

## INSIDE



**10**  
CH's Triolo  
helps vets and  
others regain  
movement



**13**  
Heights High's  
Swim Cadets  
perform  
March 9–11



**18**  
Barber looks  
back on 72-  
year career



**20**  
LEI's fifth  
annual kids'  
Comic Con is  
March 4

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

## CLE Urban Winery is Best New Business

Deanna Bremer Fisher

In the 2017 Best of the Heights Awards contest, readers of the *Heights Observer* honored outstanding businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights by voting, Jan. 15 through Feb. 15, for their favorites in 12 categories. In all, 195 businesses were nominated. FutureHeights announced the winners on its website on Feb. 28.

CLE Urban Winery (2180B Lee Road), producer and retailer of handcrafted wines, edged out finalists Greedy Girl and Zoma Ethiopian Restaurant to win Best New Business.

Owner Destiny Burns said that winning the award was exciting, humbling and validating. "I feel like we are connecting with the community. My vision for this place was a community space, and that is really what it is becoming and it's wonderful to see," she said.

CLE Urban Winery hosts a vari-



Destiny Burns, owner of CLE Urban Winery, in front of her newest wine tank. CLE Urban Winery, 2180B Lee Road, won Best New Business in the FutureHeights 2017 Best of the Heights Awards.

ety of events, such as yoga and tango classes, and features local musicians and the work of local artists. The space also attracts groups, both formal and informal. "The other day one of our Wine Club members, who is a teacher in the Heights, asked if we could stay open a little later one night so that she and a few of her friends could stop over after a movie to discuss it. I said, 'Sure, I'd be happy to do that for a Wine Club member,' and about 70 people came—all ages,

it was awesome."

Burns said her secrets to success are her mottos, "good wine made fun" and "drink wine, do good." She said she strives to produce a quality product, has a fantastic staff, celebrates Cleveland—not just with the wine labels and names, but by featuring local music and art, and partnering with local businesses—and she emphasizes community by giving back to local causes.

The business opened in summer  
*continued on page 11*

## Taylor Road ceramic shop opens



Asya Palatova in her new store, Gleena Ceramics, at 2114 South Taylor Road.

James Henke

In December, Asya Palatova, a designer and ceramist, opened a unique new store and studio at 2114 South Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights.

Called Gleena Ceramics, the store features tableware, including cups, plates, saucers and vases, designed and produced by the store's owner, Palatova, a former art director at *Martha Stewart Living* magazine.

Palatova's products are available in stores in 16 states, and online, and have been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Southern Living*, *House Beautiful*, *Food & Wine*, *Bon Appetit*, *InStyle* and *Martha Stewart Weddings*, among other magazines.

"Gleena" is a Russian word for clay, and Palatova makes all of her items from porcelain—a clay-based material—in her Taylor Road studio. Prices range from \$20 to

*continued on page 2*

## Lutheran churches consolidate to form new congregation

Donald King

On Feb. 5, the congregations of Hope Lutheran and Bethlehem Lutheran churches voted to consolidate their ministries to form a new congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) later this year.

Bethlehem became a congregation in 1885 and Hope in 1909, but neither congregation was located in Cleveland Heights until the early 1950s. By the early 2000s, four Evangelical Lutheran congregations existed in Cleveland Heights, each having its roots in a different predecessor body, and merged into the ELCA in 1888.

These congregations shared different ministry covenants for 20 years, looking toward the day when they might consolidate into one. Along the way, First English and Grace Lutheran churches closed in 2002 and 2015, respectively.

In the last two years, the congregations of Hope and Bethlehem worked to determine what their future should hold, including building use and purpose, combined finances, and a shared vision for ministry.

It was decided that the Bethlehem site would offer the better location, based on size, condition, accessibility (once a limited-use elevator is added) and visibility. The new congregation will be located at 3740 Mayfield Road, near Sever-

*continued on page 3*

## FutureHeights to host vacant and abandoned properties forum

Deanna Bremer Fisher

FutureHeights will host a public forum, Vacant and Abandoned Properties in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd.

As Northeast Ohio climbs out of the housing crisis, many Cuyahoga County communities are still dealing with issues of property abandonment. This panel presentation and discussion aims to help attendees understand the basics about vacant and abandoned properties, help translate

applicable laws and policies, and discuss existing options and solutions.

The discussion will focus on answers to the following questions:

- What is a vacant and abandoned property, from a legal perspective?
- What are the legal pathways to remedying an abandoned property?
- What community actors have tools to remedy abandoned or nuisance properties? What are these tools? How do they work?
- How do community actors know when a property is vacant or abandoned?

Presenters include April Urban,

a research associate at Case Western Reserve University's Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development; Kermit Lind, clinical professor emeritus at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University (CSU); and Mark Wiseman, University Heights City Council member and principal of Wiseman Consulting.

Urban specializes in property research and consultation, focusing on code enforcement, foreclosure and REO (lender-owned) properties, and works closely with the community de-

*continued on page 9*



## 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](http://www.heightsobserver.org/members) or e-mail: [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org)

## HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life.  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105,  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
216-320-1423  
Copyright 2017 FutureHeights, All rights reserved.  
Reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

PUBLISHER  
Deanna Bremer Fisher  
[dbfisher@futureheights.org](mailto:dbfisher@futureheights.org)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Kim Sergio Inglis  
[city.editor@heightsobserver.org](mailto:city.editor@heightsobserver.org)

ADVERTISING  
Bob Rosenbaum  
216-401-9342  
[broosenbaum@heightsobserver.org](mailto:broosenbaum@heightsobserver.org)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Greg Donley, Judith Eugene, James Henke, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Richard Stewart, Andrea C. Turner

EDITORS  
Jamison Babb, Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Christine Brucker, Daniel Budin, David Budin, Greg Donley, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Clare Taft.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  
Temma Collins, Diane Roberto

DISTRIBUTION  
Sruti Basu

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the *Heights Observer*, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

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

## 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](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on "Member Center" at the
- 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](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

Articles to be considered for the April issue must be submitted by March 13. 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.

## Top of the Hill is a tremendous opportunity worthy of discussion

To the Editor:

By now, most of us who live, work, or recreate in the City of Cleveland Heights are probably aware of the redevelopment proposal for the Top of the Hill property in the Cedar Fairmount District. A developer has been selected, negotiations are underway, and highly anticipated planning and economic development details should soon be available for public view.

FutureHeights supports a mixed-use development project at Top of the Hill. Development of underutilized properties in Cleveland Heights will increase population, add to the tax base, and decrease the tax burden among current residents. A high-quality mixed-use development at the top of Cedar Hill will also enhance the reputation of the city, appropriately increase density to support existing businesses, and improve the quality of life for existing residents by providing goods and services that they need, including the addition of new for-rent and for-sale housing options.

I had the opportunity to attend an informal meeting on Jan. 17 at Nighttown, at which Fairmount Properties principals Adam Fishman and Randy Ruttenburg said that their company was in the process of preparing an initial agreement with the City of Cleveland Heights to develop Top of the Hill and that they had signed purchase contracts. They stated that they wanted to create "an authentic regional destination" that will connect with the existing neighborhood. It would be mixed-use and pedestrian scale, with a combination of housing and retail space, with potential hotel and office use. A parking garage would be part of the project, as well as a 10-story building on the southwestern corner of the site. The architecture of the buildings would be "contextual but iconic." Ruttenburg said that, although his firm had developed many other projects, "this is the project we want to be remembered by."

While the project sounds promising, FutureHeights is committed to ensuring that this redevelopment benefits the city as a whole. FutureHeights believes it is of great importance that the project meet the needs of current residents and encourages a robust civic engagement process. Residents need to become informed about the project, understand its potential benefits—both for themselves and the city as a whole—and help identify potential issues that need to be addressed. We look forward to working with the city, the developer, Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, residents and other stakeholders to ensure a thorough process that will result in a development project that will strengthen the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood and our city.

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

## Bodega is a hidden gem on Coventry

To the Editor:

Several years ago we first ate at the Bodega restaurant on Coventry to take advantage of the Tuesday night offer of half-price tapas, a variety of small plate dishes. We discovered outstanding cuisine.

Since then, we have been regulars, not only for the tapas, but also for the menu of Mediterranean-themed entrees, reflective of the Moroccan heritage of the owner. We have taken many friends, and the ones who live in Cleveland Heights have been surprised that they were unaware of it. Most recently, we entertained a couple from Washington, D.C., who said their meals were better than anything in their cosmopolitan area.

Believing that Bodega falls into the category of "best kept secrets" for fine dining in our city, we want to share our experience in hopes that it will no longer remain a secret.

David and Judie Perelman  
Cleveland Heights

## Democracy Day hearing was entertaining and informative

To the Editor:

I was both entertained and informed by the Democracy Day at CH City Hall on Jan. 25. Underlying this event are the modified-free speech activists of Move to Amend, [who want] to restrict the First Amendment because even a court of nine Bader Ginsburgs would never agree with their objective. I didn't ask, but I doubt anyone there has actually read the Citizens United (itself a nonprofit) decision, because even the justices in the minority agree that corporations are an assembly of people and have First Amendment rights. The minority could not convince another justice why General Electric would have free speech by virtue of owning NBC, but not the media-light Ford Motor Company, for example.

There was universal concern at the meeting, and the startling revelation that there is too much money in politics. Yes, and pool parlors, right here in River City.

Anyway, most speeches were well-prepared and limited to five minutes, which was plenty of time for some of the assorted cranks, crackpots and (from a narrow capitalist viewpoint) losers (you know who you are) who shared one common theme—government good, corporation bad. These are not folks you want toying around with your First Amendment.

I did take away some food for thought: The co-owner of a Coventry bookstore talked about how unfair it is to compete with Amazon, which has largely escaped

local taxes, and the impact on our neighborhoods of losing local businesses. I don't shop online unless I would have to drive a long distance to get something. For a couple extra dollars, I am happy to know a local person. If my neighbors don't keep raising my taxes, I would be happy to spread around a few more dollars.

I also heard a thoughtful comment about rent-seeking crony businesses, and how certification is used to limit competition and drive up prices. Plenty of proof around of that.

Also, I thought a comment about how parts of the education testing industry takes good care of itself had some merit.

Robert Shwab  
Cleveland Heights

*CERAMICS continued from page 1*

around \$300 for some vases.

The store also offers tea towels, metal letters, cards, tea and candles, made by Palatova's friends.

Palatova was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and lived there until she was 11. Her family moved to Kansas City, and then Lyndhurst, when Palatova's father got a job in Cleveland. Palatova graduated from Brush High School, and then earned a degree in graphic design at the University of Cincinnati.

After working as a graphic designer in New York City, Palatova earned a master of fine arts degree, with a concentration in ceramics, from the Rhode Island School of Design. She started Gleena Ceramics in 2002, and moved back to Cleveland in November to open her store and studio.

"I always wanted a store," she said. "And it seemed like the right time, and I really like this neighborhood."

Palatova, who lives near Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights, said she loves the beautiful architecture in the Heights. "I love the historical quality of the houses here," she said. "There are also so many great restaurants and coffee shops and galleries here. But it's mostly the architectural quality of the neighborhoods and the history behind it all that I really love."

Nature has always been an inspiration for her work, and she said she also likes the wooded areas in the Heights. "I like walking in the woods, or going to a beach," she said.

She added that she is very happy to finally have a store, and that business has been good so far.

For more information, visit [www.gleena.com](http://www.gleena.com).

*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.*



# It's hard to recommend teaching as a profession

Ari Klein

My holiday tradition for several years was to go backpacking overnight between Christmas and New Year's with Boy Scout alums from my days as scoutmaster. For the last several years, we seem to get a better turnout if I host a party at my house instead. This year, one of the young men, who is in his mid-20s, and I discussed whether he should go into teaching. This would have been an easy discussion years ago, but now it is not so simple.

I told him that when I first started teaching in Cleveland Heights in the late 1980s, there was an unwritten social contract that does not exist anymore. I knew that I would have to wait a long while before I was paid as much as classmates going into other fields with similar education. The trade-offs were good health care, security after earning tenure, predictability in pay, a decent retirement after 30 years, and a chance to work with young people. Additionally, I could count on 9 or 10 weeks off in the summer to go to school, paint houses, or take trips (but would not have the ability to vacation outside of school-designated holidays). Being a teacher at that time was a good and respected profession.

I have known this particular young man since he was a toddler. His older brothers were all Scouts in my troop, and I taught him and one of his brothers at Heights High. He is bright and energetic, spent time working with inner-city youths, knows how to relate and guide youngsters, and would be a great teacher. I had to tell him that most of the benefits of teaching don't exist anymore.

Teaching salaries here and around the country have stagnated and are especially low in charter schools. Many districts tie pay to student achievement, making it difficult to justify working with [those] students in poverty who predominantly score lower on standardized tests. The same student growth measures also help determine if a teacher is effective or not.

This translates into loss of tenure protection in many places (as I discussed in the January *Heights Observer*).

In addition, teachers have never had career portability. In most professions, a person can improve a situation by moving to a different company. Public school teachers lose money moving between school districts if they are experienced. State law only requires a school district to pay for five years of experience, so it is virtually impossible for teachers to transfer to another district without taking a huge economic hit.

Teachers can no longer retire with a livable pension at 30 years. The retirement system is requiring newer teachers to teach at least 35 years, and reach age 60 at retirement. This may change again, giving retirees less in pension benefits. Health care in retirement is a costly benefit, and may be reduced further. When I started my career in teaching, retiree health care was covered fully. So, we work longer, contribute more, and get less when we retire.

Summers are consumed with requirements to get "professionally developed" through this or that program. Summer is also the best time to take required classes for renewal of five-year teaching licenses.

Teaching is no longer respected as it once was. The narrative around "failing schools" and teachers being responsible for society's ills is rampant. Today's teachers are forced to work differently than we did in the past to satisfy requirements that have little to do with students and learning. It is hard work that keeps getting tougher.

So, it is hard to recommend that young people consider going into teaching today. We are just starting to see teacher shortages around the state. I imagine many teachers are having conversations like mine with former students.

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

LUTHERANS continued from page 1

ance Town Center. The new congregation will call both Reverends Donald King and Jessica Shields, the current pastors of Hope and Bethlehem, co-pastors. King has served in the Heights since 1999 and Shields since 2007.

Many of the current outreach ministries will remain in the new congregation, such as Hope's annual Christian Day Camp in late June, and Bethlehem's Novemberfest, a Swedish foods and crafts fair. The merged congregation also plans to continue a Reconciling in Christ ministry (in which the LGBT community is expressly welcomed), 12-step meetings, Black History Month commemorations, the Baby Gym and Baby Shop, and active participation in nearby Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries. Additional programming will include a monthly community meal, a Crest/Maple Roads Block Party, and further partnering with the Centers

for Family and Children.

The congregation has yet to be named. Everyone involved is invited to suggest a name for this new Lutheran ministry, and later this spring the entire slate of names will be presented for a vote. The plan is to narrow the list to seven, then three, and finally to the winning name. On Oct. 29, the 500th anniversary of The Reformation, Shields and King will be formally installed as the new pastors at a special service presided over by Bishop Abraham Allende of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA. The entire Heights community will be invited to attend.

*Donald King is pastor of Hope Lutheran Church on North Taylor Road, and an active participant in the Heights InterFaith Community. He has served at Hope since 1999, and has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1985.*

Fresh Local Food  
In Your Neighborhood

COIT ROAD  
FARMERS  
MARKET

Healthy Produce  
Healthy People  
Healthy Connections

OPEN SATURDAYS YEAR ROUND  
8:00AM TO 1:00PM

216-249-5455 www.coitmarket.org 15000 Woodworth Rd near East 152nd and Noble

## Apple Construction

Residential Contractor  
Serving Greater Cleveland since 1980  
Kitchens, bathrooms, additions and more  
**216-321-6639**

www.apple-construction.com • email: appleconstructioncle@gmail.com

## South African Journeys

Join us and see South Africa like an insider and honored guest.  
*Four guides & hosts, Jan & Gus Kious  
cleveland heights owned*

Now scheduling October & November tours  
Call or email for details

janetkious@sbcglobal.net 216-321-1442

## You can have a beautiful, healthy lawn

**Despite your best efforts, are you disappointed with the appearance of your yard?**

**Are you tired of calling an 800 number and not receiving the personal service you deserve?**

**Are you frustrated with high pressure sales calls for services you don't want or need?**

- Lawn renovation and new lawn installation
- Organic and traditional lawn fertilization programs
- Integrated weed and pest management
- Organic lawn topdressing
- Lawn aeration and thatch removal
- Weekly lawn maintenance

Our customized lawn care program and lawn renovation services make distressed lawns healthy and green again. To find out how we can make your yard the envy of the neighborhood call today.

Lawn Lad. Passionately committed to making your yard and garden look their beautiful best.

www.lawnlad.com | (216) 371-1935



# Cuyahoga County consistently overvalues Heights properties

J. Alex Morton and Ruth Morton Fazio

Has the county valued your home accurately for property tax purposes? In other words, does the value compare with other properties that have sold on your street? Do you think that your home would sell for the amount at which the county has valued it? If the county's appraised value seems out of line to you, you are not alone. There seems to be a pattern of overvaluing homes for property tax purposes in Cuyahoga County, and this miscalculation by the county could be costing [homeowners] thousands of dollars.

