts conferences for middle school, high school and college Model U.N. clubs. Thousands of students around the world participate in Model U.N., which requires researching, public speaking, debating, writing, critical thinking, teamwork and leadership skills.

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

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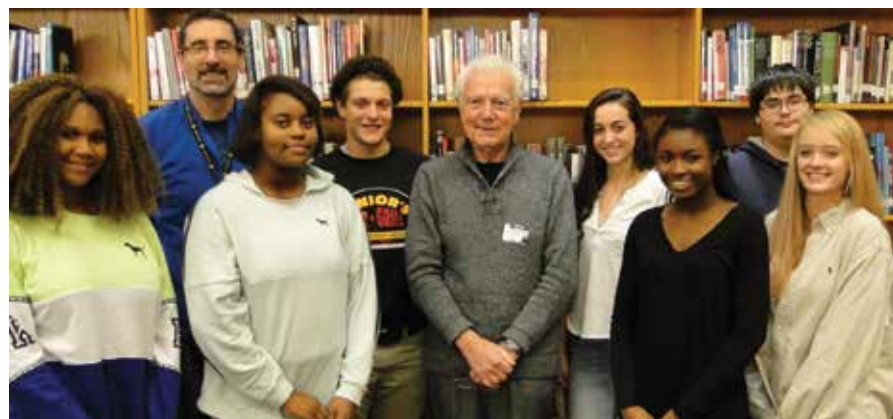
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Holocaust survivor speaks to students



Roman Frayman with students from Heights High's Lessons of the Holocaust class (from left): Kyra Sears, Mark Sack, Shaniya Shepherd, Adam Rosenbaum, Roman Frayman, Soli Collins, Mariah Benson, William Rosenberg and Ruby Jackson.

Joy Henderson

Holocaust survivor Roman Frayman visited Mark Sack's Lessons of the Holocaust class at Heights High, and spoke of his experiences as a child survivor of the Holocaust in Poland.

Frayman was born in Poland in 1938. When he was a toddler, the Nazis moved his family to a Jewish ghetto and then to a work camp. When he was 3, his mother smuggled him out of the labor camp and arranged for him to live with the Catholic Balagova family.

While with the Balagova family, 1941-45, Frayman attended Catholic church and pretended to be part of their family. Many Jewish children were hidden and cared for by non-Jewish families.

After the Soviet army liberated his town, the Frayman family moved to Germany and eventually immigrated to the U.S. in 1949, when he was 11.

"Mr. Frayman's life story is similar to the story in the movie

that we watched recently in class, 'The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler,'" said Sack. "The movie and the discussions with Mr. Frayman helped students think about the decisions that we make in our life."

Frayman asked if the students would keep a stranger's child if it meant great danger to their own family. "It is a hard question and I am not sure I know what I would do," he said. "But I do know that I was very lucky and I am very grateful." His infant brother did not survive, and many of his extended family members were killed in the Holocaust.

"Having the Holocaust survivors tell their stories is one of the best ways for students to learn about history and reflect on their own lives and communities," said Sack.

Frayman lives in Beachwood and is a Holocaust educator in his temple and in the community.

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

Cleveland Institute of Art Creativity Matters



36th Annual Scholastic Art + Writing Exhibition

January 13-30, 2016
cia.edu/exhibitions

Cuyahoga County's finest young talent shines in this crowd-pleasing exhibition. Last year, over 1,200 students in grades 7-12 created and submitted for judging more than 3,000 pieces of artwork and writing samples.



Meet the AFS exchange students at Cleveland Heights High School

Joy Henderson

Eight AFS foreign exchange students are attending Heights High this year, and bringing their unique experiences to the classroom and to their host families.

Justin Hons, who teaches American government at Heights High, appreciates the international perspective that the AFS students add to his classroom discussions. "It is enlightening for American students to learn that the American way is not the only way things are done," he said. "In an era of globalization and American exceptionalism, it is helpful to hear different perspectives from the AFS students."

The students are from Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and Europe. They belong to the AFS Club, along with several immigrant and native-born students who meet weekly after school in Carolyn Robb's classroom.

Robb is the club advisor and a French teacher. She helps the students acclimate to the school and plan social events. "The club brings students together in a welcoming environment," she said. "These bright young people are eager to integrate into the Heights



Students in the AFS Club at Heights High.

community and learn about American culture, and the Heights students and their families are curious and appreciative of the exchange students' cultures and backgrounds."

To follow is a list of AFS students with their home country, host family and what they like about Heights High:

- Nana M'Barka Ali, Mali, (Bailey-Walker family). "The teachers and students are so friendly and I appreciate the opportunity to study here. This community is beautiful. I like it when people ask me about my country."
- Khaby Ba, Senegal, (Conrad family).

"The diversity, learning about American history and my health class. I am very glad to have this experience in the United States."

- Weena Chaibangpul, Thailand, (Conrad family). "The teachers and the soccer team. I am so glad that I could be on the team, it was my favorite thing, so far. Thank you to Heights High for this opportunity."
- Diego Fretes, Paraguay, (Kauffman-Wisniewski family). "I met really great people on the soccer team and will play tennis in the spring. My host family is great and I am learning new things every day."

• Mohamed Gamaleldin, Egypt, (Motsamai-Burt family). "Making lots of friends, the teachers and the way that they teach. I enjoy becoming more independent—traveling here from Egypt, from across the world."

