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WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE Observer

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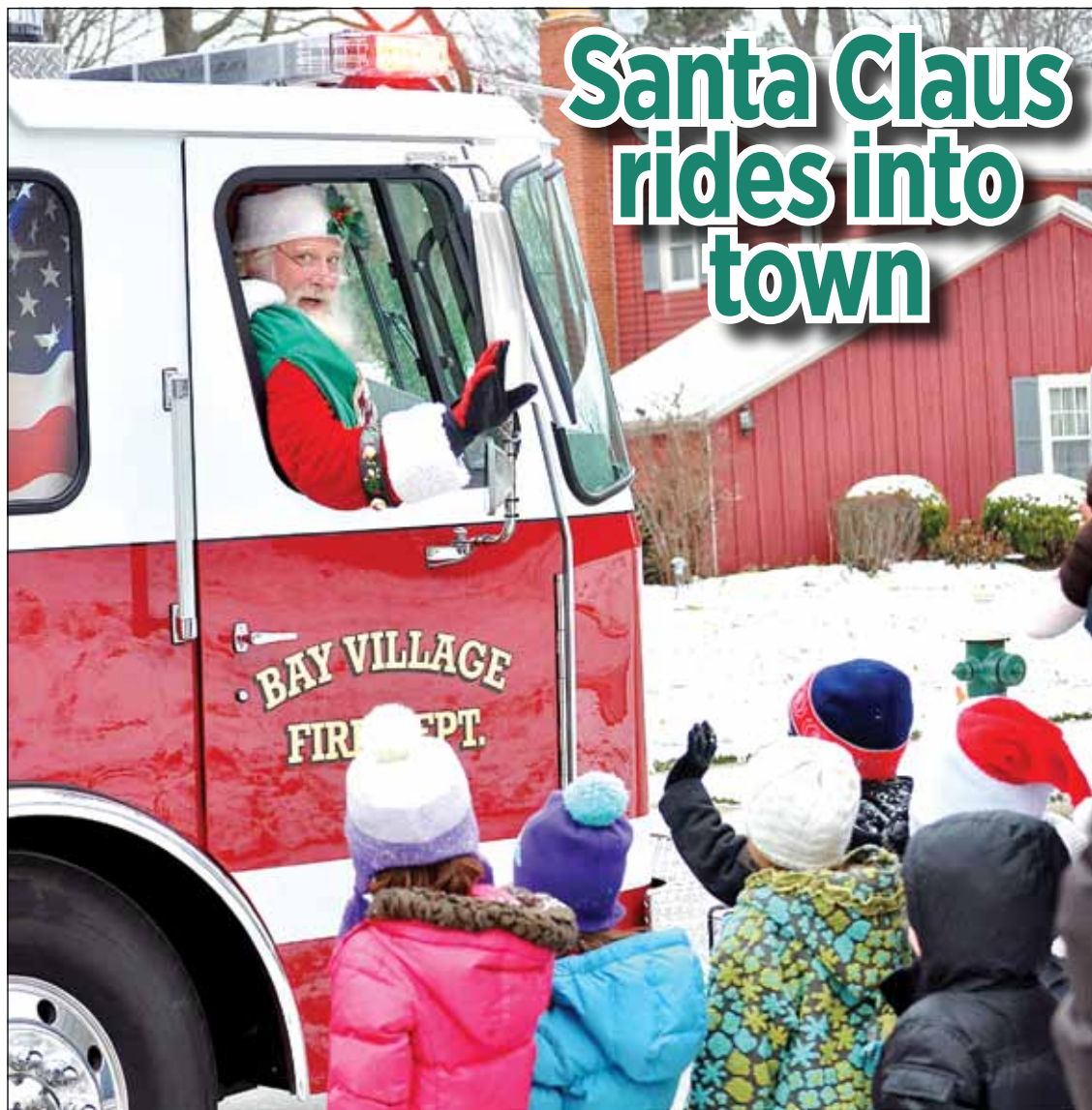


PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Hundreds came out to greet Santa Claus as he rode through the streets Bay Village in the city's new fire engine on his way to a Christmas celebration at Cahoon Memorial Park on Dec. 8. More photos, page 4.

Donate to those in need at this time of giving

by SHARON FEDOR

Over the years, the small in number, but large on helping and caring, Outreach Team of Unity Spiritual Center Westlake, have donated to many charitable organizations. Among them have been Malachi House where wish-list items were collected and donated at "Christmas in July."