As an example, there were two properties on Desota Avenue that the county valued at \$137,000 and \$126,000, respectively—values that were grossly out of line with other properties that sold on that street. The property owners appealed to the board of revision, which upheld the fiscal officer's valuation. The board's decision was appealed to the State Board of Tax Appeals, which also "rubber-stamped" the valuation[s]. It was not until the case was appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court that re-

lief was granted. The Supreme Court ordered one property to be lowered to \$5,000 and ordered that the other property be sent back to the county for re-valuation. Subsequently, the county's appraiser re-valued it at \$30,000.

Most property owners would find appealing to so many boards and courts a daunting task, would thus be discouraged from doing so, and would therefore accept the original overvaluation. The property owner/taxpayer will end up paying an amount in taxation that is grossly out of line with the value of his or her home, a grave injustice, in our opinion.

This injustice seems to be peculiar to Cuyahoga County and is widely recognized, but nothing much is being done about it. Upon investigation into the cause of the rampant overvaluation, it was discovered that the county is unique in the state, in that it developed its own in-house method to appraise property. All other counties in the state contract with outside appraisers. No one seems to know what factors are utilized in the Cuyahoga County system to determine property values, but

the results tend to be much higher than they would be by any common-sense measure, such as comparable sales on the same street. Of course, if no one knows how the property values are determined, then the property owner is at a disadvantage in challenging the value. Thus, the

property owner is denied the opportunity to assert his or her fundamental right to be taxed on the true value of the property.

We are challenging this injustice.

J. Alex Morton and Ruth Morton Fazio are attorneys.

## Short messages work



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Short and punchy messages are important to successful protest. They help frame issues and raise awareness. They can get to the core of an idea and make it real and raw.

My favorite short-form medium is the bumper sticker. As I try to organize and focus my concerns, my mind quickly turns to formulating a bumper sticker. When I gave up my 1990s Honda CR-V, it was covered with the names of my favorite candidates and messages about causes that mattered to me. I was disappointed during this election cycle to discover the bumper sticker was no longer a critical part of electoral politics.

Another low-tech approach to protest is the poster. I have a photograph from the Memphis garbage workers strike, the last protest that included Martin Luther King Jr. In the photograph, garbage workers make a simple plea for respect with matching placards that read, "I am a man." This is the art of brief messages at its best.

I am happy to see a resurgence of this personal communication tool. Rallies, protests and marches are on the rise. Protesters communicate through their personal witness (by showing up) and their hand-held signs.

Both at the Women's March in Washington and a recent local protest of the nomination of Betsy DeVos for secretary of education, I was buoyed by the wisdom, humor and creativity of the poster carriers. Their thoughtful choice of words and evocative images captured the human dimension of these issues and inspired outrage and support.

One placard used children's literature to communicate: "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? I see senators failing me." Another beauty: "Don't Devastate our schools."


Sustaining the energy to resist is going to be hard, but when I need an infusion of energy I'm going to review some of these handwritten messages from the Women's March:

- Justice is what love looks like in public.
- Respect existence or expect resistance.
- Quality men are not afraid of equality.
- Our rights are not up for grabs. Neither are we.
- Regulations are protections.
- I am no longer accepting things I can't change. I am changing things I can't accept.
- Be vigilant but not afraid.
- Freedom is equality.
- Black lives matter.
- You can't repeal physics.
- Science is not fake news.
- Hate does not make America great.
- A just America is a great America.
- My body, my business.
- Make America think again.
- President Tweety Bird doesn't sing for me.
- Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.

Donald Trump has made the tweet a new-technology bumper sticker. He uses this short message media to stir up despair, spread falsehoods and control the narrative. He goes to his constituents and dodges scrutiny. It is a propaganda tool.

I'm not ready to tweet but I keep formulating my bumper sticker. Last night I came up with this one: Don't make the common good uncommon.

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.



**B O O K S**

12419 CEDAR AT FAIRMOUNT • CLEVELAND HTS., OH 44106  
INFO@APPLETREE-BOOKS.COM • PHONE: 216.791.2665  
WEB: WWW.APPLETREE-BOOKS.COM



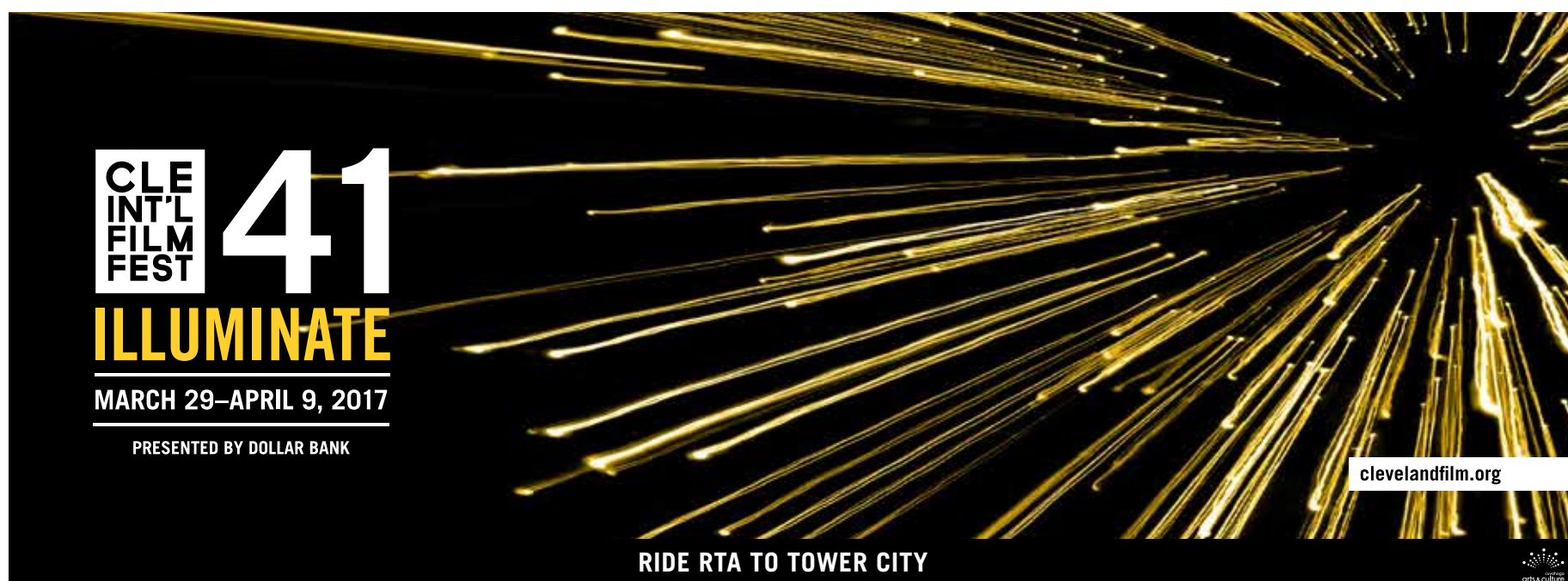
**We're getting a makeover**

Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa is now partnering with Aveda.

To book an appointment, telephone us: 216-421-8380

**AVEDA**

QUINTANA'S barber & dream spa



**CLE INT'L FILM FEST 41 ILLUMINATE**

MARCH 29-APRIL 9, 2017

PRESENTED BY DOLLAR BANK

**RIIDE RTA TO TOWER CITY**

clevelandfilm.org

arts & culture



# Corporate personhood and Ohio



HEIGHTS OF  
DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

Corporate personhood is the legal fiction that corporate entities are “persons,” entitled to the constitutional rights originally intended solely for human beings. On Jan. 25, Cleveland Heights held its fourth annual Democracy Day public hearing, created by the 2013 ballot initiative that called for a U.S. constitutional amendment stating, “Corporations are not people and money is not speech.”

With efforts underway to put a similar Move to Amend issue on the University Heights ballot, we decided to take a look at some Ohio history to see how corporations have influenced the governance of cities like ours. It turns out tension between corporate interests and the public good has been a feature of civic life in Ohio for a long time.

Ohio’s first Constitution, dated 1802, was sent to Congress that year and signed by President Jefferson, making ours the 17th state to join the Union. It vested almost total power in the legislature; the governor was a figurehead lacking veto power, and the General Assembly appointed state and county judges. Corporations could only be created one at a time, by petitioning the legislature, and were subject to strict rules:

- Limited duration of charter
- Limits on the amount of land ownership
- Limits on the amount of capitalization or owners’ total investment
- The state confined charters to a specific purpose, and reserved the right to revoke them

It was clear: corporations were legal creations. Legislators (acting for the people) granted corporate entities specific privileges, but not rights. Ohio’s economy boomed; by 1820, the only states producing a greater volume of manufactured goods were New York and Pennsylvania.

Contrast this with our current situation: 200 years later, Ohio’s economy has languished for decades, corporations extract profits from more and more services formerly under public sector control, and huge campaign contributions rule our electoral process, particularly at state and federal levels. What happened?

You can guess. With almost total power vested in legislators, business owners set about influencing members of the General Assembly to reduce state control over corporations. This was accomplished gradually, through the introduction and passage of “special” legislation. There was push-back, but greased palms ultimately

prevailed, bringing the inevitable problems and abuses. In reaction, 73 percent of Ohioans voted to call a constitutional convention in 1850–51.

The resulting constitution granted such democratic reforms as direct election of the governor and other statewide officials, along with judges. All future amendments had to be voter-approved, and voters could call for a new constitutional convention every 20 years.

Although amended several times, most notably in 1912, this is substantially the state constitution we have today.

By 1910, Ohioans were sick of the corporate abuses of the Robber Baron era, and 91 percent voted to hold another constitutional convention, convened in January 1912. Rather than create an entirely new document, delegates proposed 41 amendments to the 1851 constitution. Voters passed 33 of those, including enabling the state to regulate working conditions in factories; mandating an eight-hour day for public works employees; creating workers’ compensation; and regulating the use of natural resources. Also passed were the rights to initiative petition, referendum, municipal home rule, and direct primary elections.

At the convention, orator William Jennings Bryan captured the impulse behind many of those amendments, proclaiming: “A corporation has no rights except those given to it by law. It can exercise no power except that conferred upon it by the people through legislation, and the people should be as free to withhold as to give, public interest and not private advantage being the end in view.”

Bryan was responding in part to precedents being set by the U.S. Supreme Court granting constitutional “rights” to corporate “persons.”

Sadly, for the past 100 years, Ohio citizens’ groups, unions, and organizations representing farmers, consumers, environmentalists, public schools and human rights advocates have all been excluded from participation in corporate code revisions, which have been the purview of the Ohio Bar Association’s Committee on Corporations. As we reported last month, since 1973 the corporate-led American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has chimed in as well, aggressively providing model legislation leading to many Ohio laws that serve corporate interests, regardless of the public good.

*Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, who grew up in Cleveland Heights and has lived here as an adult for over 30 years. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.*

## Neff Landscaping

Celebrating  
40 years in  
the Heights

Early bird  
specials on  
our website



Full-service care for  
your lawn and yard

- Spring Cleanup
- Weekly Mow & Trim
- Lawn & Landscape Renovation/Installation
- Shrub & Bed Maintenance
- Lawn Treatment Programs

Call for a free consultation

Visit us online



(440) 449-3050 • NeffLandscaping.com

**BORN IN THE HEIGHTS** **SELLS ALL THE HEIGHTS** **LIVES IN THE HEIGHTS** **KNOWS ALL THE HEIGHTS**

SHAKER SQUARE  
MORELAND COURTS  
POINT BUILDING

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS  
CHATFIELD ROAD

SHAKER HEIGHTS  
FERNWAY ROAD

THE SUSAN DELANEY REAL ESTATE GROUP

SUSAN DELANEY, ABR®, RRS, CNE®  
216~577~8700  
Email: susandelaney@howardhanna.com  
Web: susandelaney.howardhanna.com

Howard Hanna  
HOMES OF DISTINCTION

GET CASH FOR YOUR ITEMS!

REVOLVE FASHION

5690 Mayfield Rd, Lyndhurst, OH  
(440) 646-8750

Facebook: /RevolveFashionResale Instagram: @RevolveFashion

CLE’S UPSCALE RESALE BOUTIQUE

Get our 3-Bed, 2-Bath,  
4-Door, V-6 discount.

Bachman Ins and Fin Svcs Inc  
Lee Bachman, Agent  
2245 Warrensville Center Road  
University Heights, OH 44118  
Bus: 216-321-1422

Put auto and home together for hundreds in savings.  
When you have a State Farm® car and a State Farm home, get ready to drive around with a big, money-saving State Farm smile.  
**GET TO A BETTER STATE.™**  
CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm™

1103161.1 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company,  
State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL





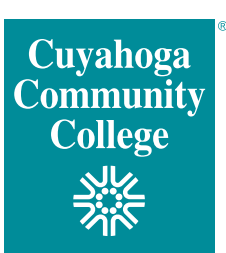
**IMAGINET**  
*Renovation of Quality Homes since 2007*  
**ReImagine, ReStore, Renovate**  
**We do Complete Renovations of homes**  
**Specialists in design and remodel of homes**  
**From minor renovations to complete overhaul of neglected homes**  
**We can work within your budget needs**  
**Call for a list of homes we have done and to discuss your needs**  
**440.759.1771** **www.hrdhomes.com**

**I earned my first degree at Tri-C.®**

After graduating from Garfield Heights High School, Madison Wynder enrolled at Tri-C for an affordable start to her college education. Madison earned an associate degree in December 2016 and transferred to Cleveland State University, where she is studying marketing.

**tri-c.edu**  
**216-987-6000**

Metropolitan Campus  
 2900 Community College Ave.  
 Cleveland, Ohio | 44115



17-0057

## Name new park for first UH mayor



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

By now, many know that University Heights has a new neighborhood community park, located near City Hall, bordering Fenwick Road on the west. But how many know the history of our city or the names of its founders?

What better way to honor our city's first mayor, John J. Howard, and celebrate our history than to name this new park the John J. Howard Park. This name has significant historical value and merit to our community.

Mayor Howard served for 25 years, from 1916 to 1941. Did you know University Heights was originally the Village of Idlewood, in 1907? In 1909, the name changed to Idlewood Township. In 1925, Howard signed the resolution to change, officially, the name of Idlewood to University Heights.

If we go back in time to before 1907, even the Village of Idlewood did not exist. Legend has it that the Silsby brothers were not too happy living in the Village of Cleveland Heights, and decided to break away and form their own village. When the main roads were laid, the Silsby brothers were honored by having a major street connecting the two cities named after them.

University Heights commemorated Boyd Purvis, a special educator, by naming Purvis Park after him. We commemorate another beloved former mayor, Beryl E. Rothschild, who served our city from 1978 to 2009, by naming the municipal pool after her. We honored a long-serving member of council, Adele Zucker, by naming the pavilion in Purvis Park after her.

It was during Mayor Howard's administration that the city attracted John Carroll University to relocate here from Ohio City. Howard was key in promoting the city and establishing services to attract residents that, by the 1940 census, numbered more than 5,000, and in paving the way to the 1941 charter that is the basis for our city's government to this day.

Knowing our city's history en-

riches our pride as residents and contributes to building a greater sense of community. Honoring our first mayor with the naming of this park would capture and celebrate that history. The John J. Howard Park is the name University Heights City Council is respectfully requested to consider and implement in time for our city's 2017 Memorial Day Parade.

This little six-plus acre park is home to a gazebo expected to become the new home for the city's summer music programs. The park has picnic tables, benches, restrooms, children's playgrounds and plenty of parking for those not living in the neighborhood.

One resident addressed UH City Council late last year. He said he enjoys the park with his dog companion, as do many others. He requested that council consider installing a supply of plastic bags for dog walkers to use to clean up after their pets. He also suggested the track around the park have mileage marks, for those who like keeping track of their mileage—fitness, fitness, fitness!

A longtime resident recalls the 1970s, when what is now the main parking lot was a simple paved surface. The city created a makeshift pond and filled it with water for ice-skating. It wasn't the best skating around, but it was fun. I drove past the park many times this winter; rare was the time when I saw anyone using it other than a dog walker or two.

Who knows, a makeshift rink (not expensive and easy to assemble/disassemble) in the park may be just the ticket to get kids outdoors, engaging in active recreation.

Howard Park—the simple name by which the park would likely be known—can be where new experiences of picnics, sports, playgrounds, walking, snowshoeing, ice-skating, bird watching, painting, photography and experiencing the outdoors—alone or with others—will become the history of tomorrow.

*Anita Kazarian, a 31-year resident of University Heights, has been active in many of the city's volunteer organizations. She wants to hear your thoughts; write to her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.*

**WOOD TRADER FRAMING**

13429 Cedar Road  
 Cleveland Heights  
 216-397-7671  
 Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5

**woodtraderframing.com**

**Feeling spring?**  
 Let Wood Trader help you bring it inside

**Get \$20 off on framing over \$100 (One discount per visit)**



## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

JANUARY 17, 2017

Mayor Susan Infeld and council members Susan Pardee (vice mayor), Pamela Cameron, Phillip Ertel, John Rach, Steven Sims and Mark Wiseman were present. Councilwoman Michele Weiss was absent. Also present was Kelly Thomas, clerk of council.