• Vanessa Msagwa, Tanzania, (Bailey-Walker family). "The diversity, the soccer team and being on stage in a concert. The opportunities for exchange students here are wonderful. Cleveland Heights High School is the best!"

• Francisco Rossi, Uruguay, (Yelsky family). "People here are very friendly, the teachers are nice and the school has new technology. I like meeting the students and I love my host family."

• Matilda Schiefelbein, Germany, (Kadish-Pietro family). "The AFS Club, the students and teachers. I am enjoying learning about Cleveland and about American culture."

For more than half a century, AFS has promoted world peace through its intercultural exchange program. For information about hosting a student or sending a student abroad, contact Carla Bailey at seabail@aol.com.

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights



DECEMBER 1, 2015

Board President Nancy Peppler was absent.

Library board interviews

This meeting was held to interview and elect one person to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board of Trustees. The board members interviewed the following applicants to fill a seven-year term: E. Richard Cslotko, Matthew Ginn, Dennis R. Sutcliffe and Suzanne Moskowitz.

The CH-UH Board of Education must interview library trustee candidates because the Heights Library was established by the board of education as a school-district free public library. The Ohio Revised Code designates the school district as the taxing and appointing authority of school district libraries.

The candidates were asked several questions, including: whether they were confident that they could both complete the seven-year term and devote the time

required; what challenges [they think] trustees face; what the role is of the trustee members; and what they perceived to be the school board-library relationship.

The board voted to appoint Suzanne Moskowitz to the library board.

Joint meeting with library board request

A request was made by the library board to hold a joint meeting with the school board at a later date.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

There is no report for the Nov. 17 school board meeting as it was held in executive session.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.

Tiger Snack Pack back for hoops season

Jinida Doba

After a successful run as a football-season fundraiser for Cleveland Heights High School, Zagara's Tiger Snack Pack is back for basketball season.

For every \$4.99 Tiger Snack Pack purchased at Zagara's Marketplace during Heights High's boys and girls basketball seasons, through Feb. 19, Zagara's will donate \$3 to Heights High athletics.

Zagara's Marketplace and New Heights Grill donated a total of \$491.84 to Heights High athletics in a joint fundraising effort last fall.

New Heights Grill donated 10 percent of each meal purchased, when customers redeemed a coupon included inside the fall Tiger Snack Pack.

"The Tiger Snack Packs were so well-received last season, and our customers really appreciated being able to support their Heights Tigers

with a simple snack pack that they could also enjoy at the games," said John Zagara, president of Zagara's Marketplace. "Our customers and staff really got into the festive black-and-gold Tiger Nation atmosphere we created throughout the store during the last fundraiser, so we're doing it again."

"The Heights High community is so fortunate to have a neighborhood partner like Zagara's, that cares about our youth and our schools," said Zoraba Ross, Cleveland Heights High School principal. "The Tiger Snack Pack is a great way for Tiger fans, parents, students and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community to come together and show support for our high school."

Once again, Zagara's Tiger Snack Pack, tied with a black-and-gold ribbon, is filled with tasty, nutritious snacks to enjoy at Heights High basketball games this season, or to enjoy anytime to show support for the Tigers.

The packs can be found near the black-and-gold-clad display Tiger Nation tables near Zagara's check-out aisles.

Visit www.chuh.org/wintersports.aspx for the schedule of remaining Heights High boys and girls basketball games.

Jinida Doba is an associate with Dorsey & Company Strategic Consultants to Management, a Cleveland Heights competitive and marketing strategy firm founded in 1987. Originally from Akron, Doba has called Cleveland Heights home since 2010.

Think there's too much money in politics?

Does it seem that corporations have too much power?

In 2013, Cleveland Heights voters passed, with a 77% "yes" vote, Issue 32 in support of a Constitutional Amendment clearly stating that corporations do not have Constitutional rights, and money is not speech. Issue 32 also established annual public hearings "to examine the impact on our City, our state and our nation of political influence by corporate entities and big money" in elections.

Cleveland Heights City Council will hold the 3rd Annual Public Hearing on Jan. 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Cleveland Heights City Hall

"Members of the general public will be afforded the opportunity to speak on these matters for up to five minutes per person."

Whether you wish to speak or just listen, please plan to attend. Jan. 21, 2016 is the 6th anniversary of the Citizens United decision.

More info: Cleveland-Heights@Movetoamend.org or [Facebook.com/movetoamendclevelandheights](https://www.facebook.com/movetoamendclevelandheights)

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Visit us at www.heightsimd.org

Special projects manager focuses on community and library needs



Beth Hatch, special projects manager at Heights Libraries.

Julia Murphy

Beth Hatch has been working as the special projects manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System for only three months, but has hit the ground running.

"I often get asked what a special projects manager is by coworkers and colleagues in the profession. When I tell them my title they say, 'Great! But what do you actually do?'" said Hatch.

Hatch is a librarian, but her focus is to take on the larger-scale projects that the library wants to implement, that staff on the floor doing reference, circulation or administration don't have time to manage.

"I collaborate with people in all

departments to come up with new ideas, get the right people behind them, and figure out where the money comes from, whether it's from grants or within the library budget," Hatch explained.

One special project she's taken on is the library's On the Same Page initiative. This is a communitywide read, meaning the library encourages people across the community to pick up the same book and come together to discuss the book's issues and themes through a variety of library programs.

Last year's book was *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, a contemporary young adult book about a boy growing up on a reservation. The library held a screening of the film "Smoke Signals"

(based on the book), and held book discussions and programs on Native American life and exploring diversity through the perspective of age.