In addition, we've collected items from the wish-list of Laura's Home, sponsored a diaper drive, distributed turkeys and hams on the near West Side of Cleveland, donated to three animal sanctuaries through a Pet Blessing, tutored reading in elementary schools, and collected cloth-

ing and personal necessities for Lutheran Men's Ministries.

This year, like Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, we decided to look no further than home, and selected Westlake Community Service Department's Food Bank as one of our designated charities. We learned that the Westlake Food Bank donates holiday baskets to the needy, and gives a three-day emergency supply of non-perishable food and goods in situations of need.

After hearing what the Food Bank did, we selected it, along with Providence House, a crisis center for infants and children, as one of our two favorite charities for this season's joyful giving. It's easy to give to the Food Bank,

this yearlong project will accept non-perishable food items at Unity, 23855 Detroit Road, Westlake, which will be dropped off to the Westlake Center on Hillard Boulevard.

You don't have to be a member of USC to donate, stop by, say hello and do something nice for others. The donation box is located inside across from the church's main office. Non-perishable food items like peanut butter, pasta and apple-sauce are always great, but consider everyday needs like bath soap, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaners, pet foods and vitamins that low-income families greatly need.

» See UNITY page 6

Westlake, Bay Village join forces for Westshore Relay For Life

by AMY BREDIGER

It is an honor for me to be teaming up with Tom Jel-epis of Bay Village to bring you the Westshore Relay For Life. I will continue on this year as Event Chair with Tom by my side as Event Co-Chair. We are going to work hard to get both cities involved with Relay again.

Tom is a resident of Bay Village, former mayor and cancer survivor. He spoke at the Westlake Relay last year and was an inspiration for so many. He shared his story and gave us all hope.

Our other BIG announcement is that we are moving to an earlier date and will be back at Westlake High School. Our Relay this year will start on Saturday, May 31, at 2 p.m. and end the next morning, Sunday, June 1, at 8 a.m. We know that being back at the high school is going to be great, but also want to thank



the Westlake Rec Center for helping us get through the last few years when we desperately need a home for the Relay. A sincere thanks to them – we so appreciate all you have done for us.

Our official Westshore Relay kick-off meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. in the second-floor classroom of the Westlake Rec Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd. We are looking for students, residents, survivors and volunteers to attend this meeting and get this season's Relay off to a great start.

» See RELAY page 4

Bay Food Ministry, a quarter-century of service

by ERIC PETERSON

The Bay Food Ministry is beginning its 25th year of service as a local food pantry. Founded in 1989 as a joint venture ministry of Bay Presbyterian Church, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and Saint Raphael Catholic Church, BFM today operates out of Bay Presbyterian Church.

Clients of BFM all fall under State of Ohio income guidelines and include families with children, seniors – including several residing in the Knickerbocker Apartments, single parents and individuals who have found themselves in challenging situations. Food distribution day is held on the last Friday of each month, with clients receiving a three-day supply of food.

BFM historically relied

upon donations of food to stock the pantry but in 2008 BFM affiliated with the Cleveland Foodbank and today purchases most of its food through that source.

On distribution days, clients come to Bay Presbyterian's Auburn Hall which is set up like a grocery store where they can select canned goods, cereal, pasta, frozen meats, snacks, toiletries, dairy products and other items. The selection changes each month based upon the food supply offered by the Cleveland Foodbank.

During 2013, the Food Ministry each month has served on average more than 80 households representing 200-plus people, mostly from Bay Village but also residents of Westlake, Lakewood and five other nearby communities.

» See BFM
page 4



Thanks for a great year

As the calendar winds down with this final issue of the year and we set our sights on revving back up in January, all of us at the Observer wish to send a special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who have helped create, edit and distribute the community's newspaper over the last 12 months. We are also grateful to our civic-minded advertisers, whose financial support makes each issue possible. And of course, to the many thousands of readers who make the Observer the most popular newspaper in our community. Happy holidays, Westlake and Bay Village. See you in 2014!

Search for Ohio Rose candidates underway

by KATHY LUENGO

Tis surely December when wee folk look skyward to catch a glimpse of Santa's sleigh and Ohio's "Rose Centre" amps up recruitment of eligible entrants of Irish ancestry for the Northern Ohio Rose Centre's spring selection event.