### Judge reports on bail reform

Shaker Heights Judge K. J. Montgomery gave a presentation on bail reform in Cleveland's east side suburbs. The judge reported that the suburbs are struggling with determining appropriate penalties for those who can't pay fines for petty crimes. She expressed frustration that the suburbs, unlike the City of Cleveland, do not have the resources for services like mental health counseling, GPS tracking and house arrest. Montgomery said that, while she agrees that people should not languish in jail over minor offenses, suburban courts are ill-equipped to shoulder the financial burden of those who can't pay their fines.

### Update on 3505 Tullamore Road

Mayor Infeld reported that the Cuyahoga Land Bank is determining if 3505 Tullamore Road will be demolished or rehabilitated. Councilman Sims asked if a date had been set to assess the property's fate. The mayor shared Law Director Luke McConnell's report that the property is at the top of the land bank's list but that no date had been set. Councilman Wiseman expressed concern that the land bank process is not moving forward quickly enough.

Building Commissioner Larry Brown reported that he has received four quotes for demolition of the property, per the council's motion to demolish the property within 60 days if the land bank is unable to resolve the property's fate within that time frame. The quotes are for \$22,338, \$17,800, \$14,680 and \$12,530. The mayor reiterated hope that the city would not have to demolish the property, as the land bank has acquired the title and has pledged to move quickly.

### Advertising for bids amendment

Council heard a first reading of an amendment to an ordinance for advertising for bids. Councilman Sims asked that council ensure that advertising for bids is placed in publications that attract women and minorities. The ordinance will be presented on second reading at the Feb. 6 meeting.

### Finance director search

Mayor Infeld announced that she is currently interviewing a replacement for Finance Director Larry Heiser, who recently accepted a job with the City of Beachwood. She expects to hire a replacement soon.

LWV Observer: Siobhan Leftwich.

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Mayor Susan Infeld and council members Susan Pardee (vice mayor), Pamela Cameron, Phillip Ertel, John Rach, Steven Sims, Mark Wiseman and Michele Weiss were present. Also present were Luke McConnell, law director, and Kelly Thomas, clerk of council.

### Public comments

Sanctuary city: Several UH residents, including a Dysart Road resident whose family emigrated from Chile in the 1970s, asked council to declare University



Heights (UH) a sanctuary city. This would allow sponsors to help immigrants find jobs and housing. She noted that her father was sponsored by a Cleveland family and has operated a dental lab in UH for 26 years. Other community members said the police department should not be tasked with enforcing federal immigration laws. Later in the meeting, council declared it would discuss the issue as a committee of the whole.

JCU student council: A John Carroll University (JCU) student council member said that the student council is invested in building a relationship with the UH community and looks forward to attending upcoming city council meetings.

### Mayor's report

Premiere Smiles will open above the CVS on Cedar Road, and a new laundromat will open on South Taylor Road. The city is also examining proposals for businesses at Cedar Green.

### Mikvah on South Green Road

Council approved the planning commission's recommendation to approve the Cleveland Community Mikvah's application to build a mikvah at 2588 South Green Road.

### 3505 Tullamore Road demolition

The Cuyahoga Land Bank has determined that the property will be demolished. The land bank expects to demolish the home by Feb. 10, and will restore the land with grass seed.

### Home address signs

Council tabled an ordinance to update and correlate the height of home address signs. The ordinance will be revisited after UH updates its building codes in an upcoming building committee meeting.

### Advertising for bids amendment

Council amended an ordinance for advertising for bids, on second reading. Councilwoman Weiss praised the ordinance, saying it was equitable and inclusive.

### MOUs for EPA services

Council authorized the mayor to enter two memorandums of understanding (MOU). The first is for a small municipal storm-water discharge permit with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. The second is for a small municipal storm-water discharge permit with the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. Both services are required by the EPA and come at no cost.

LWV Observer: Siobhan Leftwich.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://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](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or join through Google groups using "lww-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.

## Summer Ruffing It!

Summer camps for ages 18 months - 14 years

June 19 - July 28, 2017

For more information or to register online go to: [ruffingmontessori.net/camps](http://ruffingmontessori.net/camps)



**Ruffing Montessori School**  
Engage. Emerge. Learn for life.

3380 Fairmount Boulevard : Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## RE/MAX® Traditions



**17471 Shelburne Road  
Cleveland Hts., 44118**

price \$575,000

5 BR

3 FB

2 HB

Stately Brick Georgian on gorgeous deep lot.

Architectural detail, AC, Updated Kitchen w/ Stainless & Granite.  
2 WBFP, Gleaming Hardwood floors, Year Round Sun Room overlooks expansive stone patio. Cleveland Heights POS Compliance.

**Diane Russo Armington 216-390-0910 & Danielle Richey 440-897-1102**

**UPSCALE RESALE**  
We buy & sell kids & tweens stuff!

**REVOLVE**  
kids + tweens

5686 Mayfield Rd Lyndhurst, OH  
(440) 646-9040

[f /RevolveKidsResale](https://www.facebook.com/RevolveKidsResale) [@RevolveKidsResale](https://www.instagram.com/RevolveKidsResale)

## One step away from an amazing smile

**Fairmount Circle Dentistry**  
Robert E. Schneider, DDS

GENERAL, RESTORATIVE & ESTHETIC DENTISTRY

Warm and Welcoming Office  
Tailored to Busy Families  
Comfortable Stress-Free Visits  
Gentle Comprehensive Care  
Life Changing Smile Makeovers  
Breathe Easier & Get Relief from Sleep Disorders  
Experience the Newest Technologies



Located near  
John Carroll  
Easy free parking

216.321.2545

20620 John Carroll Blvd., Suite 220  
[dds\\_r@att.net](mailto:dds_r@att.net)  
[www.fairmountcircledentistry.com](http://www.fairmountcircledentistry.com)

**SWEDISH SOLUTION  
GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE**

VOLVO · SUBARU · VW · AUDI · BMW · SAAB

1815 S. Taylor Road, Cleveland Hts. • 216-371-5100 • [swedishsolution.com](http://swedishsolution.com)

**\$20  
OFF**

Any service of  
\$60 or more  
with this ad

Cannot be combined  
with other offers



# Lanphear-Callender Sears House



CLEVELAND  
HEIGHTS  
LANDMARKS



COURTESY J.R. SAUSBURY

3402 Ormond Road

Margaret Lann

Constructed in 1924, the home at 3402 Ormond Road is a fine example of a Sears Catalog Home known as the Ardara model. The Ardara was one of approximately 400 different styles of homes that Sears offered between 1908 and 1940. The Ardara was a five-room bungalow, though the Ormond version is larger. The model appeared by 1919, and was a very early design to feature a front-facing attached garage. Craftsman-style details are evident in the front door, windows and arched front portico.

The mail-order Sears kit homes typically arrived by railroad car. The new homeowners often constructed their own homes with the help of family, friends and neighbors. Sears homes can often be identified by the numbered markings on the lumber, and the special hardware that accompanied each model.

William Pendleton Lanphear Jr. and his wife, Mary Elizabeth “Beth” Callender Lanphear, built

the Sears home at 3402 Ormond Road but never lived in it. Instead, Beth Lanphear’s mother, Helen Callender, and Beth’s sister, Withermina Callender, lived there, though just for six years.

After 1930, the house became a rental, and then changed hands several times before the current owners purchased it in 2007. The current homeowners have lovingly maintained this landmarked home, keeping its history in mind when doing repairs and updates.

*The author, Margaret Lann, is a member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, which preserves and protects buildings, works of art and other objects of historical or architectural value to the community. The seven members are appointed to three-year terms by Cleveland Heights City Council.*

# Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



JANUARY 17, 2017

Council members Cheryl L. Stephens (mayor), Jason Stein (vice mayor), Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahlil Seren and Melissa Yasinow were present. Michael N. Ungar was absent.

**Public comments**

Energy conservation: Mark Havens, representing Gardiner Energy Group of Solon, expressed his company’s concerns about the possible selection of Evans Energy of Dayton to provide contracting services for an energy conservation project currently under consideration by the city. He requested that the city delay any action on the project.

Candidates for Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Judge: James Costello and DeAngelo Little both announced intentions to run in November for the seat currently held by Judge A. Deane Buchanan, who is retiring this year.

**Citizen appointment**

Douglas Dykes was appointed to the Civil Service Commission, replacing James Costello, whose term expires in 2019.

**Recognition for Tom Raguz**

Tom Raguz, who has served since 2012 as the city’s finance director/clerk of council, has accepted a position with RTA. Mayor Stephens and other members of council thanked him for his service to the city.

**County sewer maintenance services**

Council authorized an agreement with Cuyahoga County for services to maintain the city’s sanitary and storm sewers and catch basins at a price less than that charged by a private company. The agreement will expire Dec. 31, and the total amount to be paid by the city shall not exceed \$160,000.

**Energy conservation project**

By a five-to-one vote, council authorized contract negotiations with Evans Energy of Dayton for an energy conservation project aimed at achieving savings in the city’s energy costs. Council Member Seren opposed the measure, expressing concern that the process has been moving too quickly and that residents need time to provide input. Council members Yasinow and Dunbar noted that the project has been thoroughly studied and analyzed by city staff for many months. Yasinow cited a figure of \$2.7 million in savings that the city will achieve from the energy efficiencies arising from modernization of facilities and infrastructure. Recognizing that residents should be well informed about a project representing about 10 percent of the city’s general fund budget, Mayor Stephens requested that information about the goals of the project and the process of selecting a contractor be posted on the city’s website as soon as possible. [See <http://tinyurl.com/hs4sfde>.]

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

All council members were present: Cheryl L. Stephens (mayor), Jason Stein (vice mayor), Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahlil Seren, Michael N. Ungar and Melissa Yasinow.

**Sanctuary city or welcoming city**

Prior to council convening, there was a demonstration with signs and chants in the atrium of City Hall. The first 52 minutes of the meeting were taken up with personal communications from 18 citizens; most spoke for or against the establishment of sanctuary or welcoming city status for Cleveland Heights in response to the recent presidential executive order.

One speaker talked about the bill currently being presented in the Ohio legislature to block sanctuary cities by charging city officials with any crimes that may be committed by undocumented immigrants, and urged citizens to contact their Ohio representatives and senators to oppose the bill.

**Welcoming city resolution**

Vice Mayor Stein introduced a resolution “strongly objecting to the recent Presidential Executive Order temporarily banning entry . . . and joining with all Americans who believe [the order] is unlawful and un-American; declaring the City of Cleveland Heights to be a “welcoming city” and calling upon the people . . . to join together to build a stronger, united community.” The full text may be found at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com); type “Resolution 15-2017” into the search line. The resolution passed with Council Member Dunbar voting no.

**Interim finance director/clerk of council appointed**

Mitch Michalec was appointed interim director of finance and clerk of council by a unanimous vote.

**Support of public education**

Council passed a resolution declaring support [for] and understanding of the importance of public education and strong community schools. It is similar to one passed in other cities and was originally brought to Council Member Dunbar by members of Heights Community Congress.

**Boss Dog Brewing Company**

The Boss Dog Brewing Company LLC was granted a commercial revolving loan of \$200,000 for five years at 2 percent interest. The full-service brewpub was also granted a lease on city land adjacent to its facility at 2179 Lee Road, to expand its outdoor dining area, for \$2,000 a year for five years. This property near the Cedar Lee Theatre has been vacant for several years.

**Zoning code amendments**

Council heard, on first reading, amendments to sections of part 11 of the zoning code. There will be a public hearing about these adjustments on March 13 at 6:30 p.m. A second reading and vote will take place after that time.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 7.

## Create your own SUMMER adventure.

HB offers a wide array of summer programming for boys and girls ages 3–21, with dozens of offerings to choose from.

Visit [hb.edu/summer](http://hb.edu/summer) to browse through academic, athletics, adventure, theatre, and specialty camp options to create your own one-of-a-kind experience. **We offer flexible scheduling.** Call 216.320.8085 for details.

**March 20–31**  
**July 24–August 11**  
**VACATION CAMPS**  
Co-ed, Preschool – Grade 8

**June 12–July 20**  
**DAY CAMPS**  
**Broad Horizons Beginner**  
Co-ed, ages 3 & 4  
**Broad Horizons**  
Girls, Kindergarten – Grade 5  
**Broader Horizons**  
Girls, Grade 6 – 8

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

**HB.edu/summer**  
19600 North Park Boulevard, Shaker Heights

## Spark your marketing!

Register to exhibit at the region's most essential B2B networking experience

**Thursday**  
**MAY 4**  
**2017**  
3-7pm @ 700Beta  
Register by March 15 for earlybird rate

**HRCC BUSINESS EXPO**

Want even more wattage? Become a sponsor!

Call now: **216/397-7322** or visit [hrcc.org/expo](http://hrcc.org/expo)



# City of Cleveland Heights proposes zoning code update

Robert Brown

Gas stations, car washes, auto sales and auto repair businesses could no longer be built along some segments of Taylor, Cedar, Mayfield, Lee and Noble roads, and Euclid Heights Boulevard under one of a series of proposed zoning code amendments being considered in Cleveland Heights.

Specifically, these auto-oriented businesses would no longer be permitted uses in the city's C-2 Local Retail Business Districts and S-2 Mixed-Use Districts. The businesses would still be permitted uses, with conditions, in the city's other main commercial district, the C-3 General Commercial District.

This approach is consistent with the zoning regulations in many other local communities, where gas stations and similar uses are permitted only on more heavily traveled roads, separated as much as possible from single-family houses.

The Cleveland Heights Planning Commission will review the proposed amendments at its regular public meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at CH City Hall. The commission will make a recommendation to CH City Council, which will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments on Monday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

"You will find a common theme in the amendments," said Planning Director Richard Wong. "It is to actively encourage beneficial development and to simplify frequently requested approvals."

Although many of the proposed amendments are relatively minor and technical, several of them may be of general interest to residents. These include:

- **Fences:** The maximum permitted height for fences in front yards and corner side yards would be increased to 4 feet from the current 3-foot maximum height, for one- and two-family houses and apartment buildings. Approval by the Architectural Review Board would still be required.
- **Chicken coops:** These would be permitted through administrative approval, no longer requiring action by the Planning Commission. More



A proposed zoning code change would prevent development of additional gas stations and car washes on lesser traveled streets in proximity to houses, such as this gas station on Taylor Road.

detailed regulations for chicken coops would also be added to the code.

- **Storefront windows:** In order to preserve visibility and passive security, as well as encourage pedestrian activity on adjacent sidewalks, no heavily tinted or mirrored glass would be permitted on windows for storefronts and other commercial buildings.
- **Small apartments:** In response to changing market demand, apartments as small as 500 square feet would be permitted, whereas current regulations require apartments to be at least 700 or 800 square feet, depending on the zoning district.
- **Hotels:** Hotels would be permitted, conditionally, in all commercial zoning districts, whereas they are now permitted only in one of the city's zoning districts. This would affect development on the Top of the Hill site at Cedar Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard.

"The amendments came out of our desire to maintain and preserve Cleveland Heights' architectural, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly character," said City Planner Kara Hamley O'Donnell. "In many of our commercial districts, we can protect neighborhood character by reducing automobile-intensive uses, encouraging new buildings to mimic the setbacks in the district and requiring window visibility in all commercial buildings."

The proposed amendments would change only zoning code regulations and would not change the zoning map. In

other words, no properties would be rezoned under the proposed amendments.

To view both the proposed amendments and the city's zoning map visit [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

FutureHeights has advocated for the adoption of a demolition ordinance that would require a public process before a historic building could be

demolished. Such an ordinance is not part of the proposed changes.

*Robert Brown is a city planner with 40 years experience, including nine as Cleveland's City Planning Director. A resident of Cleveland Heights for more than 40 years, he recently joined the board of FutureHeights.*

**We've Moved!**

**Tavern Company**  
2299 Lee Rd.  
Cleveland Heights  
(Formerly Brennan's Colony)

**TavernCompany.com**

**Free books mailed to your young child!**

If your child is  
**4 years old or younger**  
And lives in  
44106, 44120, CH-UH,  
East Cle., Euclid or Shaker, visit  
**heightsfamily.org**  
for registration information

**CLASS 1 Pavers & Remodelers**  
*Honest and Fair*

**GREAT FINANCING**  
Call For Free Estimates!  
**216.397.6349**

**All types of interior remodeling**  
Siding • Windows • Masonry  
Furnace • Insulation

**Sign up now for 2017 residential driveways**

LEAD SAFE  
SEPA  
CERTIFIED PAINT

**MJM Window Restoration**

**Why replace?**  
**Your existing windows can work like new!**

- Sticky windows
- Broken ropes
- Cracked glass
- Weather stripping

**YOU'LL SAVE THOUSANDS!**  
30 yrs. experience • Ask about our winter discount

**(216) 321-7729** [mjmwindowrestoration.com](http://mjmwindowrestoration.com)

**PACIFIC East**

Japanese & Malaysian Cuisine  
216-320-2302  
1673 Coventry Road, CH  
[www.pacificeastcoventry.com](http://www.pacificeastcoventry.com)

**PACIFIC GRILL**

Casual Asian Fusion  
216-320-9008  
13911 Cedar Road, S. Euclid  
[www.pacificgrillcedar.com](http://www.pacificgrillcedar.com)

PROPERTIES continued from page 1

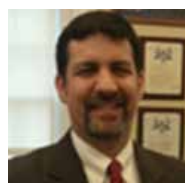
development industry to provide data and technical assistance in neighborhood stabilization. She enjoys projects where she can work to aid communities in building their capacity to work with data, helping teach them how to use information to improve their practices and better the lives of people impacted by their work. She is a University Heights resident, currently



April Urban



Kermit Lind



Mark Wiseman

serves on the board of FutureHeights, and volunteers with Open Cleveland, Cleveland's Code for

America Brigade.