For the next On the Same Page program, for fall 2016, the library sought community feedback on what book to read. Library staff and librarians from the CH-UH schools selected five books: a few young adult novels, nonfiction, and a book of poetry, and opened up voting to the community. The book chosen is *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson.

Woodson's book is a memoir written in free verse about her childhood as an African American growing up during the Civil Rights movement. "Many libraries categorize it as children's or middle-reader, but it really transcends that. Woodson is able to address complex themes and sentiments through a child's voice. It's a great choice for On the Same Page," said Hatch.

Hatch is leading a local and library history committee, and has successfully applied for a grant from the American Library Association (ALA). She recently announced that, in 2017, the library will host ALA's STARnet Discover Space: Exploring our Solar System and Beyond exhibit.

Julia Murphy is the marketing and volunteer coordinator for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

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What's going on at your library?

There's something for everyone at the library. For a complete list of programs, and to register, visit www.heightslibrary.org.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Saturday, Jan. 23, 11:30 a.m.

Baby Signs. Avoid frustration and have fun communicating with your prelingual baby. Join Melissa O'Grady for an introduction to baby signs and the philosophy behind it. Registration begins Jan. 9.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

Science & Nature Study Group - Space and Time: Lab Notes, Space Edition. NASA Missions to Mars, a talk by Craig H. Williams, senior aerospace engineer from NASA Glenn Research Center, will discuss current plans to send humans to Mars, as well as an overview of NASA's 1987-92 Space Exploration Initiative study and the

status of the ongoing robotic mission.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Nonfiction@Noble Book Club: Let's Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir, by Jenny Lawson. Lawson takes readers on a hilarious journey recalling her bizarre upbringing in rural Texas, awkward school years, and relationship with her husband. Lawson posits that the most mortifying moments of our lives—the ones we'd like to pretend never happened—are in fact the ones that define us.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Thursday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.

Teen Trivia Night. Bring a team to the University Heights Teen Trivia Night to test your knowledge, eat pizza and hang out with friends. The winning team will receive four \$10 Cleveland Cinemas gift cards. (Each team must have at least two members.)

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St. Paul's Associate Rector, The Rev. Richard Israel

A discussion of short videos to engage sacred conversations for racial justice

Sunday, January 31: Addressing Gun Violence & Its Impact on Youth

Khalilah Worley, Greater Cleveland Congregations Organizer

Donna Weinberger, GCC Strategy Team Member
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Library reaches out to home-schooling families

Sheryl Banks

According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 1.77 million children were being home-schooled in 2011, a 62 percent increase from 2003. Heights Libraries is reaching out to this growing population with its Home-schooling Meet and Greet on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. The event aims to welcome home-schooling families and find out directly from them how the library can best support them.

"We are interested in finding out what the needs are for the home-schooling community, so that we can create programming specifically designed to meet their unique needs and better serve them," said Tamara Murray, youth services associate and event organizer. "We feel that it is essential to get this valuable input, because there is no 'one-size-fits-all' home-schooling family."

The home-schooling movement attracts families from all religions, races and socioeconomic backgrounds who choose to teach their children at home for many reasons, ranging from the desire to educate a child with special needs, such as autism, ADHD or giftedness, to more

traditional reasons, such as instilling particular values and maintaining specific religious beliefs.

Sam Lapides, manager of youth services, said he realized there was a need to reach out to home-schooling families after he spoke with several parents who told him there were few resources that specifically met their needs in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights area.

"This gives us a great opportunity to expand our services to support home-schooling families who could benefit from targeted library programs and services," said Lapides. "Our hope is that we can eventually provide a small reading and resource library, develop programs that can enrich the

curriculum that home-schoolers are teaching their children, and to provide opportunities for them to network."

The event will primarily be a question-and-answer session where home-schooling families can meet library staff, learn about existing library resources, and brainstorm about possible new programs and services.

The Lee Road Library is located at 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. Families are encouraged to register for the program at www.heightslibrary.org or by calling 216-932-3600.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



LEAGUE OF
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October public service report

- Coventry Village Library staffers Maggie Kinney and Lauren Franzinger made the first quarterly outreach to Kinsman Transitional Housing Program in collaboration with Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. Children received a backpack filled with crayons, a book and early literacy activities.
- The Cedar-Coventry Author Series continued with performance poet Ray McNiece and photographer Tim Lachina presenting their new book, *Love Song to Cleveland*.
- Three caged pet mice have been added to Coventry Village Library's Shire Children's Room. Bessie, Calpurnia, and Frieda not only spin in their wheel, but also introduce children to the characteristics and care of mice.
- Noble Neighborhood Library staff visited Noble Elementary School's first- and second-grade classrooms, sharing stories and offering squares to color and take to the library in exchange for a book. The squares are displayed on a bulletin board.
- At Noble Neighborhood Library, Welcome Hub attendees celebrated community and culture on Oct. 13 for Dashain, a Nepali holiday celebrating the triumph of good over evil with a focus on family and culture.
- Noble Neighborhood Library's teen series, *I'm the Boss*, featured an artist/illustrator, a baker and a blogger. This series focuses on career possibilities and includes tips for employment success.
- Colin Marshall, youth services associate at University Heights Library, led a Create Your Own Comic Book night for children in grades three to five.
- Youth services department staff hosted family games and activities in an Alice's Adventures in Wonderland program.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Board Member Rob Fischer was absent.