The maiden chosen as the "2014 Ohio Rose" receives an expense-paid trip in May to The Rose of Tralee International Festival's Regional Finals in Portlaoise, Ireland, the second tier of the search for the 2014 International Rose of Tralee.

In August the festival hosts those who qualify as finalists in Tralee where The Rose of Tralee International Festival is held amid public celebrations, parades and special events.

Locally and abroad, the Ohio Rose will have the experience of a lifetime while receiving celebrity status.

Enjoying the selection process amid friendly competition provides a grand occasion for participants at every level to showcase their poise, warmth, acumen, wit and charm, all attributes reflecting their "beauty within."

The festival is based on William Pembroke Mulchinook's ballad "The Rose of Tralee," a story of unrequited love between the son of wealthy parents and a young maid in their employ. The spirit of the festival embraces the essence of his attraction: "Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me; Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning."



PHOTO BY DENISE MCCONVILLE

2013 Ohio Rose Kelsey Higgins greets listeners during her Nov. 10 appearance on Gerry Quinn's Irish Radio.

The local Rose selection is the annual fundraiser for Westlake World Partners Co., the non-profit organization supporting educational, cultural and civic exchange between Westlake and its Sister Cities of Tralee, Ireland, and Kingsville, Ontario, Canada.

Those interested in learning more may visit The Rose of Tralee International Festival's website: www.roseoftralee.ie where information specific to the Ohio Centre can be found under "Centres," USA, Ohio. The Northern Ohio application packet contains detailed instructions and requirements. It is also avail-

able on the "Northern Ohio Rose" Facebook page as are Rose Centre updates. Applications for the April 25, 2014, local Rose selection event at LaCentre must be received by March 21, 2014.

"What's up" with the recent Ohio Roses you may ask?

Bridget Linton, 2011 Ohio Rose who graduated from The University of Akron in mass communications and sports management, was co-emcee for last year's selection and is thrilled to have been chosen as the newest Fox Sports Ohio Girl!

Ashley Speaker, 2012 Ohio Rose, is pursuing a master's degree at Ashland University and is an active volunteer for the Northern Ohio Rose Centre where her contributions are significant.

Kelsey Higgins, 2013 Ohio Rose, a senior at Ohio University, is among this year's Roses invited to join a Festival delegation to visit the Vesnova Children's Mental Asylum in Belarus. She is more than halfway toward meeting her fundraising goal for her February trip.

Annie Dunn, 2009 Ohio Rose (selected prior to the Northern Ohio Rose Centre's formation), is a local Sherwin-Williams store manager who has volunteered for every Northern Ohio Rose Centre's selection event.

Jingle jingle, might the sleigh man with the rosy cheeks send a Rose our way? Might you? ●

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The Westlake | Bay Village Observer is a hyperlocal community newspaper and website written by, for and about the residents of Westlake and Bay Village, providing perspectives and information about topics and events in our community. The mission of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer is to inform, involve and energize the community through citizen participation of 600+ community volunteers.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer staff.

Observer Guidelines

Want to submit an article to the Observer? We'd love to hear from you! Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when writing for the Observer:

- Anyone who lives or works in Westlake or Bay Village is encouraged to contribute.
- Aim for 300-500 word articles.
- Photos should be jpegs & a minimum of 2 megabytes in size.
- Submit original stories and photos. Don't copy others' work and remember to credit your sources.
- Review our Observer FAQs on our website at: wbvobserver.com
- Ask questions! We're here to help you at every step along the way. Don't hesitate to come to us for advice or help with topics, content or the submission process. Staff contact information is listed below.

To join in, sign up through the Member Center at wbvobserver.com/members to submit your stories, photos and events. All content should be submitted through the Member Center, not by email.

Letters to the editor (max. 300 words) may be sent to tara@wbvobserver.com. Please include full contact information.

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RELAY *from front page*

We have committee spots to fill, info to get out and team registration to discuss. We will also share ideas, play games and enjoy light snacks. So mark your calendars and come to the meeting and help us start off this year's Relay with a bang!

To all businesses out there, we are in need of sponsors and you can contact me or Tom (details below) for more information on becoming a part of this amazing organization that helps fight for a cure that so many people are praying for.