Lind worked as a community organizer and director of nonprofit fair housing advocacy and civic organizations before starting the practice of law in 1987. His clinical law practice at CSU serves mostly inner-city housing and neighborhood-development clients.

Wiseman has held several public service positions, including director of the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention Program, assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Section and member of the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council. Clients of his firm have included Cleveland's Neighborhood Progress Inc. and Neighborhood Housing Services.

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

**Community Discussion**  
**Open Mic: Issues & Discussion**

**Sunday, March 5, 9:30-10:45 am**

What issues are on your mind? What would you like to discuss? What can we learn from each other? Our audience is engaging. Bring your friends and join us.

**Shaker Heights**

**First Unitarian Church** ♦ [www.firstunitariancleveland.com](http://www.firstunitariancleveland.com)  
21600 Shaker Blvd. ♦ Shaker Heights



# Cleveland Heights doctor helps people regain movement

James Henke

Cleveland Heights resident Ronald Triolo has spent much of his life trying to help people regain their ability to move around and walk. Triolo, 58, is executive director of the Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He is also a professor of orthopaedics and biomedical engineering at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU).

The APT Center is a national center for the development of all kinds of devices, primarily for disabled military veterans. Its employees focus on prosthetics and orthotics, neural interfacing (which involves technology for recording from the brain or nerves and injecting into the nervous system), wireless health monitoring and maintenance, and emerging enabling technologies.

Triolo and his co-workers have developed numerous medical devices to help people who have sensorimotor impairment or limb loss.

Last fall, Triolo took part in the Cybathlon—a “bionic Olympics” which comprises six athletic events



Team Cleveland celebrating their win in the Cybathlon. Mark Munh (in the white shirt, center) won the race. Ronald Triolo is just left of him. Photo by DE PAUL MARASCO

for people with disabilities “using advanced assistive devices including robotic technologies.” Triolo is the leader of Team Cleveland, which won the Cybathlon bicycle race in Switzerland last October. Team Cleveland held a practice race at the Heights Recreation Center in July, and the winner in Switzerland was Mark Munh. (Though a resident of California, Munh represented Team Cleveland, as he had enrolled in Triolo’s research program at the APT Center.)

Triolo’s work at the center played a major role at the Cybathlon. “I’d say it was the key to our success,” said Triolo. “It set us apart from the other 10 teams since we were the only one to use implantable neural stimulation technology.” The next Cybathlon will take place in 2020. Team Cleveland is looking into hosting a preparatory/demonstration event in Cleveland sometime in 2019.

The APT Center is a partnership between the VA and CWRU. “It’s a re-

ally powerful combination,” Triolo said. “It creates opportunities for clinicians and scientists to get together so they can address real-world problems. And it’s one of only 13 centers for rehabilitation, research and development in this country.”

“I try to solve anything that affects [the] ability to stand and walk,” he said. “I focus on four main areas: people who are paralyzed by an injury, stroke or muscular dystrophy; controlling balance so people can stand longer and not worry about falling; seated functions for people in wheel chairs, and amputees.”

Triolo grew up near Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Villanova University in 1980, then earned two masters of science degrees, in biomedical and electrical engineering, at Drexel University. After earning his doctorate degree in biomedical engineering from Drexel, he got some post-doctorate training at CWRU. From 1986 to 1994, he was director of research at the Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia.

He has lived in Greater Cleveland since 1994, when he took a faculty position at CWRU, and has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1996, with his wife and two children.

Triolo said he loves the energy and diversity of Cleveland Heights. “Orchestra members, physicians and people from all walks of life live on the same block,” he said.

*James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years and is the author of several books. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.*

## THE MAYOR'S FORUM ON WORKFORCE READINESS



Presented by the City of  
Warrensville Heights  
in partnership with the  
Northeast Ohio First Suburbs  
Development Council

### A Four-Part Series

## Part One: Advanced Manufacturing Industry and Building Trades

Monday, March 20, 2017 • 4 pm - 7 pm

Tri-C Mandel Humanities Center  
4250 Richmond Road



### Jump-start Your Career!

These top industry leaders will share their expertise on employment and the many opportunities in the field of manufacturing:

- Construction Employers Assn of Cleveland
- The AKA Team
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Women in Manufacturing
- MAGNET
- Formtek
- JATC
- Ohio Means Jobs

Bring Resume and Cover Letter



### Free Registration

Call 216-587-4525 or visit  
cityofwarrensville.com  
\* Light Refreshments \*

### PROGRAM PARTNERS



## Volunteer Match

*Heights Observer's* Volunteer Match column lists opportunities for residents to lend their time and talent to worthy organizations and causes around the Heights.

Submit your organization’s volunteer needs by e-mailing Sruti Basu at [sbasu@futureheights.org](mailto: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 the next column. (To see past columns, visit [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org), and search “volunteer match”.)

**Cumberland Children’s Garden:** Volunteers are needed on Friday mornings this summer to help children with planting, tending and preparing food from their garden, as well as crafts and educational activities. If interested, contact Joanne Westin: [joanne.westin@case.edu](mailto:joanne.westin@case.edu).

**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](mailto:info@futureheights.org).





COURTESY ROBIN KOSLEN

## March 5 forum to focus on refugees

Robin Koslen

Are you wondering what you can do to help those impacted by the agenda the 45th president is imposing? Would you like to know more about refugees—where they are from, how they arrived here and, most importantly, how you can help?

On March 5, at 10:30 a.m., Beth El - The Heights Synagogue (3246 Desota Road) will host a program about the refugees in our community and the organization, US Together, that is in charge of their orientation to the United States.

Danielle Drake from US Together will present information and answer questions. Beth El invites all who are interested in learning more about refugees—their vetting, their life in refugee camps, and how to welcome them to our community—to attend.

*Robin Koslen is a mom, grandma, retired teacher and Heights resident who'd like the world to be better than it is.*

## HCC's PechaKucha Night is 'Inspired by Art'

Pam Wetherill

Heights Community Congress (HCC) joined the PechaKucha phenomenon last October, when dozens attended its Telling Your Story event. A group of speakers—professionals in a variety of fields—shared diverse stories in presentations that lasted just six minutes and 40 seconds apiece. Between presentations, audience members asked lots of questions, engaged in conversations and made connections.

Building on the success of that event, HCC will host its second PechaKucha Night, Inspired by Art, on Friday, March 10, at 7 p.m., at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. Three local speakers will make use of this informative and entertaining approach to explore the ways art brings us together.

PechaKucha is a style of presentation in which a speaker uses 20 slides, each one on screen for 20 seconds, to illustrate a talk. The format was created in 2003 by two Tokyo architects who had grown weary of sitting through long and boring presentations.

## New book recalls a 'magical' Heights childhood

James Henke

In *The South Overlook Gang*, Rick Karges, who grew up in Cleveland Heights, tells the story of his childhood here, in the 1950s and '60s.

*The South Overlook Gang* is Karges' first book. He decided to write it after thinking about how wonderful that era was, and how different it is from today's world. The book's title comes from the name of a group of kids that Karges hung out with until he went to college.

He'll be signing copies of his book at Nighttown on Sunday, March 12, 2-4 p.m., in an event presented by Appletree Books.

Karges, 67, was born in Cleveland and moved to South Overlook Road when he was 5. "For many years I have thought about how great it was to grow up in that neighborhood," he said. "The families were all very close, and it was a very special time."

"As I began to put together old stories, I reached out to old neighbors," Karges said. "They shared the same affinity for that time. And it was a very different time. Today, kids are inside using their electronic equipment. You don't see kids outside playing with each other anymore. And back then, our parents would be outside talking to the neighbors."

Karges characterized his childhood as "a very special kind of magical time." He said that, back then, everyone developed "friendships and relationships that were strong bonds." Many of the mothers did not work back in that time. Instead, they would raise their children. "They would network



JAMES HENKE

Rick Karges, author of a book about growing up in Cleveland Heights.

and socialize with their neighbors," Karges said. "Now people don't know who their neighbors are."

Karges has not lived in Cleveland Heights since he left for college in 1968. Yet he stills loves how great the neighborhood was back then. But, he said, it has changed a lot since those days. "I recently went to a garage sale on South Overlook," he said. "And nobody was there. It was like a ghost town. But it's just a different time."

Karges earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in social work from The Ohio State University, and is currently executive director and CEO of Hopewell: A Therapeutic Farm Community, located in Mesopotamia, Ohio. It is

BEST OF THE HEIGHTS continued from page 1

2016, and is already planning an expansion into the storefront immediately north of its current footprint. "In March, we are holding an open house for restaurants, venues and catering companies to bring them here to taste the wine. We have a license to self-distribute, and we are also getting into the bridal market with custom labels and half-bottles for favors. We needed more space for administration and wine storage, and the beauty of this space is that it is so flexible."

Heights residents find the exterior of Big Fun (1814 Coventry Road) enticing—the store won awards for both Best Storefront Signage and Best Window Display.

"That's exciting, that's good news," said Steve Presser, owner of the vintage toy store, "because that means people like what is on the outside so hopefully they like what is on the inside, too." Presser explained how he worked with several local artists to design the signage, which includes both recycled neon letters and sculptural elements that communicate the store's quirky, vintage character, and how he often works with his "creatively inclined" employees to create the window displays.

Presser said that he used to change his window displays monthly, but that he doesn't always find that necessary. "Dr. Who has been up for about a year and half because people like it," he said. He did hint that he was working with a local collectors club to create a new design that will debut soon.

The award for Best Interior Appearance went to Gigi's on Fairmount (3477 Fairmount Blvd.) The restaurant is chic and comfortable, with large mirrors, fresh flowers and

one of only five such mental-health centers in the United States.

"We treat people who are seriously mentally ill," Karges said. "We look at their mind, body and spirit as a way of addressing their illness. And many of the residents work on the farm." Karges has been at Hopewell for nine and a half years. Prior to that, he ran a mental-health organization in Maine for about nine years.

Karges currently lives in Middlefield, Ohio, in Geauga County. He has been married to his current wife, Megan, for 16 years. It is his second marriage, and he is the father of three children, Matthew, 42; Julie, 40; and Ricky, 12; and grandfather of four.

His book is available at Appletree books and other local bookstores, as well as online.

*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.*

gorgeous chandeliers. "It is an honor and pleasure serving the Heights community," said Jim Patsch, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Gia.

Tommy's restaurant (1824 Coventry Road) was recognized twice, winning awards for Best Place to Take an Out-Of-Towner and Best Bang For Your Buck. Owner Tommy Fello said he was humbled to receive the awards and thanked his customers. "It's great that people who live in the area treasure [this business] so much that they want to bring in their friends."

He said the Best Bang for Your Buck award made him sleep a bit easier. "It is heartwarming," he said. "I remember when we had eight seats up the street and a little Betty Crocker oven that I would make the food in. A milkshake was \$0.35 and a pizza \$0.50. Now everything is so expensive. I've always kept the quality, but I'm always worried about having to raise prices. But if you are going to stay in business and pay people what they need to be paid, you have to do it. I'm glad people realize it."

The Wine Spot (2271 Lee Road), a purveyor of wine and microbrew beers, won the award for Best Online Presence. "We haven't won before," said Susan Fleischer, who opened the store with her husband, Adam, in 2012. "We've always been a runner-up, so it's nice to know that people still consider us even after all this time. We feel like we are competing against friends so we are happy for everyone who wins."

Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa (2190-2000 S. Taylor Road), was awarded Best (Friendliest) Customer Service. Owners Dawn and Alex Quintana said they were thrilled to be recognized and proud of their staff.

Zagara's Marketplace (1940 Lee

continued on page 12



BEST OF THE HEIGHTS continued from page 11

Road), Cleveland Heights' neighborhood grocery store, was named Best Neighborhood Partner. Third-generation owner John Zagara said he was humbled to be recognized for the role the store plays in the community. "We partner with a lot of community groups," he said, "and we try to give generously." Zagara said he had received four requests that same day.

The awards for Best Cleveland Heights Business and Best University Heights Business went to Mister Brisket and Geraci's Restaurant, respectively.

Geraci's (2266 Warrensville Center Road), features a variety of pizzas and pasta dishes. Marti Spoth, along with her husband Greg, is the second-generation owner of Geraci's, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2016.

Mister Brisket (2156 S. Taylor Road) was also named Best Hidden Gem. "How'd I win? I only voted twice!" exclaimed Hank Kornblut, who owns the high-end butcher shop and deli with his stepfather Sanford Herskovitz, as he grappled with the news. The shop may have a small storefront, but it has continued to be a Heights favorite since it opened in 1973.

Winners and finalists in the Fu-

tureHeights 2017 Best of the Heights Awards contest are:

**Best New Business**

Winner: CLE Urban Winery  
Finalists: Greedy Girl, Zoma Ethiopian Restaurant

**Best Customer Service**

Winner: Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa  
Finalists: Mister Brisket, The Wine Spot

**Best Neighborhood Partner**

Winner: Zagara's Marketplace  
Finalists: The BottleHouse Brewery, The Wine Spot, Tommy's

**Best Place-to Take an Out-of-Towner**

Winner: Tommy's  
Finalists: Gigi's on Fairmount, Night-town

**Best Bang for Your Buck**

Winner: Tommy's  
Finalists: Aladdin's, Mister Brisket, Tavern Company

**Best Interior Appearance**

Winner: Gigi's on Fairmount  
Finalists: Appletree Books, Shawn Paul Salon, Taste

**Best Window Display**

Winner: Big Fun  
Finalists: Appletree Books, Heights Arts

**Best Storefront Signage**

Winner: Big Fun

Finalists: Luna Bakery Café, Melt Bar & Grilled, The Wine Spot

**Best Online Presence**

Winner: The Wine Spot  
Finalists: Atma Center, Mister Brisket

**Best Hidden Gem**

Winner: Mister Brisket  
Finalists: Gigi's on Fairmount, Greedy Girl

**Best University Heights Business**

Winner: Geraci's Restaurant  
Finalists: Sweet Melissa, Whole Foods

**Best Cleveland Heights Business**

Winner: Mister Brisket  
Finalists: Tommy's, Zagara's Mar-

ketplace

Since 2005, FutureHeights—a nonprofit that inspires and facilitates collaboration and empowerment in our community—has conducted the Best of the Heights awards to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned Heights businesses, and their contributions to the local economy. A complete list of 2017 Best of the Heights winners and finalists, as well as a list of businesses that voters said they would like to see in the Heights, is online at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org).

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

## CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center, located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a wide variety of programming for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older, and 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](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

New this spring is CARE (Communities Assisting Residential Elderly), a collaborative effort of representatives from Cleveland Heights, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Solon and South Euclid. CARE was awarded a second round of funding through the Senior Center Innovation Grant awarded by the Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services through

the Health & Human Services Levy, which provided the initial planning funds.

Older residents of the participating communities will be able to apply for membership in this program, which emphasizes safety and independence for older adults within their home.

The program is designed to improve the safety of older adults by providing access to interior and exterior home maintenance, minor home repairs, and home safety guidance.

Coming in April, Radio Hour will mix drama, storytelling, creative writing and sound effects, with the goal of recreating a one-hour radio show. Join Jan Bruml and Drinda Kiner, lifelong participants in the dramatic arts, on Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m., beginning April 12.

*Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the CH Office on Aging and Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by e-mail at [ajenkins@clvhts.com](mailto:ajenkins@clvhts.com).*

**Great Eye Care. Locally Owned.**

**Walk-ins welcome**

2259 Warrensville Ctr. Road  
University Hts., OH 44118  
216-371-5520

4625 Richmond Road  
Warrensville Hts., OH 44128  
216-765-0532

We accept all major vision and medical insurance

**Dr. Ernest J. Robinson**

- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Treatment of Eye Diseases
- Contact Lens Care
- Designer Eyewear

Outside prescriptions welcome

**Free frame with purchase of lenses.**

When you mention this ad

Serving the Heights since 1989

**Your neighbor; your plumber**

**Herb's Plumbing & Heating**

- Experts in old homes
- Water tanks & heating systems
- Eco-friendly updates
- Fully trained, licensed, bonded & insured
- Residential & commercial

Mention this ad for 10% off  
(\$100 minimum charge/emergency calls excluded)

**216-691-2300 • [herbsplumbingandheating.com](http://herbsplumbingandheating.com)**

**Cosmopolitan Dermatology**

MEDICAL | SURGICAL | COSMETIC

**Adult and Pediatric Dermatology**

**Cosmetic Dermatology: Botox®, Juvederm®, Microneedling & Chemical peels**

**Hair Loss Center** offering PRP treatments

**Laser treatments**, including hair removal, spider veins and more

**SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS**

2323 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights 216-417-3250  
[www.cosmodermatology.com](http://www.cosmodermatology.com)

**Angela O. Kyel, MD, MPH, FAAD**  
Board Certified Dermatologist

## UH 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. in Council Chambers at University Heights City Hall. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

**March 2:** Ronna Kaplan is chair of the Center for Music Therapy at The Music Settlement, the first community-based music therapy program in the country. She'll present a program on the center's November 2016 50th anniversary: Celebrating 50 years of impacting lives through music.