Five Star Public Service Award

For the sixth time in seven years, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received this award from *Library Journal*. The State Librarian of Ohio sent a congratulatory letter.

Balanced Scorecard review

Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, deputy director, presented highlights including: a collaboration between youth services and Monarch Kindergarten; a partnership to provide early literacy materials between the Coventry Village Library and transitional housing for the homeless; and the visit of the Local History Task Force to the Cleveland Public Library to gain insight into Heights Libraries' efforts in that area.

CLEVNET libraries experience decreased circulation

The average decrease is 7 percent, while the Heights Libraries' rate of decrease is 6 percent. Circulation at Lee Road Library was 106,584 in October 2014 and 96,137 in October 2015, a decrease of more than 10,000 items. Visitor numbers at the Lee Road Library fell from 53,560 in October 2014 to 47,716 in October 2015, a decrease of more than 5,800 visitors.

Friends of Heights Libraries report

Louisa Oliver, the group's outgoing president, introduced Linda Lopez, incoming president, who reported on the recent mega sale. That sale brought the highest total ever, just over \$7,000. The remaining books from the sale were donated to the Lorain County Correctional Center in Grafton.

Book a Room software goes public

The Web calendar and meeting room software created by library staff has been placed on the WordPress depository for public use. So far, 10 libraries have downloaded and installed the meeting room component, while 31 libraries have downloaded the Web calendar component.



UUSC honors artist Lau with memorial gallery

Patricia Solomon

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland (UUSC), 2728 Lancashire Road in Cleveland Heights, has honored a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and longtime UUSC member by naming its lobby space the Betty Lau Gallery.

The initial exhibit featured Lau's landscape watercolors, and the church is soliciting work from student artists and artists who are beginning their careers, to help them gain experience in setting up a show, promoting their work and building an exhibition resume.

Lau's daughter, Barbara Lau, said, "Betty Lau was a tremendously creative person who found a lot of joy in making art in numerous mediums. As a girl she crafted pins, belts, and jewelry in silver and leather. After graduating from Cleveland Heights High School, she attended Oberlin College where she worked on theatrical sets and began drawing and painting.

"Her interests grew to include silkscreen, woodcuts and felt banners. She was an avid seamstress and quilter. She made fabulous Halloween costumes for her young children and herself. My mother's silk-screened Christmas cards were legendary, and her home was filled with furniture and wall art she made herself. Art became her healing balm



Betty Lau's children, Barbara and Michael Lau, at the dedication of the Betty Lau Gallery at UUSC on Lancashire Road.

during troubled times, and classes at the Cleveland Institute of Art during the 1960s and 1970s brought her new friends and personal confidence."

Every summer, Lau traveled to Star Island off the coast of Portsmouth, N.H., to attend the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science conference. The trip was not just about workshops and chapel services; it was a week of art-making. The island was one of her favorite landscapes, and Lau made numerous drawings and painting of the rocks, shore birds and historic stone chapel.

Back at home, Lau's colorful felt banners decorated the sanctuary of UUSC, where she was a member for 50 years.

In 1976, Lau's mural *Joy* won a public art contest in the City of Cleveland Heights. It has been

repainted several times, and still graces a corner building at Silsby and Lee roads, currently the home of Black Box Fix.

In 1995, 28 days after turning 65, and after 30 years as a social worker, Lau retired to become a full-time artist. She was a founding member of the Plein Air Painters, and a talented photographer. Her talents as a watercolorist blossomed in retirement, and she painted landscapes all over the world.

Barbara Lau said, "She was happiest when painting and we are all the richer for it. She passed away [on] March 7, 2014. She is deeply

missed by family, friends, neighbors, members of her church community, and her fellow artists. But her spirit lives on. She inspires us to find creative opportunity in everything we do and to find our own joy along the way."

For information about exhibits, call the church office at 216-932-1898. The gallery will be open for viewing from noon to 1 p.m. on Sundays, and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday (please call in advance), and by appointment.

Patricia Solomon, a Cleveland Heights resident for resident 50 years, has lived in Shaker Square since 2013. A Cleveland Heights advocate, she was a member of Heights Community Congress and CH-UH League of Women Voters.

Heights Youth Theatre celebrates diversity with 'HONK!' musical

Les Proctor

If you're looking for an entertaining way to get 2016 off to a good start, consider attending Heights Youth Theatre's (HYT) production of "HONK!" in January.

"HONK!" is a musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story "The Ugly Duckling." The play will be performed at Monticello Middle School, 3665 Monticello Blvd. in Cleveland Heights, and runs from Friday, Jan. 15, through Sunday, Jan. 24.

Directed by Kelly Monaghan, with music direction by Stacy Bolton, "HONK!" is set in a suburban farmyard, and features Ugly, a baby swan whose unusual looks cause prejudice among his family and their neighbors.

Separated from the farmyard, Ugly is chased by hungry Cat, and must find his way back to the farmyard. During his journey, Ugly discovers his true self, and wins both love and acceptance from his former detractors.

From the opening number, "A Poultry Tale," this musical comedy brings to life Hans Christian Andersen's timeless story in a way that is relevant to people of all ages and backgrounds.

HYT's production of "HONK!" features 52 players in grades 1-12, from Shaker Heights, Twinsburg, Cleveland Heights, University

Heights, Lyndhurst, South Euclid, East Cleveland, Cleveland, Gates Mills, Solon and Russell Township.