I can never finish an article without mentioning my dad. He is the reason I do this and his fight was not only to save himself but others. Christmas is coming up fast and I am constantly thinking about how this is our first Christmas without him – how the grandkids still ask for him, family members and friends still tip-toe around my mom, sister and I as we approach the one-year anniversary of his death.

However this was also my dad's favorite holiday and it will be the last "first" for us, so we are pulling it together for the kids and praying for other families that are experiencing the same thing this year. Our thoughts are certainly with you.

Hope to see you soon and a very Merry Christmas to all. ●

Please contact us with any questions: Amy Brediger, event chair, 440-666-0662, aebrediger@gmail.com; Tom Jelepis, event co-chair, 440-773-9912, tjelepis@gmail.com; or check out our website at www.relayforlife.org/westlake.

BAY FOOD MINISTRY *from front page*

In addition to food donations that come directly from church members and the community, BFM has enjoyed partnerships and special support from Saint Raphael School, Metro-West Kiwanis, Bay Community Garden, the Village Project, Bay High School's Key Club and other area organizations.

BFM has more than 30 regular volunteers including John and Ginny Hansen of Lakewood who have served as BFM coordinators since the food pantry began. Mary Hildebrandt, Director of Congregational Care Ministry at Bay Presbyterian, says, "The Bay Food Ministry is open to any resident of Bay Village as well as any member of Bay Presbyterian Church."

One client at last month's BFM food distribution day said, "It means a great deal to me to have access to this food at the end of the month. They always seem to have a wide variety to choose from and the volunteers are always friendly and helpful and I really appreciate it."

Bay Food Ministry will happily accept donations of any unexpired non-perishable food items – but there is a regular need for brand name cereal, peanut butter, pasta and spaghetti sauce and cans of tuna. Donated items can be placed in BFM-marked bins at the main entrance of Bay Presbyterian Church.

If you have questions about the Bay Food Ministry, please contact Mary Hildebrandt at Bay Presbyterian Church, 440-871-3822. All personal inquiries are confidential. ●



PHOTOS BY DENNY WENDELL

Santa leads the crowd in singing Christmas carols at Cahoon Memorial Park on Dec. 8 as part of an old-fashioned Christmas event sponsored by the Bay Village Historical Society and the Bay Kiwanis. See more photos of the event at westlakebayvillageobserver.com/photoblogs.



Tom Meyrose reads "The Night Before Christmas" to a packed crowd in the Community House as part of an old-fashioned Christmas event put on by the Bay Village Historical Society and Bay Kiwanis on Dec. 8.

Pictures with Santa!

JOIN US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON FOR A FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA

- Make your own Christmas picture frame
- Pizza provided by Jet's Westlake
- Cookies from Kathy's Pastries & Kolackes
- Hot chocolate and more!

Help us support the Cleveland Food bank and Toys for Tots by donating a non-perishable food item or an unwrapped toy.

Saturday, December 14
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- Cleveland Jewish News' review of 2012 production

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THE DIGITAL WORLD

Playing Santa’s elf in the digital world

by TAK SATO

Mr. Claus, aka Santa, has it easy. Sipping eggnog as he gets the dashboard report of who is naughty and who is nice. Elves, on the other hand, frantically run around packing the sleigh. Are you wearing pointy boots and a green party hat with your elf outfit this holiday season?

As wonderful as technology can be, and I truly am passionate about the potential that it holds to help people, it can be “intimidating” to many. I know at least two people who have turned around and sold the new laptop they received from well-meaning family members who wanted them to embrace the digital world. They didn’t sell them because they already had a computer nor because they needed cash; they sold their laptops because they didn’t know where to start!

So my fellow Elves with good intentions of bringing someone into the digital world by gifting a computer, I have a tip for you: consider gifting a tablet instead.

Intuitiveness of a tablet, the “power of one” finger I’ll be talking about in a future article, really does make a difference. Minimizing the intimidation factor by replacing complexity, perceived or otherwise, with intuitiveness of use should make a difference in the acceptance factor. I’ve learned that tasks such as setting up an email address may intimidate someone to a point of paralysis due to the perceived complexity, so setting things up prior to gifting also helps. I know I am over-simplifying but what if they open their gift and the only thing they do is to start enjoying it?