**March 9:** Eddie Cheyfitz, who retired after 28 years in sales for Nestle Corp., founded Believe in Dreams, a nonprofit agency to help underprivileged children who have suffered nonmedical hardships. He'll discuss the work of the agency, which operates on the premise that the world is an incredible place and every child should have access to

unique experiences, that the community cares about them, and that there is hope for their future.

**March 16:** Longtime University Heights resident Jerome (Jerry) Jacobson, honored by Mayor Susan Infeld as the 2016 UH Citizen of the Year, will discuss his colorful history, including his 40 years' service with the city's police auxiliary; his role as medical supply specialist in Okinawa during the Vietnam War; his professional accomplishments in the entertainment industry; traveling with various circuses; and his role as a husband, father and responsible neighbor.

**March 23:** Instrumentalists and vocalists from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform.

**March 30:** Felix Kumah-Abiwu, assistant professor of Pan-African Studies at Kent State University, will discuss his life and work. Born in the Volta region of Ghana, West Africa, Kumah-Abiwu earned a master's degree and doctorate in International Affairs.



# Swim Cadets to perform annual show March 9-11

Mary Pat Jolivet, Kara Hamley O'Donnell

The Cleveland Heights High School Swim Cadets, a 20-member synchronized swim team and the school's oldest extracurricular club, established in 1939, will hold its annual performances on March 9, 10 and 11, at 7 p.m.

The year's theme, Swim Cadets Break Your Heart, is set to break-up songs, and is the culmination of five months of practice.

The shows will be held at the Warrensville Heights High School pool, 4270 Northfield Road in Warrensville Heights. Tickets are \$8 and are available from team members and at the door.

The 2017 Swim Cadets are: seniors Lilli Cruz, Aubrey Fort (president), Maeve Hackman (sergeant-at-arms), Sophie Levan (vice president); juniors Ally Boyd, Jenna Dent, Lily Kerr-Jung, Isabella Marotta, Clare Peppler, Emma Routh, Hannah Thellian (treasurer); sophomores



The 2017 Cleveland Heights High School Swim Cadets.

Emma Henninge, Georgie Jolivet, Judea Lowe, Julia O'Donnell, Brynn Pierce, Olivia Sormaz; freshmen Sydney Ball, Emma Hubbard, Charlotte Pizel. The team's coach is Esther Bergson, a Heights High graduate and former Swim Cadet.

"My freshman year I joined Swim Cadets in hopes of finding and meeting new people," said Fort. "When I joined the team, I joined part of a family. They made me feel welcome

and involved, and while I was able to have fun and experience the joys and traditions of the historical team, I was able to become close to a great group of girls each year. We lift each other up. We fight, we laugh and we cry together, and at the end of the day, we are able put on a stellar show with people that we've come to love."

It is not uncommon for the girls to be second- or even third-generation Swim Cadets. "My mom and cousin were previous Swim Cadets and I wanted to carry on the tradition," said Hackman. "Ever since I joined, the team has been a large part of my life. There are so many things that make this club stand out."

Thellian concurred: "The traditions that I experienced for the first time my freshman year are something I'll never forget. Now, as a junior, my favorite part is getting to know the new members of our team at the beginning of the season! I love to be a part of the traditions

and surprises that help make the new girls' experiences magical."

"Swim Cadets is so much more than just a club. Sharing the exciting traditions that go back years builds the experience and keeps its legacy alive. It's not only a great physical activity, but it also creates lifelong friendships with amazing girls," said Cruz.

Levan said, "Swim Cadets has taught me to handle a great amount of responsibility while still having so much fun every day with a great group of girls. It's great to see the progress we make as a team throughout the season and how dedicated girls become to making our performance the best it can be."

Mary Pat Jolivet and Kara Hamley O'Donnell are parents to Cleveland Heights High School Swim Cadets.

## Gesu School builds giant tetrahedron



The Gesu community constructed this tetrahedron with the help of hundreds of Gesu School students, teachers, parents and alumni.

Marjorie Gessner

On display at Gesu School's STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math) Showcase and Open House on Jan. 29 was a nearly 15-foot-tall tetrahedron, made up of more than 4,000 individual 2-inch tetrahedrons.

The project began in October, when two sixth-grade reading classes taught by Josie Jones read *All of the Above* by Shelley Pearsall. The novel is based on a true story about a seventh-grade math class on Cleveland's East

Side that wanted to set a Guinness World Record for constructing the largest multi-stage tetrahedron.

The Gesu sixth-graders asked if they, too, could try to build a multi-stage tetrahedron. The director of Gesu's STREAM program joined forces with Jones, to help the students undertake and complete the project.

After much calculation and deliberation, it was determined that it would take several thousand small tetrahedrons to build the largest multi-stage tetrahedron that would fit in the school. After some experimenting with materials and factoring in cost, the decision was made to use white card stock. The entire school community—hundreds of students from Gesu's preschool through eighth grade, as well as teachers, families and alumni—joined in to decorate, cut out and assemble each of the small white tetrahedrons. The small tetrahedrons were then assembled into increasingly larger ones, culminating in the 14- by 15-foot structure.

Marjorie Gessner is the STREAM coordinator at Gesu School in University Heights.

**216-371-5944**

- Slate and tile repairs & replacement
- Custom copper flashings installed
- Gutters and downspouts installed
- Chimney and step tuck-pointing
- Flat roof specialists

MASTERCARD/VISA

**USTON ROOF RESTORATION INC.**  
USTONROOFRESTORATION@YAHOO.COM

**Picture-worthy STYLES**

We buy & sell gently used clothing & accessories!

Get paid **CASH** on the spot for your trends!

5688 MAYFIELD ROAD | LYNTHURST, OH 44124 | 440.919.0138  
f /PlatosClosetLyndhurst • @PlatosClosetLyndhurst

**PUMP UP**  
your furnace efficiency with a -  
**Heating Tune-Up/Safety Inspection \$98!**

Mention this discount when scheduling. Tune-up allows for 45 minutes of labor per system, parts additional. Discount valid during normal workday hours only (M-F; 8-3:30). Payment must be given to technician at time of service. Must be scheduled prior to 4/30/17 One discount per visit.

The **ONLY** Hann Family owned heating, cooling and plumbing business in Cleveland.



**VERNE & ELLSWORTH HANN INC.**

**5** generations of family experience.

**Carrier**  
turn to the experts

**216/932-9755**  
Bonded • Insured • OH LIC #24462

Heating / Cooling / Plumbing / Specializing in Steam & Hot Water Boiler Systems **vehbrothers.com**



# RoxEl builds community by reading together



Cleveland Heights Mayor Cheryl Stephens spoke to Roxboro students about reading.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

For three weeks in January and February, every member of the Roxboro Elementary School community—faculty, staff and students—read the same book.

The initiative started last spring, when first-grade teacher Liz McKinley, who sits on the Nordonia Hills Board of Education, listened to a presentation about One School, One Book (OSOB), a program spearheaded by the national Read to Them organization. She was so impressed, she brought the idea to Michael Jenkins, Roxboro's principal.

At the same time, Clare Taft, Roxboro's PTA president, who was searching for ways to build community at the school, read an article about One School, One Book. She brought the idea to Jenkins the next day. Jenkins formed a committee of parents and teachers to lead the effort.

Over the summer, the group, consisting of McKinley, Jenkins, Candace Summers (Title I literacy teacher), and parents Taft, Mary Pat Jolivet and Katie Plesac, chose the fantasy *Kenny and the Dragon* by Tony DiTerlizzi, about a rabbit trying to protect his friend Grahame, a dragon widely believed to be a danger to their village.

"We chose that book because it was so accessible," said Summers. "Most of our second- through fifth-graders can read it independently, and the story of friendship is universal enough for all ages to appreciate."

Using Title I funds, the school purchased enough books for every student, teacher and staff member

to have a copy.

Roxboro kicked off the project with an assembly on Jan. 23, at which Mayor Cheryl Stephens spoke about the importance of reading and announced the book title. A giant dragon puppet joined the mayor on stage following the announcement.

Fifth-graders read the first chapter aloud to the assembled school, while parent volunteers quickly placed a brand new book on every child's desk.

The focus on reading aloud distinguishes OSOB from other reading initiatives. According to its website, "Studies have shown that reading to children helps them to listen better and longer, to build bigger vocabularies, to understand concepts better, to feel positive about both books and learning—and much more."

Roxboro promoted that idea by inviting guest readers, including Superintendent Talisa Dixon, Mayor Stephens, Police Chief Annette Mecklenberg, and CH-UH School Board President Ron Register to read chapters aloud in classrooms. Leon Napier, school security officer, read aloud to a second-grade class, using what he called his "grandpa voice."

"We already love books as a family," said parent Molly Jones, "but this is pretty special." Her third-grade son was wowed that even his gym teacher read the book.

The OSOB team hosted a Literacy Night on Jan. 26, with dinner, activities, crafts and the distribution of OSOB passports for students to take to local businesses.

Jolivet and Taft arranged with

20 businesses and nonprofits in the Cedar Fairmount and Coventry Village districts to participate in a scavenger hunt. Students had two weeks to visit each business and search for a dragon or knight "hidden in plain sight." Once found, the students earned a stamp, which qualified them to win prizes such as a free cookie at Zoss or Luna bakeries.

The project culminated with another assembly on Feb. 9, where prizes were given for door decorations. Lara Troyer, local musician and Roxboro parent, wrote a song about the book, which students performed.

Jenkins said he worked to stay at least one chapter ahead of his students. "That way, when I see them in the hallway, I can ask for their thoughts. It connects us all around the act of reading."

Kerry Howard agreed. He attended Literacy Night with his first-grade son, Kerrion. "This brings everyone in the community together," he said.

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a former district teacher and a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District. A longer version of this story appeared at [www.chub.org](http://www.chub.org).*

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

JANUARY 17, 2017

All board members were present: Ron Register (president), Kal Zucker (vice president), Jim Posch, Eric Silverman and Beverly Wright. Also present were Talisa Dixon, superintendent, and Scott Gainer, treasurer.

### Career and technical education

Brad Callender, director of career and technical education (CTE), presented an update on the CTE program and its alignment with the district's strategic plan goals. As part of the Tri-Heights consortium with Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights districts, Heights High students can choose from among 14 career or technical programs. Maple Heights and Bedford Heights districts are pending consortium members and will bring more offerings, all of which are pathways to careers. Of Heights students, 21 percent are involved in CTE, and 73 percent have taken at least one course as an elective. Like all Ohio students, CTE students must earn 18 credits to graduate, and 98.1 percent of Heights High's current CTE students graduate in four years. Within the program, Project Search can bring developmentally disabled students to career readiness.

Jeff Porter, CTE automotive instructor, explained that, in addition to preparation for immediate employment, the automotive program also provides incentive to attend college to students who did not originally plan on it. Post-secondary connections are made through partnerships with local industries, seminars and competitions. He stated that local auto dealers are very willing to hire Heights graduates.

### Gifted education

Toia Robinson, coordinator of gifted and fine arts education, made a presentation on the gifted program. Students are identified as gifted through assessments designed to show superior cognitive ability, academic ability, creative thinking, or ability in visual or performing arts. Currently, 16 percent of the district's students are identified as gifted; 37 percent of those are students of color.

Of those identified, only 43 percent receive gifted services, largely because not all grade levels offer gifted services. Currently the district offers gifted programs in third through seventh grades. Heights High students receive no gifted services because advanced placement classes are not categorized as a gifted service. Gifted programs must adhere to state guidelines and, in grades where service is provided, must offer a certain number of hours in each area in which a student is identified.

Districts are evaluated based on the percentage of students identified as gifted, percentage served, and percentage identified and served as creative thinkers, disabled students, and minority students. The district had earned an A on the state report card for the previous four years, but earned an F this year when report card methods changed.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

JANUARY 27, 2017

All board members were present. Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer were also present. This was a joint meeting between the school board and the Facilities Accountability Committee (FAC).

### Overview of FAC functions

Seku Shabazz reported on the charge of the FAC, which is posted on the district website.

### FAC report

The high school will have a silver LEED rating and is ADA compliant. The historic preservation goal for the high school was achieved as well. Not all of the CTE programs will be held at the high school. Community access to the pool is still being discussed. The high school renovation is over budget and concern exists that the middle school renovations will have to forgo some items in order to keep the whole project on budget. Communication with the public concerning the high school renovation was poor.

### Comments and questions from the board

The board had many questions about the budget and schedule. Board members will send their concerns to Ron Register, and he will work to include them on the agenda for the Feb. 7 meeting.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

All board members were present. Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer were also present.

### Change orders

The board approved the following [high school construction] change orders totaling more than \$790,000. Seven changes totaling \$650,931 were for unforeseen areas of weakened steel structures and ventilation area corrosion. A change of \$32,690 was for added work scope projects consisting of laying fibers connected to the stadium press box. Design clarifications incurred a change of \$113,767. The auditorium light area needed electricity, and an adjustment had to be made for capturing extra water due to higher and lower roof structures. Slides of progress and explanations of change orders were presented by PMC Regency staff. The high school will open on time [in] August 2017.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 7.

No need to wait a month for more community news.

Get the  
**Heights Observer**  
E-News in your inbox every Tuesday.

Sign up for free at  
[bit.ly/HO-eneews](http://bit.ly/HO-eneews)

(No spam; you can unsubscribe with a single click at any time)





# Heights artist receives Gold Key Award for portfolio

Joy Henderson

In the 2017 Cuyahoga County Scholastic Art Competition, Heights High senior Shannon Berr won a Gold Key award for his eight-piece portfolio, as well as five Silver Key and four Honorable Mention awards.

Six other Heights High student artists also won awards. Linnea Co-vault won a Gold Key and an Honorable Mention, Jenna Dent won a Silver Key and an Honorable Mention, and David Matia, Tylar McDowell, Lisa Ware and Gilda Weinstock won Honorable Mentions.

"Shannon's Gold Key award for an entire portfolio is a fantastic accomplishment," said his art teacher Nancy Eisenberg. "This is a significant award and we are very proud of him!"

Berr enjoys working on large-format multimedia pieces as well as three-dimensional sculptures, using wood and other materials.

In addition to receiving one of the region's highest art awards, Berr also completed his high school course work with a 3.8 GPA.

"I attended the Options program this year to finish my courses," said Berr. "I developed techniques to focus on the work, basically zoning out of everything else and getting it done." He worked closely with Eisenberg during first semester to complete his portfolio.



Shannon Berr with one of his portfolio pieces.

Berr has two "disabilities," dyslexia and dysgraphia, that make a traditional classroom challenging for him.

"In school these are learning disabilities but in the real world, they are learning differences," he said. "Everything that I have done is because I am dyslexic."

Berr said he is grateful to the school and to Eisenberg for guiding him through his high school courses and [the creation of] his portfolio.

As a sophomore, he began the process of being identified as gifted in the fine arts, an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) designation. The process involved an initial screening by his art teacher, Eisenberg, followed by a team review of a portfolio, approval by district

administrators and final approval by the ODE.

This spring Berr is interning with local artists at A Piece of Cleveland (APOC), a wood shop that uses

old-growth timber from Cleveland neighborhoods to create one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture. He will design and build a dining room set for sale in APOC's shop.

Berr hopes to attend an art college, and major in fashion accessories design, contemporary crafts or fine arts. He has applied to the Cleveland Institute of Art and is very interested in the Detroit College for Creative Studies' Fashion Accessories Design program.

The 2017 annual Scholastic Art Competition had nearly 3,000 entries. Students who receive Gold Key awards for individual works or portfolios continue on to the national competition held in the spring in New York City.

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

## Beaumont is first Cleveland-area all-girls school to earn IB status

Rick Haase

Beaumont School has been officially authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme World School by the IB organization in Geneva.

Beaumont is the only all-girls school, and only the second Catholic school, in Cleveland to earn this international distinction.

The program will be offered to students beginning in fall 2017. Beaumont will offer the IB Diploma Programme (DP), which is specifically for students in grades 11 and 12.

IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. It encourages students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

"We decided to pursue the International Baccalaureate Programme for our students because the IB mission was so closely aligned with the mission of Beaumont School," explained President Sister Gretchen Rodenfels. "The IB Programme enhances the advanced level of academic coursework of-

fered at Beaumont School. It joins the school's long tradition of excellence in offering college preparatory classes and academic support that allows us to educate young women for life, leadership and service."

The distinction comes after an intense three-year application process, during which time Beaumont's faculty underwent hundreds of hours of professional development.

"I am enormously excited for our school to receive this significant distinction," said Nick Beyer, dean of academics. "As an IB World School, Beaumont will be able to offer a principled, internationally recognized curriculum that is student-centered, rigorous and rewarding.