Lead cast members include Colin Frothingham as Ugly, James Berner as Cat, and Emma Sedlak as Ida. Stage manager Samantha Truesdell coordinates all the moving parts to bring this production to life.

Performances will be held Friday evenings at 7 p.m., Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$9 for seniors and children under 6. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to each show. For more information, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org. For group seating information, contact Ellen at 216-780-2235.

Attending HYT's performances supports theatrical arts in the Heights. For more than 60 years, Heights Youth Theatre has been offering kids year-round opportunities to hone their theatrical skills and entertain audiences. Most first-time theatergoers are surprised by the caliber of the work: "It's like Broadway in the Heights!"

For more information about ways to support HYT and theatrical arts in the Heights, go to www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

Les Proctor is a Cleveland Heights resident and a huge fan of Heights Youth Theatre.

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Photography gallery to open in Cedar Fairmount



Michael Weil in his new gallery.

James Henke

A new art gallery—Foothill Galleries of the Photo Succession—will be opening this month in Cleveland Heights's Cedar Fairmount Business District. Michael Weil is owner of the new photography gallery, located at 2450 Fairmount Blvd.

A lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, Weil, 49, has been interested

in photography since he was a child. He taught art history and photography as an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University, and is currently an adjunct professor at the Cleveland Institute of Art. "Over the last decade, I began focusing more and more on my own photography," he said. "I became more serious about wanting to exhibit my own work, but there were no galleries in this area committed to photography."

Weil said he had thought about opening a gallery for two or three years, then found out that space was available in the Heights Medical Building. Initially, he planned to use the space only as his office, for his own photography work and the printing of photos. Then he realized the space was large enough to accommodate a gallery.

The first exhibit, *The Justification*

of the Judgement, will open in mid-January, and will feature Weil's photography. "It's really about my experiences with my son Josh," Weil said. Josh, then a senior at Hawken School, was killed last May in a car accident on County Line Road in Gates Mills. "The show is going to be based on places where we traveled together," Weil said, "and it will also show a lot of the experiences we had together."

Weil, who is married, is the father of another son, Sam, 21, who is studying film at Tulane University.

Weil plans to have three or four different shows a year. "The idea is that I will show my own work and also the work of other photographers, both locally and beyond," he said. Gallery admission is free, and the hours will depend on when Weil can be at the space.

Weil, who lives on Chatfield Drive in Cleveland Heights, majored in English at Hobart College in upstate New York. He earned a

master's degree and a Ph.D. in art history at Case Western Reserve University. He is on the board of Heights Arts, and served as its president in 2013 and 2014.

Weil said he has always loved Cleveland Heights, especially Cedar Fairmount: "I love the trees, the architecture, the neighborhoods, the walking paths in this city. And the Cedar Fairmount area is so impressive."

"You can get almost anything you want or need here. You can get breakfast, coffee, lunch, dinner. And there's Dave's grocery store, Nighttown, banks, entertainment and on and on. It's a very energetic, positive, feel-good area. And it's a multi-generational neighborhood."

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 Arts opens 2016 with new exhibit and master classes for young musicians



David Meyers of Rustbelt Reclamation is flanked by Greg Donley and Sharon Grossman of Heights Arts during a studio visit.

Mary Ryan

Just as our Rust Belt city is creating vibrant communities from traditional neighborhoods mixed with edgy independent businesses and updated urban design, the first Heights Arts exhibition of 2016, *Remade in Cleveland*, focuses on the repurposing of industrial and cast-off materials into imaginative yet functional household objects.

Opening Friday, Jan. 15, with a public reception from 6 to 9 p.m., *Remade in Cleveland* brings together the works of Douglas Meyer (*Rustbelt Rebirth*), Kevin Busta, and the firm Rustbelt Reclamation—all Northeast Ohio artisans who use locally sourced wood and metal to create custom tables, seating, lighting, mirrors, wall features, and tabletop objects such as clocks, serving boards, wine caddies and even "paper" planes.

Greg Donley—head of the gallery committee that organizes Heights Arts exhibitions—noted, "Resourcefulness and creativity are common threads binding these artists together: rather than starting from a blank slate, they seek out interesting materials that have already been used for some other purpose and are now ripe for a second life. The resulting furniture melds practicality and imagination in functional objects that are intended for hard use in daily life—but are also

beautiful, compelling, often intriguing forms that sometimes evoke their past lives." Viewers may be surprised to find everything from sleek, mid-century inspired consoles which incorporate tubular steel from exercise equipment, to patina-rich tables crafted from the salvaged wood of Cleveland houses, to wall art made from 150-year-old carved mahogany foundry molds.

Remade in Cleveland is on view through Feb. 27. Ekphrastacy, an accompanying artist talk and poetry reading in response to exhibition works, is slated for Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m.

Besides showcasing visual art, Heights Arts offers a robust series of gallery music programs for 2016 as well, including a new series of master classes in cello, flute, voice and violin in collaboration with the Music Settlement, Contemporary Youth Orchestra, area public schools and private teachers. Each master class features students in grades 6 through 12 who perform with excellence within various levels, and have been recommended by their teachers. Master classes are free and open to the public for observation. An evening series of gallery concerts, designed to showcase the talents of local musicians performing in the classical genre, is scheduled for winter and spring.