Case in point ... my dad has always been the “tinkerer” and it was easier for him to embrace technology; my mom, to this day, will not touch a computer. However everything changed when my brother gave them his old iPhone. My mom saw how less intimidating the touch screen interface was compared to the mouse and keyboard apparatus. That, combined with my brother setting up the necessary email account and the Skype account before giving the iPhone to them, made it more enticing for her to try.

The above phenomenon repeated with my in-laws, living a lifestyle far from technology in the Philippines, when we gifted them a pre-configured tablet (my in-laws never owned a computer and the village didn’t even have a telephone until the late ‘80s). Within a matter of days, literally, my father-in-law started using the tablet to communicate with us through video chat. No wonder tablets are outselling personal computers as it is more intuitive for everyone, whether technologically savvy or averse!

Finally lets always remember the less fortunate, holidays or otherwise, because they also need an Elf to brighten their holidays. Participate in one of the programs ran by area nonprofits where you can be an Elf to a kid who, without your generosity and your kindness, might not get any gift this holiday season. Happy holidays! ●

Next issue’s topic: “If Charlton Heston carried a tablet down Mt. Sinai...”

Tak welcomes reader feedback and technology questions. You may send them to editor@wbvobserver.com.

MUSINGS FROM THE MIDDLE

Remembering Mandela

by AUDREY RAY

Nelson Mandela, at age 95, died on Dec. 5, 2013. He was the first president of South Africa after apartheid ended, and he fought for equal rights for his people during the apartheid era. When I was in South Africa, I learned more about what Mandela meant to his country and what an important person he was. He was sick and in the hospital while I was there, and many people thought that he was going to pass away sooner. I thought he might die while we were there and wondered how the country might react.

I wish I could have met Nelson Mandela. He was an amazing man. He spent 27 years in jail because he was convicted for organizing strikes against the government. After spending years behind bars, the apartheid government offered to free Mandela, but he refused because he wanted the government to end apartheid. He’d rather stay in jail while apartheid continued because he wasn’t really free under apartheid.

The fact that he stayed in jail all those years to help his people is really impressive. He must have been really dedicated to his people and ending apartheid. Most people probably would have given up just to get out of jail.

Mandela negotiated a peaceful end to apartheid and helped create a new constitution that gave everyone in the country equal rights. He also forgave the apartheid leaders and his jailers. It must have been extremely hard to forgive the people who kept him locked up. He lost so much of his life because of them.

It made South Africa stronger when Mandela forgave them. I bet it was easier for other people to forgive because of Mandela’s example.

I’ve been listening to reports from leaders around the world reacting to his death. He was a huge role model not only for South Africa but for everyone in the entire world. I wonder if we will ever see another person like Mandela who is willing to give up so much for something as important as ending apartheid. ●

A toast to ‘Auld Lang Syne’

by EILEEN VERNON

Scotland produced many of the great thinkers and teachers of the 18th and 19th centuries at a time when it was the poorest, smallest country in Europe (roughly the size of Rhode Island). As a student, I learned about this influence and I wrote a thesis on the subject in 1973, “The Scottish Philosophy and Its Influence on Pre-Civil War America.”

Time has passed but interest in this subject hasn’t. So I couldn’t resist buying the 2001 book “How the Scots Invented the Modern World and Everything in It” by Arthur Herman. Herman explores the breadth and depth of Scottish influence on the modern world. This article explores the contributions of many strong, smart and influential Scots.

First, Scotsman Adam Smith’s “The Wealth of Nations” became the basis of early American economics. It doesn’t stop there. You will immediately recognize the names of world famous writers such as Sir Walter Scott, Daniel Defoe, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns. Another famed Scottish writer, Edward Gibbon, authored “The Rise and fall of the Roman Empire” and in the 18th century the University of Edinburgh published the first Encyclopedia Britannica and brought us innovators like Alexander Graham Bell, Samuel Morse (Morse Code) and James Watt (perfected the steam engine).

Part of the explanation, says Herman, was that during this period European countries were engaged in war and most of their energy and resources were spent defending their colonies. While in Scotland, education dominated the scene. The Scots were training doctors, scientists, economists and philosophers. Herman says, “The Scots were smart, self-motivated and

scrappy.” They fought for independence from England. Despite the fact that England won, the Scots never lost their spirit.