"The journey to reach IB World School status is neither brief nor easy. For the past three years, our faculty and administration have worked tirelessly to write course curriculums and have collaborated regularly with each other and educators around the globe. This program, as with all that Beaumont offers, puts our students at the center, giving them opportunities for success in high school and beyond."

*Rick Haase is director of public relations and marketing at Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights, a Catholic School in the Ursuline tradition.*

**kellernational**

**Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Insurance**

For all your personal and business insurance needs

**An independent agent**  
Dedicated to your unique needs

3109 Mayfield Road, Suite 203  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
**216-965-0646**

**Call Jared Lavender**

**www.KellerNational.com**

**THE STONE OVEN**  
BAKERY • CAFE

2267 Lee Rd • Cleveland, OH 44118 • 216.932.3003 • stone-oven.com

**Have Radiators? Want Central Air?**

The Unico system was designed for older homes like yours. This system provides exceptional comfort without any messy and expensive remodeling. Call today for your initial inspection.

**The Unico System**  
Small-Zone Central Heating & Air Conditioning

**VERNE & ELLSWORTH HANN INC.**

The only Hann Family owned heating and cooling business in Cleveland.

**HEIGHTS SPECIAL**  
Pre-season discounts apply to all installations completed prior to 5/31/17. Project space is limited.

**216-932-9755**  
Bonded • Insured • OH LIC #24462



# Library receives grant for digital media lab for teens

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System received a Library Science and Technology Act (LSTA) STEM grant from the State Library of Ohio to create a Teen Digital Media Lab in the teen room at the Lee Road Library.

With \$7,393 provided by the grant, Heights Libraries will build a sound isolation booth equipped with professional recording equipment and software that will allow local teens to learn sound- and music-related skills, including recording, mixing, editing and producing. The library will purchase and install the booth and equipment in the spring and summer.

This fall, the library will offer a formal program for up to 12 teen students, ages 13 to 18, to teach them how to use the equipment and software, produce a student album and learn about the music industry.

"The library is in a unique position to help our teen customers learn technological skills that will advance their burgeoning musical interests and provide connection and support to help them succeed in a fun and collaborative environment," said Jessica Robinson, youth services librarian, who will coordinate the program.

Robinson and Matt Mancini, IT technician, who has extensive



From left: Laurie Gemmill and Melissa Hendon, State Library of Ohio board members; Matt Mancini, Heights Libraries IT technician; Beth Hatch, Heights Libraries special projects librarian and grant writer; Jessica Robinson, Heights Libraries youth services librarian; Krista Taracuk and Jennifer Thompson, State Library of Ohio board members.

experience with both music and sound recording technology, will teach the eight-week program. The program will also receive support from library partners Lake Erie Ink and Cleveland Heights High School. Teen participants will have to apply for the program and will be selected based on need and interest level. They must be residents of Cleveland Heights or University Heights. The library will also hire two teen interns to serve as mentors to help instruct their peers, for which they will be compensated \$500.

Over the course of the program, teens will complete eight hours of formal instruction time and at least 12 hours of free lab time. Additional programming and open lab time for

teens not in the formal program will be announced at a later date.

The inspiration for the program

came from the library's 2016 strategic plan process, where library staff members engaged in a communitywide dialogue that involved surveys and interviews with community members, including many teens.

"Through these surveys and conversations, we discovered that many of our youth are extremely interested in music," said Robinson. "They want to pursue careers as singers, rappers and song writers. This program was designed to address those desires while also teaching kids 21st-century technology skills."

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

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library Board Meeting highlights

JANUARY 23, 2017

Board members Ron Holland, Susan Beatty, Max Gerboc, Chris Mentrek, Suzann Moskowitz and Jim Roosa were present. Abby Botnick was absent.

### Organizational updates

New board member Max Gerboc took an oath of office. The slate of officers and committee assignments was affirmed, with the new president of the library board being Ron Holland. Abby Botnick will be vice president and Chris Mentrek, secretary. The three committees of the board are operations, planning and external relations, and personnel. Committee chairs are Abby Botnick, Chris Mentrek, and James Roosa, respectively. Susan Beatty and Max Gerboc are assigned to the operations committee; Susan Beatty and Suzann Moskowitz, to the planning and external relations committee; and Max Gerboc and Suzann Moskowitz, to the personnel committee.

In addition to the slate of officers and committee assignments, Deborah Herrmann was reappointed fiscal officer with a bond in the amount of \$300,000. Herrmann took an oath of office for this appointment. Amy Gerson will be reappointed deputy fiscal officer with a bond in the amount of \$100,000. A bond in the amount of \$100,000 was affirmed for Library Director Nancy Levin.

### Security issues

Kevin Echols, security supervisor, provided an annual update of the incident reports for security at the libraries. He reported that the number of incidents before 3 p.m. increased this year, comprising 21 percent of all incidents. There were 316 incidents in 2016; 600,000 people visited the library last year. Echols indicated that [library security has] a working relationship with school security and, on days of early dismissal, University Heights and Coventry Village libraries will have additional security officers.



### Fiscal officer's report

The library has used progressive investing practices that reflected that 2.2 percent of the library's total funds were not invested at year-end. The general fund unencumbered balance at the end of the year was \$7,656,585.06, and the building and repair fund has \$622,579.96 unencumbered. It is projected that the library will not need another levy until 2024.

### Marketing and community relations

In the last month, four volunteers provided 16 hours of service with the afterschool homework help and snack programs, at the welcome desk, and in the Nepali language class.

While overall Web stats declined in fourth quarter 2016, the number of visits to the research/database page rose 7 percent. A report was provided on the libraries three social media sites: Facebook "likes" rose a bit more than 2 percent; Instagram followers increased 10 percent, from 181 at the end of September to 197 at the end of December; and Twitter followers increased 3 percent, to 1,412.

*What's Going on @ Your Library*, *We Recommend* and *Techknowledge* are the three e-newsletters sent out bimonthly and monthly. They provide information about upcoming library programs, news, new books, staff recommendations, computer class offerings and the latest technology blog from the technology trainers.

### Grants awarded to Heights Libraries

Youth Services Librarian Jessica Robinson and former Special Projects Manager Beth Hatch won a grant from the State of Ohio Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to create a sound-recording studio in the teen room at the Lee Road Library. The LSTA funds, \$7,393, will be combined with a \$5,000 grant from the Friends of Heights Libraries to purchase equipment for sound editing and recording. The library will partner with Lake Erie Ink to teach a 12-week sound-recording course to teens.

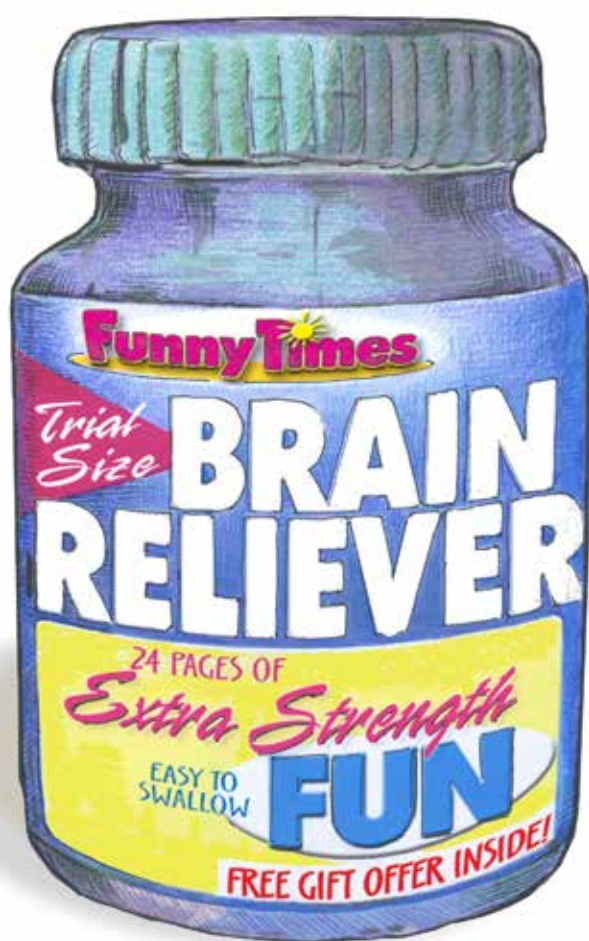
Angelica George, youth services librarian at the Noble Neighborhood Library, and her team were awarded a \$3,640 LSTA grant to implement a young women's engineering program in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University students.

### Emergency preparedness

Library staff met in January with representatives of the schools, to start coordinating emergency procedures in case a large event were to occur that would necessitate evacuation or shelter in the city.

LWV Observer: Khaliyah Fisher-Grace.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 7.



Enjoy the welcome relief of Funny Times.

24 pages of humor, politics and fun.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!** \$26 for 12 monthly issues.

Call 216.371.8600 xHOT17 or go to [www.funnytimes.com](http://www.funnytimes.com)





fabric  
sewing patterns  
ribbon  
& inspiration!

MURRAY HILL  
**BOLT & SPOOL**  
The fabric and sewing boutique  
in Historic Little Italy, Cleveland

Open Tuesday through Saturday  
11-6 pm

2026 Murray Hill Road : Cleveland, Ohio  
216.229.2220  
\*  
[boltandspool.com](http://boltandspool.com)



# Noble library continues to welcome Nepalese refugees

Kara Whaley

For close to a decade, Bhutanese and Nepali refugees have been arriving in the Greater Cleveland area. Last year, ASIA Inc. estimated 400–500 Bhutanese families have resettled in Cleveland Heights.

As these refugees bring hope, optimism and a desire to learn, they contribute to making Cleveland Heights a better place. Noble Neighborhood Library sees this during its Welcome Hub hours.

“[The Welcome Hub] is this idea of having space that people can go to and acquire resources,” said Jessica Markowitz, a youth services associate at Noble Neighborhood Library. “If there is anyone in the community that does speak English as their native language but wants to connect to the non-native English-speaking community, they are more than welcome to join.”

Noble Neighborhood Library currently partners with ASIA Inc. and ABLE (Adult Basic Literacy and Education) to provide language and citizenship classes to all community members. ABLE’s programs,



A group meets at the Welcome Hub to learn about local resources for refugees and immigrants and to learn English.

in all 88 Ohio counties, provide free adult basic education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses.

English language classes are a staple of the refugee programs and services offered at the library. These classes are different from many English language classes in that the volunteers who run the classes often tailor lessons to student needs. For example, because a significant portion of the students are working to attain their temporary driver’s licenses, instructors are intentionally incorporating driving-related

vocabulary into the lessons.

The Welcome Hub is not limited to classes. “Our group on Saturday, which is one of our informal English classes, also functions as a community space,” said Markowitz. “Not too long ago we had a celebration; we had a potluck and dancing.”

The community space that the Welcome Hub provides allows refugee families to gather, celebrate and meet new people. All community members are encouraged to join in these gatherings.

Noble Neighborhood Library, in an effort to provide programming

for Nepalese and Bhutanese children, offers a Nepali language class. According to a Noble Elementary School representative, refugee children make up almost 10 percent of its student population. The school works to improve English and literacy skills in children. The Nepali language classes, which were started by a Nepalese refugee volunteer, seek to help children learn and retain the Nepali language.

The volunteer who began the program thought it was culturally important for refugee children to learn and retain their native language. However, the class is not limited to the Nepalese or refugees; all children with a desire to learn Nepali are welcome to attend.

Heights Libraries, in cooperation with ASIA Inc. and ABLE, hopes to serve all refugees, immigrants and nonnative English speakers for years to come. For more information, visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) or call 216-291-5665.

*Kara Whaley is the communications coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.*

## What’s going on at your library?

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Wednesday, March 8, 7–9 p.m.  
*Cedar-Coventry Author Series.* A book launch and signing for National Book Award finalist Dan Chaon. In his new novel, *Ill Will*, two sensational unsolved crimes—one in the past, another in the present—are linked by one man’s memory and self-deception. Registration opened Feb. 22. (This series, celebrating local authors, is presented in partnership with Mac’s Backs Books and Appletree Books.)

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Friday, March 10, 7–8 p.m.  
*Inspired by Art: A Heights Community Congress PechaKucha Event.* PechaKucha gets to the essence of the presenters’ message in 20 slides, and 20 seconds for each. Three Heights arts leaders will explain how they got started and what motivates them to keep going. Registration is appreciated (216-321-6775), but walk-ins are welcome.

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Saturdays, March 4 through May 27, 3 p.m.  
*Welcome Hub.* The Welcome Hub provides education, resources, information and community space to local refugees and immigrants. Programs are structured to address the needs of the community and are focused on ESOL instruction.



## Come experience the Assisted Living neighborhoods at Judson Park!

Judson Park offers a variety of assisted living options. From light assistance to full support services and 24-hour nurse oversight, residents receive personalized care in a warm and inviting setting.

- No entry fee and no community fee
- Consistently ranked 95% Overall Resident Satisfaction according to the State of Ohio
- On site rehabilitation, therapy, home care and hospice
- Access to all signature amenities on campus including educational, cultural and wellness programs

Located in the quiet neighborhood of Chestnut Hills in Cleveland Heights, Judson Park is just minutes away from world-class healthcare at the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.

**To learn more about the assisted living neighborhoods at Judson Park, please call (216) 791-2004.**

*Judson*  
at University Circle



For more information, visit [www.judsonsmartliving.org](http://www.judsonsmartliving.org)



# Storefront barber Giammaria retires after 57 years

Lee Batdorff

"The barber school thought I was 16 years old and I started training," said Dominic Giammaria, 87, who retired this past Dec. 31 from cutting hair at his Dominic's Barbershop at 1908 Lee Road.

He has 72 years of hair cutting experience. Just after he completed ninth grade at Observation School (now the location of the Cleveland High School of the Arts), and 14 years old, he pursued a certificate in Barber Science. After graduating from the old Cleveland Barber College in 1944, he started cutting hair with Joseph Marx in the Cedar-Taylor area. Giammaria's father Joseph died

at age 51, when Dominic was about 20 years old—and was six years a barber.

Then his mother Josephine dated Charles Fanna, who was a barber entrepreneur with several shops around town. "Charles was like a father to me and gave me a few tips," Giammaria said.

In 1946, at age 16, he opened his own shop on Euclid Avenue, at E. 128th Street, in East Cleveland. In 1960, he moved his shop to 1908 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, where it stayed for 57 years.

He is proclaimed by many customers to be the best barber they've ever had. He still practices for friends at his Chesterland home and declares himself an "artist that many barbers now are not." His customers are, in a

sense, "patrons." In the lower-priced barbershop world, his cut, at \$25, was patron priced. However, in the more-haughty hairdresser world, he could be considered a big bargain.

On many evenings, Giammaria made house calls to the homes of busy people. Cleveland Clinic president and CEO Delos 'Toby' Cosgrove is one of these, according to Giammaria, who said, "I take care of all the top heads."

Artists and writers were not unfamiliar with Giammaria's skills. Harvey Pekar, the late comic book author, featured Giammaria in an issue of Pekar's *American Splendor*. Noted local artists that Giammaria served included Paul Travis, John Tirol, Lou G. Bosa and Viktor Schreckengost.

"Dominic started cutting my hair in 1960," said artist Bill Hoose, 70, a resident of Cleveland Heights. Hoose was going to the previous barber in the Lee Road location when Dominic took over. "I don't buy a newspaper," he said. "I get all the news from Dominic."

Giammaria's wife, Francis (maiden name Iorillo), died in 2002, after more than 50 years of marriage. They had two children. Giammaria now also has eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He showed a visitor a photograph of



Dominic Giammaria

his great-granddaughter Angelina-Marie, eight months old, and said, "I sing to her."

A few of Giammaria's clients thought he was wasting his talents with haircutting. Danny Green, a notorious gangster, attempted to smooth-talk him into joining the mob. "You'd do better," Green told Giammaria. But Giammaria consistently declined. "I'll stay in barbering, the legal way," he told Green. Green died when his car blew up in 1977. Recently, Giammaria summed up that situation: "He was killed and I'm still alive!"

Lee Batdorff has been a Cleveland Heights resident since 1966.

## Observe Lent at St. Paul's

**Five Sunday Mornings: March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2**  
10 a.m. Forum Series

**Did Jesus Have to Die? Crucifixion & Suffering in a Broken World**  
presented by Dr. Natalie Weaver  
Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Ursuline College

**Five Wednesday Evenings: March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5**

6:00 Holy Eucharist

6:30 Simple Soup Supper

7:00 **Sacred Stories Video Series**

featuring presentations by Frederick Buechner,  
Maya Angelou & James Carroll followed by discussion

**or Walk the Labyrinth in Tucker Hall**

ALL ARE WELCOME! CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: [www.stpauls-church.org](http://www.stpauls-church.org)



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church welcomes you!**

2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106 (216) 932-5815 • [www.stpauls-church.org](http://www.stpauls-church.org)



## Heights company helps local businesses thrive in digital age

James Henke

Two Cleveland Heights residents operate Local Biz Guru, a company that helps small businesses improve their online presence, to thrive at a time when online shopping has surpassed in-store shopping.

"Our entire business is predicated on helping local businesses be found online," said Nachum Langsner, who owns the company along with Aaron Garfunkel. Langsner and Garfunkel started the business in August 2016. Prior to that, both men worked for a dental-supply company. In 2008, the company asked Langsner to build a website. "I had to very quickly learn how to do that," he said. "But it turned out to be a great hands-on learning experience, and the project went very well."