The first master class in cello, with award-winning Cleveland Institute of Music instructor Pamela Kelly, will be held Sunday, Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. Student applications, at www.heightsarts.org/master-classes, are currently being accepted for all classes. Accepted students and a parent will also receive tickets to a Heights Arts Close Encounters chamber music concert.

For more information on Heights Arts programs and gallery shop, visit www.heightsarts.org or call 216-371-3457.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization located at 2175 Lee Road.

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Lion is King at Oxford



Oxford Elementary students rehearse for "The Lion King Kids," which opens March 3.

Patti Carlyle

Oxford Elementary School has enjoyed a collaborative relationship with Playhouse Square this fall to produce "The Lion King Kids." Two Playhouse Square teaching artists are working with third- through fifth-graders weekly to help them experience literacy through the theatrical arts in a free after-school musical theater residency during the 2015-16 school year.

Oxford, which won this opportunity along with three schools in the Cleveland school district, has 60 students participating as members of the cast and stage crew. The rest of the Oxford school community will be helping prepare for performances through set creation, props and costuming for an early spring production of "The Lion King Kids," a 40-minute retelling of "The Lion King," incorporating components of the Broadway show.

Last spring, Patrick Carpenter, the Title I literacy leader at Oxford, wrote the grant for the Disney Musical in Schools (DMIS) program through Playhouse Square. Title I is a federal program that supports academic and curricular needs in schools with high poverty rates. Research has shown that arts education can help narrow the achievement gap in high-poverty schools.

Disney Musicals in School began in New York City in 2009 to give low-income students in urban public schools the kind of arts access that more-prosperous districts enjoy. This year, Disney chose Cleveland's Playhouse Square because of its reputation as a world-class performing arts center and its dedication to arts education in Cleveland. Disney's ultimate goal is to spark an ongoing theater program in schools by providing the training necessary for teachers to continue a tradition of theater education.

Daniel Hahn, vice president of community engagement and education at Playhouse Square, said Oxford stood out because of the school's long-standing commitment to the arts.

"Patrick Carpenter and his team have been bringing students to field trips at Playhouse Square for a long time," Hahn said. "This year they have doubled their efforts. Oxford has shown a dedication to after-school programs like the talent show. That showed us an investment toward developing talent. There were a lot of schools that applied, and Oxford was a top contender."

"The Lion King Kids" performances at Oxford will be on Thursday

and Friday, March 3 and 4, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 5, at 2 p.m. While public performances will take place at Oxford, there also will be a special Student Share celebration on Monday, March 7, at the Ohio Theater in Playhouse Square, at which each of the four participating schools will offer brief performances.

Oxford's grant includes a curriculum program that ties in with the Common Core State Standards. Oxford plans to launch that portion of the program after the production, to build on the foundational themes of the show. Post-production leadership opportunities might include student cast members visiting younger grades to talk about the story of "The Lion King," exploring character traits and development.

"We've had an overwhelmingly positive response from our school and district community," said Carpenter. "We are hoping to continue to collaborate with the broader community as this production takes shape. Being the one school outside of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to be chosen, this is an amazing opportunity for our Cleveland Heights-University Heights elementary schools to build a sustainable musical theater program for our students. Our students are learning a new way to express themselves and, we hope, some of our students are finding a lifelong love of musical theater."

Future opportunities for Oxford students seem imminent. "We hope to continue our great partnership with Oxford," said Hahn. "It's a terrific school."

Patti Carlyle is a writer, activist and Canterbury parent living in University Heights.

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Heights-based NatureVation leads outdoor adventures



Gordon Landefeld and Elaine Price.

Kari Elsila

In 1999, Cleveland Heights resident Elaine Price took an “adventure vacation” in Santa Fe, N.M. Even better than the hiking, biking and rafting was the fact that all the planning and logistics—from lodging to meals to the itinerary—were taken care of for her. While on the trip, Price found herself wondering why there was nothing similar in the Great Lakes region. “Our nature is just as great as theirs,” she reasoned. “We should be doing this there.”

The idea stayed with her until, in 2013, Price and her husband, Gordon Landefeld, founded NatureVation (a combination of the words “nature” and “innovation”), a nature tourism company that leads local adventures for individuals and groups.

“Other than showcasing the great quality of place in Northeast Ohio,” Price said, “one of our goals is to protect and preserve nature by getting people out into it. Once they’ve experienced the outdoors, they invariably fall in love with it and become ambassadors for our natural assets.”

Guided adventures range from mild strolls to more rigorous activities. Previous outings have included kayaking and tubing on the Cuyahoga River, stand-up paddle boarding, biking the Towpath and Cleveland Foundation Centennial trails, strolling through the Rockefeller Greenhouse and Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, and hiking at Cleveland Metroparks’ Mill Creek Falls, which, Landefeld points out, is “three times higher than Chagrin Falls.”

In addition to the trips planned by NatureVation, custom tours for up to 13 people can be arranged. Trips are typically four to five hours long and

take place all year long. Most outings are suitable for children, and the region’s dense concentration of natural places guarantees that participants never spend more than about an hour getting there.

Adventure trips start at \$79 per person. Although Price and Landefeld concede that people could head out into nature themselves, they are quick to note the value their company adds.

In addition to planning the itinerary, NatureVation provides transportation from a central meeting point and supplies high-end, creative food and beverages. “Most importantly, our tours are guided,” said Price. “We can explain the natural and cultural history of the place. Northeast Ohio has an industrial heritage tied to its woodlands, valleys, creeks and streams. There’s a human history story in each trip. One of the reasons we started NatureVation was to tell these stories of innovation linked to the places we go.”

Another benefit to the NatureVation adventures is the camaraderie that participants experience. People who start out as strangers find that they become friends during the trip. In fact, Price and Landefeld recently attended the wedding of a couple who met on the first NatureVation adventure.

Price, a 29-year resident of Cleveland Heights, is an environmental biologist by training and served as president and CEO of Holden Arboretum from 2001–07. Landefeld, originally from Shaker Heights, has a background in geology. Married for six years, they work well together. Both praised the support they’ve received from the City of Cleveland Heights. “We got great guidance from City Planner Karen Knittel,” Price said. “She gave us all the information we needed to get up and running as a home-based business.” They’ve also taken advantage of the resources available through Heights Libraries’ Small Business Development Center.

One perk of the job has been the opportunity to learn more about the wealth of nature in the region. Price recounted a visit to the Black River in Lorain County. “We kayaked through the old steel-mill area and saw how it had been reclaimed by nature, including a rookery of herons and a bald eagle nest. It’s incredible to witness the intense industrial heritage that is rapidly recovering due to intentional restoration efforts.

“I love that we’re discovering new places ourselves, and then sharing them with others. One of the most gratifying things is when clients tell us, ‘I’ve lived here my whole life and I never knew this place was here.’”

Information about upcoming trips—including winter snowshoeing adventures—can be found at www.naturevation.com.

Kari Elsila has called Cleveland Heights home for 15 years, and loves learning about all the small and home-based businesses in the Heights.

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Jeanology clothing store is reborn on Taylor

James Henke

Clarence Allen had always loved shopping at Jeanology, the clothing store at 2110 South Taylor Road that originally opened in 2006. In 2012, he stopped by and noticed that the owners had not been re-stocking the store. "I asked the owner, and he told me he was thinking about closing," Allen said. Over the next two years, when Allen would drive by the shop, "it looked abandoned," he recalled.

The store officially closed in December 2013. Then, in November 2014, Allen saw a "For Rent" sign on the front of the store. "I called the number on the sign," Allen said, "and the owners of the building said they wanted to rent the space." So Allen called Andrew Jackson, who had been the owner of Jeanology. "He asked me what my plans were," Allen said, "and I told him I wanted to get Jeanology re-opened."

Allen teamed up with a longtime friend of his, Rick Steele, and the two took over the ownership of the store in January 2015. Under their leadership, the store re-opened on March 5.

Allen, 50, grew up in Garfield Heights. He and Steele, who have been friends for more than 40 years, both attended John F. Kennedy High School in Cleveland. Allen attended Cuyahoga Community College, where he earned an associate degree. He went on to Capital University in Columbus, where he got a bachelor's



Rick Steele and Clarence Allen, owners of Jeanology.

degree in social work. He then earned a master's degree in social work from Walden University in Minnesota.

In addition to running Jeanology, Allen provides alcohol and drug counseling at the Cleveland Clinic. He lives in Warrensville Heights, and he has two sons, 24 and 25 years old.

Steele, 53, is a master cosmetologist who has been cutting and styling hair since 1985. For more than 10 years, he's worked at Best Cuts in Severance Town Center. He lives in Euclid and has two daughters, ages 15 and 25. "Clarence and I have been into fashion since we were kids," Steele said. "When Clarence presented this idea to me, it just lit up!"

Jeanology's slogan is "the art and science of wearing jeans," but the store sells a wide variety of clothing for both men and women. It carries numerous styles of jeans not seen

in other stores. "We have a lot of different designers," Allen said. "Some of our jeans are made in Los Angeles, and some are made in France." The store also carries a line of shirts made in Italy.

One section of the store features clothing made by Ivy Robinson, a Cleveland clothing designer. "That's more upscale clothing," Allen said. "Ivy's clothing includes suits, jewelry and other items."

Allen said one of his goals is to get more involved with the community and start doing more community service. Last spring, Jeanology donated free tuxedos to the students with the best grades at Heights High, so they could wear them at their graduation ceremony and prom. The store plans to do the same thing this year.

One of Jeanology's employees, Matthew Billingsley, is a senior at

Heights High. He has been working at the store for five months and loves it. "I think Jeanology is the best urban-to-suburban retail clothing store in Greater Cleveland," he said.

The store also carries cologne and perfume, shoes, coats, belts and other accessories, and has a "\$20 Table"—all of the clothing there, including jeans, can be purchased for \$20.

The store has started a new rewards card program. "If you shop here five times," Allen said, "we'll give you a free pair of jeans."

Jeanology employees will special order items for customers. "If you can't find something in the store, we'll order it for you," Allen said. "We have relationships with most clothing distributors around the country, so we can get almost anything a customer might want."

On March 4, Jeanology will produce a spring fashion show at the Holiday Inn on Rockside Road in Independence. "We'll be showing spring and summer fashions—a lot of fashion items that will be coming out later in the year," said Allen.

Allen said his goal is to expand the business and possibly open a second store in the future.

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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'Wonderful' new gift shop opens on Lee Road

James Henke

A new gift shop has opened in the space previously occupied by Simply Charming in the Cedar Lee neighborhood. Called S'Wonderful Gifts, the store opened on Nov. 17. It offers a wide variety of items, including jewelry, plush animals,

ceramics, watches, purses, soaps and nail polish.