Since founding Local Biz Guru, Garfunkel and Langsner have focused on helping local firms.

They will hold two seminars this month at the Small Business Development Center at the Lee Road Library, covering practical tactics and tips to improve a company's online visibility. The seminars, Attracting Local Customers in the Digital Age, will take place March 7 and 21, 9-11 a.m.

Garfunkel, 30, grew up in Savannah, Ga., while Langsner, 44, grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. Both attended college in Jerusalem and studied Talmudic law, and both now live on Ben-demeer Road in Cleveland Heights.



Nachum Langsner (left) and Aaron Garfunkel, the owners of Local Biz Guru.

Garfunkel said Cleveland Heights is a "warm, vibrant community. The ethics and quality of life are nice here." Langsner added that he "loves the diversity of the community, and I feel that we, as a community, can benefit from more businesses thriving."

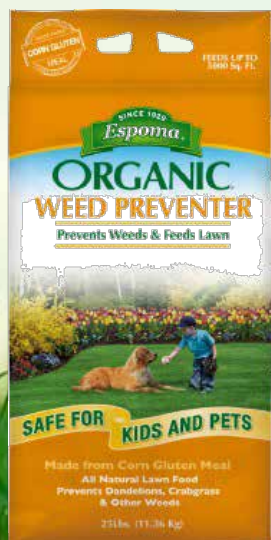
"We are really trying to help small businesses," Garfunkel said. Langsner added, "We want to let people know about the uniqueness of so many Cleveland Heights businesses. We really want to get the word out. We really just need to follow the evolution of this industry. Everything is constantly changing, especially digital marketing."

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.

**BREMEC**  
*on the Heights*  
Garden Center

**Now In Stock**  
Organic Weed Preventer  
100% Corn Gluten

**Only \$37.49**  
(Regular \$49.99 per 25lb. Bag)



**BREMEC**  
*on the Heights*  
Garden Center

**25% OFF**

**Purchase of \$15 or More**

Cannot be combined with other coupons. Redeemable at the Heights location only. Not valid on previous purchases. Excludes bulk & bagged goods, gift certificates and Bremec Bonds. Expires March 31, 2017. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**March Hours:**

**Monday-Friday 9-5, Saturday-Sunday 10-5**

**13410 Cedar Rd. • 216.932.0039 • [www.bremec.com](http://www.bremec.com)**



# New owner takes over Coventry Road Panini's



Michael Mercer inside the Coventry Panini's.

James Henke

The Panini's restaurant franchise on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights has a new owner, Michael Mercer, who purchased the restaurant last November.

Mercer, 58, lived in Cleveland Heights for much of his life; as a child, he lived on Demington Drive for many years. His father, Robert Mercer, started the children's hospital at the Cleveland Clinic.

Mike Mercer attended Roxboro Elementary and Junior High schools, and Heights High. At Kent State University, he majored in business and law enforcement, then worked for the Department of Safety and Security in the Cleveland Public Schools for eight years.

During that time, Mercer met Jeffrey Jacobs, who was developing the West Bank of the Flats. Jacobs opened Club Coconut, and Mercer became the club's general manager. Mercer then opened the Howl at the Moon Saloon, which he ran for eight years. It was one of many restaurants, bars and entertainment venues in the Cleveland area with which Mercer has been involved. In addition to the aforementioned businesses, Mercer has been the owner and operator of other businesses in the Flats, including Power Play Gameroom and Club 1148.

In May of 1986, the first Panini's restaurant opened on the East Bank of the Flats. Panini's then opened a restaurant in Lakewood, and Mercer became the restaurant's

first franchise operator there.

"Panini's was originally set up to be a sandwich and pizza place," Mercer said. "Then, about 10 years ago, they re-did the menu, and it became a casual-dining menu." In 2006, a Panini's opened in Brunswick, and Mercer and Tim Swan ran the restaurant. Swan is now the general manager of the Coventry Panini's. "He's deep into the food service, and he really understands customer service," Mercer said.

The Coventry restaurant opened about eight years ago. Prior to that, the location had housed the Hyde Park Steakhouse.

Since taking over the Coventry restaurant, Mercer has been making changes. He has enhanced the daily specials, and he has been adding more craft beers from Northeast Ohio breweries. He has also started a fundraising program for school groups and other non-profit organizations. If one of those groups books a fundraising event at the restaurant, it can get 15 percent of the money brought in that night. "I really want to give back to this community," Mercer said.

He has also made a deal with Big Fun, the toy store that is across the street from Panini's. If someone takes a Panini's receipt to Big Fun, that person can get a 10-percent discount on a purchase at the store.

One of the things Mercer said he really likes about the Coventry location is the outdoor patio. "We are fortunate to have such a nice patio, and we have nine TVs out there," he said. Guests are now permitted to bring their dogs onto the patio.

In 1995, Mercer moved to Lakewood. Even so, he still loves Cleveland Heights. "I feel very comfortable in Cleveland Heights," he said. "It's a very friendly area, and it's easy to get around the city."

*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.*



Cleveland Heights resident Jon Holmes (left) with Chris Hann, co-owner of Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc., located at 2026 Lee Road.

## V&E Hann selects homeowner as free furnace contest winner

Bob Rosenbaum

Cleveland Heights resident Jon Holmes received a free furnace from Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc. as part of the company's Helping Hann Free Furnace contest.

An Army veteran, Holmes was nominated by his sister and brother-in-law, Jean and Don Lash of South Euclid.

Holmes lives in the Forest Hill neighborhood, in a house that's been in the family since 1942. The old furnace was installed in 1951 and had to be oiled every day—a difficult task for Holmes, who suffers from a nerve disability.

The Helping Hann contest was created to assist someone in such a situation, according to Chris Hann,

co-owner of the Cleveland Heights-based heating and cooling business. The company solicited nominations through December and January, and announced the winner on Jan. 31.

"We want to share our good fortune by giving something back to the community that's been so good to our family all these years," Hann said.

The total value of the furnace and installation is about \$3,500. Holmes said it's the only thing he's ever won, except for a pair of shoes a long time ago—and they didn't fit.

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

### Make Ideas Happen.



**EASTWOOD  
FURNITURE**

3451 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
216-303-9862 Tuesday-Saturday 10-5



**We build custom sizes and designs  
to create your perfect piece.**

**Solid Hardwood  
Made in Ohio  
Designed by You**



Now 3 locations . . .

23 Public Square in Medina  
4722 Kidron Road in Kidron

330-723-0014  
330-857-2009

[www.eastwoodfurniture.com](http://www.eastwoodfurniture.com)

french **FRIES**  
50

**DELICIOUS**  
you'll go  
**CROSS-EYED**

#1 **tommy's**  
restaurant

**Best French Fries in NE Ohio**  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

**Best Milk Shake East of Mississippi**  
Rolling Stone Magazine

**Best Vegetarian & Family  
Friendly Restaurant**

The Heights' #1 choice  
for interior and exterior  
painting

**Neubert  
PAINTING**

Serving Northeast  
Ohio Homeowners  
since 1975

**Quality Painting.**  
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at  
**216-529-0360**  
for a Free Consultation!  
[neubertpainting.com](http://neubertpainting.com)





**SUPREME WINDOW & GLASS**

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • GLASS REPAIR • ENTRY DOORS • SCREENS  
STORM WINDOWS • STORM DOORS

**GET \$25 OFF** ANY JOB \$250 OR MORE

VISIT SUPREMEWINDOW.NET OR CALL 216.371.3337

Must mention coupon code HEIGHTS at time of quote. Limited time offer. Restrictions apply, inquire for full details.



SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR OVER **50 YEARS**

Seasonally crafted menu and fine cocktails in a cozy setting

**Felice**

12502 Larchmere  
(216) 791-0918  
www.feliceurbancafe.com

**NOW OPEN ON MONDAY**





**Privileged to help.**

**Betsy Warner, Agent**  
2491 Lee Blvd  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
Bus: 216-932-6900  
betsywarner.com

We're honored to serve this community for 25 years. My staff and I look forward to many more with you. Thank you for your continued support and business.  
**Get to a better State®. Get State Farm.**  
**CALL ME TODAY.**

 **State Farm®**

1211030 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

**We treat your yard like family**

**Full Residential Tree Services**

- Tree Removal
- Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Cabling
- Deep Root Fertilization
- 24-Hour Tree Service

**RIPLEY ENTERPRISES TREE SERVICE**

COMPREHENSIVE TREE MANAGEMENT

**Free Estimates**  
**440-463-7379**

**ISA Certified Arborist**  
ISA Certification #: OH-6536A

info.ripleyenterprises@gmail.com  
www.ripleytreeservice.com

**Careful • Knowledgeable • Neat • Professional**

# Heights Arts goes 'Public' with March exhibition

Mary Ryan

Design and illustration continue to expand beyond their traditional roles in publishing and advertising. Influenced by graffiti and new technologies in animation and gaming, illustrators create stories about world issues, popular culture, even trends in daily life. Artists take issues out of context and reexamine them in previously unconsidered perspectives, challenging viewers to assess their own part in the whole.

*PUBLIC CONSCIENCE through graphics and illustration*, which opens Friday, March 3, 6–9 p.m., in the Heights Arts main gallery, examines these trends among Northeast Ohio artists. Co-curated by artists Leslye Arian and Dave King, the group exhibition showcases the work of Laura and Gary Dumm, Derek Hess, Brian Jasinski, Nancy Schwartz Katz, Milan Kecman, Jake Kelly, George Kocar, Joe Lanzilotta, Angela Oster, Josh Usmani, Justin Michael Will, and Sean Higgins and Nicholas Rezabek of the Bubble Process.

Co-curator King noted, "People see the work of illustrators and graphic artists in print form but they don't see the original work. Because of this disconnect, illustrators and graphic designers are frequently not viewed as artists. An opportunity to

have these works in a gallery show allows the public to see them in a different light."

The unique Heights Arts event Ekphrastacy, where artists discuss their work and poets read pieces composed in response to the exhibition, will take place on Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m., for this show.

Opening Friday, March 17 in the spotlight gallery, Kate Snow's *Grid Series: Communities* seeks to explore and celebrate not only the physical community that makes up Cleveland Heights, but also the seemingly disparate communities of fine art and digital media—by providing a platform for engagement and interaction. The interactive exhibition includes a collection of framed gouache and graphite paintings on handmade paper, as well as an integrated digital piece. A short panel discussion on April 6 at 7 p.m. with Kate Snow, Eagan Rackley (game developer), Ian Faleer (musician) and Stephanie Frankiewicz (graphic designer) will examine how the digital medium is transforming the way viewers experience art.

For more information on community arts programs, including music and literary events, visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org) or call the nonprofit arts organization at 216-371-3457.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts.

## LEI hosts fifth annual Kids' Comic Con

Barbie Estrada

Lake Erie Ink will host its fifth annual Kids' Comic Con on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At this all-day event, young people will have the opportunity to attend workshops with well-known comic creators.

The event features professional writers and illustrators, with Terri Llibenson, cartoonist for the internationally syndicated comic strip "The Pajama Diaries," giving the keynote address.

Workshops will cover the two aspects of comic creation—drawing and writing—and will include the ever-popular "create your own comic


character in clay."

Last year, this one-of-a-kind comic convention for young writers and artists drew nearly 100 kids and teens from as far as Toledo and Western Pennsylvania. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and workshops begin at 10 a.m. Costumes are encouraged—learn more at [lakeerieink.org](http://lakeerieink.org), or call 216-320-4757.


Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 that provides creative expression opportunities and academic support to youth in the Greater Cleveland community.

Barbie Estrada is a Cleveland Heights resident and staff member at Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth.

**Authentic Yoga for Body, Mind & Spirit!**



**30 DAYS UNLIMITED YOGA & BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP \$59**  
(NEW LOCAL STUDENTS ONLY)  
2319 Lee Road, Cleve. Hts.  
(216) 371-9760  
www.atmacenter.com

 **ATMA CENTER**  
YOGA FOR EVERY BODY

@atmacenter108 /atmacenter


**MAC'S BACKS BOOKSTORE**

MACSBACKS.COM 216-321-2665 1820 COVENTRY RD. CLV HTS

AUTHOR TALKS, WRITING WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, BOOK CLUBS, FREE COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE, LOCAL AUTHORS, POETRY READINGS, SPECIAL EVENTS, GREETING CARDS, JOURNALS, SPECIAL ORDERS, AND OVER 35,000 NEW AND USED BOOKS!

**UPCOMING Events**

**Dan Chaon Book Launch @ the Coventry Library for his new book III Will on March 8th 7pm**



★ TRADE IN YOUR BOOKS ★



# March-ing order



## SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

March in Cleveland can bring some of the worst winter weather of the year. But March also offers some major harbingers of spring.

Like the Cleveland International Film Festival. The festival itself has nothing to do with spring—I mean, it's not like they screen 150 movies about nice weather—but it takes place at what is supposed to be the end of winter, and sometimes is the end of winter, but sometimes isn't. A few years ago, the biggest snowstorm of the year took place on a Saturday in the middle of the film festival.

I decided to chance it—I had tickets to three CIFF films that day—so I drove down to Tower City from the top of Cedar Hill. I kept to the major roads all the way there, but none had been plowed. Luckily, I was able to follow a big truck and drove in its tracks. I didn't see any other cars along the way, and I figured I was going to be the only one there. I thought they might give me a prize—maybe a pass for the rest of the festival—for being so loyal.

But when I reached the film festival, the usual crowd was present. You still had to wait in the lines to get into your movies. Because it's Cleveland and everybody knows that if you want to do something during the winter, you just go and do it.

Actually, this year, the film festival begins on March 29 and runs through April 9. But the first week of April in Cleveland is usually just like an extra week of March, weather-wise. Which is why I never go to Cleveland Indians opening days.

But I do participate in Cleveland Indians spring training—in a way. That activity does not take place in Cleveland; it happens in Phoenix, Arizona, where it's never winter.

But spring training is immediately followed by the actual baseball season, and that is in the spring, so spring training puts baseball fans into virtual spring, psychologically, even though some opening-day games of the real baseball season are halted by snow. Like the one they tried to play here a few years ago and couldn't finish; and then wound up moving the whole opening series to Milwaukee.

But, still, baseball means spring and summer. And Indians

spring training games are broadcast over the radio, with a few on TV, so you can listen to them or watch them, and regardless of the weather in Cleveland, it feels like spring. For three hours. If you don't look outside.

And then there's Purim/Passover/Easter. Purim is a Jewish holiday that celebrates . . . well, I'll simplify it: It's one of many Jewish holidays that may be summed up by: "They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat." (In the case of Purim, the big food thing is hamantaschen, a triangular, filled pastry.) Purim always comes in March.

Passover and Easter sometimes come in March, but more often in April. Passover is another one of those Jewish holidays described above. There are a lot of things that Jews can't eat during the week of Passover, but there are lot of

other things they can, that they don't during the rest of the year; a trade-off. And it begins with a big feast, the Seder, which also includes a long service before you get to eat that big feast; another trade-off. We Jews invented the trade-off.

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. The spring equinox is normally March 21, so it's possible for Easter to come as early as March 22. Sometimes there is deep snow on Easter and sometimes, like two years ago, it's 75 degrees.

But my main point here—and maybe I haven't made it totally clear—is that if there's a big snowfall in late March or early April, and your car gets stuck in a snowbank in your driveway, don't shovel it out, don't call AAA, don't get people to push it out, don't do anything. Because you know that in a few days, it's going to warm up and the snow will melt.

And when you see my car stuck

in a snowbank in my driveway in late March/early April, you'll thank me for the reminder.

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

**Washington & Lee Service, Inc**  
 2080 Lee Road,  
 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
**(216) 371-2850**  
 Chip Ramsey Owner



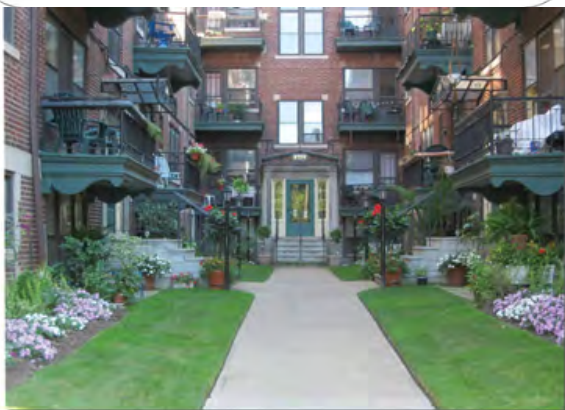

## SUITES AVAILABLE



Shaker Heights  
 Cleveland Heights  
 Lakewood  
 Cleveland



- Large 1, 2 and 3 Bedrooms
- Walking distance to CWRU, Shaker Square and RTA
- Refinished Kitchens
- Hardwood Floors
- Parking
- Laundry Facilities
- Dishwasher and Disposal



*"All together  
 sunny, spacious,  
 superbly  
 maintained  
 and well  
 located  
 apartments!"*

**CALL NOW (216) 421-8400**

12000 Fairhill Road  
 Cleveland, OH 44120  
 office@montlackrealty.com

**www.montlackrealty.com**





# Dobama presents Pulitzer Prize-winner ‘The Flick’

Jonathan Wilhelm

Kernels of stale buttered popcorn, sticky soda spills, and the occasional sandwich wrapper keep three underpaid employees of a run-down movie theater busy in “The Flick” by Annie Baker. Its regional premiere runs March 3–26 at Dobama Theatre, and is directed by Nathan Motta, Dobama’s artistic director.