Bill Wort, 61, the new store's owner, has spent most of his life working at museum stores. He grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, and worked at several museums there over the years. In 2007, he moved to Sarasota, Fla., where he ran the store at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Then, in December 2011, the Cleveland Museum of Art hired him to run its shop while the museum was undergoing renovations. He left after about a year.

"I have wanted to open a gift store for some time," said Wort, who lives on Scarborough Road in Cleveland Heights. "I was looking for a place with foot traffic. Living in the area, I knew about Simply Charming, and my wife shopped there a lot."

When Simply Charming closed earlier this fall, Wort decided to open his store in the same space. Wort named it after the George Gershwin song "S'Wonderful."

"My wife and I really like



Bill Wort, owner of S'Wonderful Gifts on Lee Road.

George Gershwin's music," Wort said. "So we decided to use his song title for the name."

Nina Glueckselig, Wort's wife, designs jewelry, and some of her items are for sale in the store. S'Wonderful carries a line of hand-made scarves, created by a company called Rising Tide, and offers a large

selection of unique socks. The store also features a line of Japanese ceramics, a variety of mugs and a selection of notebooks.

"It's a place to find nice gifts and have fun," Wort said. "I am trying to have a nice mix of things."

Wort enjoys attending trade shows around the country. Last year, at a show in San Francisco, he saw a line of plush animals he liked, which are now available in his store.

Among Wort's favorite items are modern tabletop pieces made from chrome and glass. They include salt-and-pepper shakers, oil-and-vinegar containers, and bowls. "I discovered these in Sarasota, and I think they are really beautiful," he said.

The store carries a large assortment of cards for all occasions. They are all unique, and the wording is different from what one might typically find on cards in other stores.

S'Wonderful also has a line of handbags that is not available anywhere else in the U.S. Created by an Italian company, Full Spot, customers can select the bag, the handle and the trim to create a unique bag. The store also features watches that can be designed by the customer. "You can choose the watch face and the watch band," Wort explained.

Wort is very optimistic about the store's future, and very happy that he was able to open his own store. "Having my own store, I am not restricted in the items I can carry," he said. "We have both fun and fancy gifts, and there's something for everyone, from children to adults."

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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CLE Urban Winery to open on Lee Road in 2016

James Henke

A new winery is slated to open in May 2016 on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. Called CLE Urban Winery, it will be one of the first federally bonded wineries in the Cleveland area to produce, serve and sell its own handcrafted wines exclusively.

When owner Destiny Burns turned 50 last year, she felt at a cross-roads. “I decided it was time to come home to Cleveland,” she said.

She started looking for places where she could open her own winery. When she saw the space at 2180 Lee Road, she decided it was perfect and contacted the building’s owner. Studio You, a ceramic business, had occupied the space several years before. The space includes an area that had served as a garage.

Burns had heard about Dave Mazzone, who lives in the Fairmount neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. He had been a winemaker at various vineyards around the country. She got in touch with him and he loved her idea.

“When I learned of an urban winery coming to my hometown of Cleveland Heights, I felt compelled to make a contribution to the project,” said Mazzone. “The vision for the winery is one that emphasizes community outreach through wine accessibility, and a commitment to educate and enable all levels of wine enthusiasts. I look forward to interacting with all my fellow oenophiles in the Greater Cleveland area!”



This Lee Road space will be the site of the new CLE Urban Winery.

Construction began in December. Burns, who also lives in Cleveland Heights, hopes to start producing wine this spring and have enough by May to have a soft opening. The grand opening should come in July.

CLE Urban Winery will have seating and tables in the front section. In addition to wine, Burns and Mazzone plan to offer cold plates with meat, cheese, bread and dips. The plans call for a tasting bar in the middle, and a bar against one of the sidewalls. The back wall will be the site of the winery and kitchen.

Burns spent 20 years in the Navy. She was a Russian linguist with a focus on cryptology. “I lived all over the world, in Japan, Hawaii and the Persian Gulf,” she said. She retired in 2003, as a lieutenant, and then lived in the Washington, D.C. area, working

as a firefighter and emergency medical technician.

“I have great love and respect for first responders and for all those who serve our country and communities in uniform,” she said.

One of the winery’s walls will be devoted to honoring military veterans and fire, EMS and law-enforcement first responders, and will feature photos and unit patches. Those who serve in these capacities will receive a 10 percent discount.

While living in the D.C. area, Burns enjoyed going to vineyards and eating out at restaurants. “I spent a lot of time in vineyards,” she said. “I loved food and wine, and I always dreamed of having my own business.”

The winery plans to produce 20 to 30 varieties, ranging from dry reds to sweet fruit wines, and all of the wines

will be named to celebrate and honor the Cleveland area. For example, the Chenin Blanc will be called Cleveland Heights Chenin Blanc.

Burns hopes to make the space available for parties, special events and fundraisers. “I view this as a philanthropic space,” she said. She also plans to offer game nights and cooking classes, and host book clubs.

In addition, customers will be able to come in and make their own batches of wine. “They can come in and produce 28 bottles and then come back four to six weeks later and label them with any name they want,” said Burns.

She also plans to offer a wine club, explaining, “There will be a reception every month and members can get one bottle and one growler (container) of wine every month.”

The wines will be produced from juices that Burns and Mazzone will source from all over the world, including Africa, Europe, Australia and California. “This is good wine made fun,” Burns said. “It’s not pretentious, and we won’t be aging the wines for two years.”

Burns said she thinks the winery will be a positive addition to the Cedar Lee neighborhood.

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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