In awarding “The Flick” the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Pulitzer committee cited it as “a thoughtful drama with well-crafted characters . . . rendering lives rarely seen on the stage.”

The play’s unconventional setting situates the audience where the screen would be in a movie theater, facing rows of seats and aisles with a projection booth above.

Baker is renowned for expertly crafting realistic characters by casting a light on the way people exist

between the nuances of human conversation—including awkward silences and the bumbling of everyday speech—as they perform the mundane but necessary tasks of their jobs.

Dobama’s production features Christopher Bohan, Gordon Hinchin, Paige Klopfenstein and Nate Miller.

A preview performance will be held on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. Preview tickets are \$10, general admission. A pay-as-you-can (\$1 or more per ticket) performance is scheduled for Sunday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.; advance reservations for that performance can be made by agreeing to pay \$5 or more per ticket.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.dobama.org](http://www.dobama.org) or call the box office at 216-932-3396. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

*Jonathan Wilhelm is the associate managing director of Dobama Theatre.*



Barbershoppers William Aiken, Rangana Bartlett, Tedd Byers, Will Davis, Michael Garrett Jr., Remi Godard, Nareus Hardin, Dontay Hardnett, Grant Heineman, Berlyn Phillips, Gerald Shazor, James Smith and Garrett Vandall, with Vocal Music Director Jesse Lange.

## Barbershoppers earn award of excellence

Joy Henderson

The 13-member Heights High Boys Barbershoppers earned an Excellent rating and the prestigious Presenter’s Award at the Barbershop Harmony Society’s International Youth Chorus Competition in San Antonio, Jan. 19–22.

At the conference, students attended master classes, joined other vocalists in a chorus rehearsal and performance, attended performances by groups of youth and senior citizen singers, and performed for audiences and judges. They also received instruction from renowned musician Francisco J. Núñez, founder of the Young People’s Chorus of New York City, international guest conductor and founder of the Social Change

Through the Choral Arts Initiative.

Among the skills they honed in the master classes were using breath support and posture to emphasize specific lyrical content.

Heights High Vocal Music Director Jesse Lange was proud of the students and the feedback they received from the judges. “Throughout the trip, the boys were fine examples of young men,” he said. “They were professional and poised, as well as enthusiastic and energetic. One set of judges called the group ‘fearless,’ recognizing their ability to sing without a director, the intricacy of the arrangement and the difficulty of the song.”

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

## WRC’s 25th-anniversary season continues

David Gilson

Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) will present a double billing of Haydn’s *Mass in Time of War* (*Missa in tempore belli*) and *Requiem for the Living* by Daniel Forrest. Concerts will take place Sunday, March 12, at 4 p.m., at Mary Queen of Peace Church, at 4423 Pearl Road, in Cleveland; and Sunday, March 19, at 3:30 p.m., at Church of the Gesu, 2470 Miramar Blvd., in University Heights. WRC is a Cleveland Heights-based chorus of nearly 100 singers from across the region.

The two works, composed 218 years apart, provide a glimpse of the spectrum of compositional styles which have been used in liturgical choral/orchestral works.

The Haydn mass was selected to help commemorate this 25th year of the ensemble, as it was the major work performed in the chorale’s inaugural season. It belongs to the same expansive compositional period as Haydn’s late symphonies. Haydn composed it in 1796, while Austria was mobilizing its troops, and some people hear the distant thunder of canons in the persistent use of tympani throughout the

mass. The upbeat final movement may have reflected the composer’s faith in the Austrian army.

A requiem, at its core, is a prayer for rest, traditionally for the deceased. The five movements of Dan Forrest’s *Requiem for the Living* (2013), however, form a narrative for the living, and their struggle with pain and sorrow, as well as for the dead. Forrest made use of different Latin texts than most requiems include, and created sound textures that reflect a more modern take on “light eternal,” inspired by images from the Hubble telescope and the International Space Station.

WRC will be joined by professional orchestral musicians and will feature soloists Marian Vogel, Sandra Ross, Timothy Culver, Brian Keith Johnson, and boy soprano Henry Dyck.

These concerts are presented with the support of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and the AHS Foundation. They are free and open to the public, though a free-will offering will be taken.

*David Gilson, artistic director of the Western Reserve Chorale, resides in Cleveland Heights with his wife, Suzanne, and twin daughters, Sophie and Hannah.*

**Geraci's** *A Family Tradition for over 60 Years*

2266 Warrensville Center Rd. University Heights, OH 44118  
(216) 371-5643 [www.geracisrestaurant.com](http://www.geracisrestaurant.com)

**Heights Frame & Art**

2243 Warrensville Ctr Rd. University Heights, OH 44118  
[heightsframe@gmail.com](mailto:heightsframe@gmail.com) (216) 371-3711  
*“Your neighborhood custom frame shop!”*

**Are You Losing Your Current Health Insurance Coverage?**

**I Can Help!**

**Don't delay!** You may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, which is generally 60 days following the loss of coverage, to enroll for new health insurance.

**Kathleen G Carvin**  
Licensed Insurance Agent  
HealthMarkets Insurance Agency  
**Call me today**  
**216-375-5902**  
for a **FREE** consultation to learn about your options

**health markets**

**Life | Health | Medicare | Long-Term Care**

**No problem! I will take care of it...**

**SCOTT HAIGH**

[www.ScottHaigh.com](http://www.ScottHaigh.com)  
[Scott@ScottHaigh.com](mailto:Scott@ScottHaigh.com)  
Direct: 216-272-6889

**Sold in 32 Days!**  
3359 Meadowbrook Blvd, Cleveland Heights  
**Need to sell or buy? Give me a call!**

**Howard Hanna**  
Real Estate Services

**53 GOOGLE REVIEWS! ★★★★★ 4.9 STARS!**

**CELEBRATING 14 YEARS!**

**DOGGY DAYCARE**

**DOGTROPOLIS**

**OVERNIGHT BOARDING**

8000 SQUARE FEET OF SUPERVISED PLAY  
IN SOUTH EUCLID **216.291.0605** [WWW.DOGTROPOLIS.NET](http://WWW.DOGTROPOLIS.NET)



**www.heightsobserver.org** Call 216-320-1423 to find out how you can advertise your business for \$28/month

## Gutter Guru

Professional Gutter Cleaning  
Local Cleveland Heights Business

Contact Brooks  
iPhone: 216-543-4113  
bmj386@gmail.com



**Green Tara**  
YOGA & HEALING ARTS

**Iyengar Yoga**  
**Stability • Vitality • Clarity**

2450 Fairmount, Cleveland Heights  
(216) 382-0592 [www.greentarayoga.com](http://www.greentarayoga.com)

Book Flower Clown for your  
next event.



\* Events and parties  
\* A fixture in the Heights

[www.flower-entertainment.com](http://www.flower-entertainment.com)

## Ardmore Tree Service

Complete Tree Service  
Year-round

*We Sell and Plant  
Trees & Shrubs*

**(216) 486-5551**

• Pruning • Tree and Stump Removal • Feeding  
• Firewood • Brush Chipping • Snowplowing

*Member National Arborist Association*

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

## Heights Hardware SINCE 1911



Monday-Saturday 9-6 - Sunday 11-4  
**1792 Coventry Road**  
**216-321-4701**

[www.heightshardware.com](http://www.heightshardware.com)



FRIENDS  
of the  
Heights Libraries

HARVEY &  
FRIENDS  
Bookshop  
2nd Floor of the  
Lee Road Library

**Fill-a-bag Sale**  
**the first Friday**  
**of each month.**

All proceeds  
support the library.

**Great Used**  
**Books For Sale**  
**Every Day!**

[friends@heightslibrary.org](mailto:friends@heightslibrary.org)  
216-932-3600 x1234

## En Español, Por Favor Spanish Lessons

Beginner to Advanced  
Reasonable rates  
First lesson free!



Call or text Lili Rose  
**(216) 470-5489**

# Shop Local.

## Eve's Painting & Home Repair

- Interior and exterior painting
- Wallpaper removal
- Housing code violations
- Tuck pointing
- Handyman services

*We are bonded, insured, and maintain an "A" rating on Angie's List.*

**216-387-0525**

[llebles1@hotmail.com](mailto:llebles1@hotmail.com)

## DEBT RELIEF ATTORNEY

Pursued and sued by debt collectors?  
Stuck trying to figure out what to do  
and how to do it?

Contact Atty Gayle A. Belcher

216-242-9763

[gbelcher482@gmail.com](mailto:gbelcher482@gmail.com)  
[www.gaylebelcherattorney.com](http://www.gaylebelcherattorney.com)

34 years of legal experience



Complete Auto Repair  
& Maintenance  
Import & Domestic  
In Business Since 1972

[www.simonsautoservice.com](http://www.simonsautoservice.com)  
SIMON DAHER, Manager



*Stop in to check out our  
brand new repair facility!*

**(216) 371-2354 1830 Lee Road, CH**

## ViolinLessons in Cleveland Heights

**Marilyn Taylor**

(B.M., M.M. in Violin Performance)

(216) 200-9143

[marilynmarkstaylor@gmail.com](mailto:marilynmarkstaylor@gmail.com)

[marilynmt.com](http://marilynmt.com)



Hall For Rent

## All-N-One Weddings

Wedding Chapel & Reception Hall  
2373 Euclid Heights Blvd

**(216) 731-5808**

Garden Wedding Ceremony,  
Receptions, Anniversary Dinners,  
Family Reunion Dinners, Banquets, Birthday  
Parties, Retirement Celebrations  
Call for appointments and tours

## Cleaning Service

Serving this area for 20 years. We furnish all  
supplies. Married couple. Impeccable  
references. Reasonable rates. Bonded.

**Call Maid Convenient.**

**Days: 440-213-0850**

**Evenings-Weekends: 440-234-0745**

**Always Buying Paying Cash**

## MICHAEL'S ANTIQUES

- Gold
- Jewelry
- Glassware
- Paintings
- Pottery
- Military Items
- Sterling Silver
- Bronze Figures
- Clocks
- Swords
- Lamps
- Violins
- Porcelain
- Ivory Carvings
- Oriental Rugs
- Marble Figures

7 Days 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**440-461-4611**

**FREE House Calls for SENIORS**  
Buying anything unusual

## St. James Anglican Catholic Church



Sung Mass  
Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic Faith in the  
Anglican Tradition

1861 East 55th St.  
at Payne Ave. in  
Cleveland, Ohio

[www.saintjamescleveland.com](http://www.saintjamescleveland.com) 216-431-3252



*Your Move • Your Way • Our Help*  
Rightsizing & Thriving-in-Place

**216-925-2393**

[www.creativemovesllc.com](http://www.creativemovesllc.com)

NASMM Member • Bonded • Insured

## PC HANDYMAN

PC and Mac Repair  
End your computer troubles for good

Our "Managed Services" contract offers:

- Microsoft Office 365
- Anti-virus protection
- Online support and maintenance

Just \$29.99/mo

216-236-8743

[www.pchandy.net](http://www.pchandy.net)

Based in the Heights



Ohio Licenses 12820 & 30281

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

LIGHT • SAFETY • COMFORT • EFFICIENCY  
Family Owned Since 1985

**(216) 932-2598**

[www.skettleelectric.com](http://www.skettleelectric.com)



"Best Contractor"

## AMISH CREWS FOR LESS

- ROOFING
- SIDING
- CONCRETE
- MASONRY
- CARPENTRY
- NEW GARAGE
- WATERPROOFING
- KITCHEN-BATH
- RM Addition  
BR -- Bath
- Attic-Basement

**ALL CITY VIOLATIONS**

**New GARAGE from - \$9875**

**216 -323- 0916**

## FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

EDUCATING THE HEIGHTS SINCE 1988

3473 Fairmount Blvd.  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
216.321.5868  
[fairmountmusicschool@gmail.com](mailto:fairmountmusicschool@gmail.com)  
[www.fairmountmusic.com](http://www.fairmountmusic.com)



**RAYMOND J. WOHL, CPA**  
2121 South Green Rd.  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121  
PH: 216-382 .9647

**Services Offered:**  
**Tax Preparation & Planning**  
**\*Investments**  
**IRA Accounts**  
**Mutual Funds**  
**College 529 Plans**  
**Insurance:**  
**Fixed & \*Variable Annuities**  
**Life Insurance**

\* Raymond J. Wohl, Registered Representative  
\* Securities offered through HDI, Vest Investment Services™ Member SIPC  
Investment & Insurance Products: Not FDIC Insured. No Bank Guarantee. May Lose Value.

## MJM Window Restoration

Keep your historic windows  
and save thousands!

Sticky windows Weather Stripping  
Broken ropes Cracked Glass

**We'll make them work like new!**

**(216) 321-7729**

[mjmwindowrestoration.com](http://mjmwindowrestoration.com)

\* 30 years in the Heights \*



## RIPLEY ENTERPRISES TREE SERVICE

COMPREHENSIVE TREE MANAGEMENT

Tree Removal • Yard Expansion  
Fertilization • Cable Support  
Pruning • Stump Grinding  
**(440) 463-7379** for free estimate

*Mention "Observer" and get 20% off*  
Certified Arborist Fully insured



# The Salon artists comprise spring show at St. Paul's gallery

Mary Cushing

The Nicholson B. White Gallery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., announces its spring show, *The Salon Shows at St. Paul's*. The exhibition opens with an artists' reception on Friday, March 10, 5-7 p.m., where participating artists will greet guests and discuss their creative processes. The show runs through June 4.

Featured artists are Bonnie Dolin (oils and pastels), Jennifer Leach (woodcut prints), Leslye Discont Arian (mixed media and clay) and Tom Roesse (acrylics and graphite).

Last year, these four artists formed an art group called "the Salon" for the purpose of sharing new work, giving and receiving critiques and encouragement, and enjoying the company of other artists. While the work of each artist is unique, the struggles are universal, and the monthly input the members of the Salon receive from one another creates a sense of renewal, connection and determination to continue making art. This is the Salon's first show as a group.

Bonnie Dolan works in pastel and oil. Many of her paintings are based on photographs and then greatly altered as she shapes the work. Some paintings are not realistic images of a real place, but are an expressionistic vision of the idea of landscape. Her main concern in those works is how to use color to



**Santa Fe Series: Mountain Walk with Road** by Tom Roesse, graphite, acrylic and colored pencil on acid-free board.



**Black Trees at Sunset** by Bonnie Dolin, oil on canvas.



**Blowing Down the House** by Leslye Arian, mixed media acrylic and pastel on paper.



**Avatar Portraits** by Jennifer Leach, woodcut print on paper.

good effect and to create a mood.

Jennifer Leach works primarily in woodblock and linoleum relief techniques. Printmaking has been integral to her career in graphic design, illustration and K-12 art education, and she is currently focusing on printmaking as art. An interest in people, motivations, interactions, identity and emotional conditions are the inspiration for the images Leach creates. She makes prints to

distill the complex mix of emotion, social pressures, and conflicting messages people experience every day into a manageable visual object. The expressiveness of the cut wood and texture of the wood grain on paper match and enhance the mood she is looking to create.

Leslye Discont Arian draws with paint, pastel, charcoal and gesso. Her surfaces are sometimes collaged with recycled drawings and

the media are layered. "My tools are my fingers, the back of a brush or sandpaper," she said. "I work in a gestural and post-modernist style. Trained as a ceramicist, being hands-on with material allows me complete freedom from the material world. My clay bowls pay homage to the Japanese Edo period and the figures honor the wish to mother."

Tom Roesse is known for his architectural paintings of industrial Cleveland in which he realistically details rust and grit. In contrast, his Santa Fe series, started after a trip there in November, eliminates detail to create the scene and uses natural colors—a completely different palette from his Cleveland works. Roesse's art starts with his true love: drawing with pencil. "The musical sounds I hear of a pencil traveling over a paper surface are, to me, like a symphonic rhapsody," he said. After using light or colored pencil to highlight or find the path to a temperature, he applies localized color with thinned acrylic paint to translate his black-and-white drawing to a color image.

Everyone is welcome at the opening reception. The gallery is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The artists receive all proceeds from the sale of their work.

*Mary Cushing is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.*

The Music Settlement

5-Star Accredited  
Preschool, Day School,  
& Kindergarten

Best Music Instruction  
2nd Consecutive Year

The Music Settlement is  
Generously Supported by:

11125 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland  
BOP STOP, 2920 Detroit Ave., Ohio City  
Solon Center for the Arts

SUMMER CAMPS IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

Fun & Enrichment for Ages 3 - 18

Inclusion options for campers with special needs

**ENROLL ONLINE TODAY & SAVE 10%**

[www.TheMusicSettlement.org/camp](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org/camp)

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING

Private Music Lessons, Classes, & Ensembles

Private & Group Music Therapy

Arts for the Young: Music for Babies & Toddlers

Sort by age & enroll online:

[www.TheMusicSettlement.org/all](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org/all)