Many of the successful, urban, educated Scots immigrated in the late 1700s to the United States. The Highland Scots, who were mostly farmers, were not as well educated. Many left for Northern Ireland when their land was taken over; while some were offered land grants, others needed jobs. Many of these Scots, known as the Scotch-Irish, settled in Appalachia.

Intellectuals, notably moral philosophers Thomas Reid, Francis Hutchinson, David Hume and John Witherspoon, were renowned teachers. Witherspoon, a co-writer and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was recruited from Scotland to be the first president of Princeton University. We’ve all heard about Andrew Carnegie (steel) and Thomas Lipton (tea).

For Clevelanders, the first car ever built here was built by Scotsman Alexander Winton; hence, the large W on top of Winton Place in Lakewood. Who can dispute the importance in U.S. history of Patrick Henry, Daniel Boone and presidents James Polk, Andrew Jackson and Woodrow Wilson, all descended from Scots.

Space is limited here, but I’ll leave you with some interesting facts from Herman’s book. Of the original 13 colonies, nine of the governors were Scots. More than one-third of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Scots. And just as I was finishing this article, I read in the November issue of “This Week” magazine, the Scottish song “Auld Lang Syne” (written by Robert Burns in 1788) is sung on New Year’s Eve in every English-speaking country.

Great Scot! ●

Join in at www.wbvobserver.com

Dwyer Center launches jingle contest

by DEBBIE BOCK

*There once was a senior from Bay
Who dropped in at Dwyer one day.
He found there’s fun to be had!
Old age ain’t so bad!
Why not come in to laugh and to play?*

From its modest beginning at the start of commercial radio in the 1920s, the advertising jingle is that catchy, short song designed to stick in your memory. Jingles really became an art form with the advent of television in the 1950s, and have been a part of America’s advertising landscape ever since.

The Dwyer Senior Center invites you to write a jingle for us. It could be about the center, one of the services or activities we provide or a little ditty about growing older. It could be sung to a familiar tune, or just be a short or long poem.

Here are some examples:
“I wish I were a Bay Village senior,

that is what I’d truly like to be ... For if I were a Bay Village senior, Mary Beth would be there to transport me!”

“Hold the salt, hold the lettuce, special orders don’t upset us! All we ask is that you let us do it your way. Have it your way, have it your way, have it your way with Bay Village Meals on Wheels!”

“The best part of waking up ... is coffee in your cup – at the Dwyer Center!”

OK, now that you get the idea, send us your jingle to Dwyer Center Jingle Contest, 300 Bryson Lane, Bay Village, OH 44140 no later than Friday, Jan. 31.

The winner will be announced at our Valentine’s Luncheon on Friday, Feb. 14, at which time the FABULOUS prize will be awarded!

Please include your name and phone number on all entries. Top entries will be published in The Observer. ●

UNITY

continued from front page

Would you, could you deny a child an oatmeal cookie if they asked you for one? We, the Outreach Team can hear you saying no, I would help a hungry child. That's exactly what Providence House does, and much more. Located on West 32nd Street in Cleveland, for over 32 years they have helped infants, children and families in crisis.

They provide safe, nurturing, short-term care for children 10 and under, while working with parents in a supportive way towards gaining wellness. At-risk children have their physical, emotional and edu-

cational needs provided for, while parents are respected and provided with education and resources.

It's easy to give to the children of Providence House – stop by our giving tree in USC's Hall and take a bulb off the tree. Each bulb has an item from the wish list of Providence House. When you're out holiday shopping for your family, think of the children spending the holidays away from theirs, yet nurtured through this time of crisis at Providence House.

Return the item to USC, the Outreach Team will do the rest! The last day to donate is Dec. 22 by noon.

Oatmeal cookies greatly needed and appreciated. ●

Winter programs at Bay Rec

by CARLY BANASIAK

Register for any of our programs online at www.cityof-bayvillage.com or visit the Recreation Office, 400 Bryson Lane. Questions? Call us at 440-871-6755.

HOLIDAY FUN DAY

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon at the Bay Village Community Gym. Ring in the holidays with Bay Rec! Visit with Santa, and enjoy fun crafts and tasty treats. Free for residents!

HOLIDAY BASKET CLINIC (GRADES 2-8)

January 2 and 3, 9 a.m. to noon at the Bay Village Community Gym. Boys and girls will be divided by age and skill level. Fee: \$50; \$65/non-resident.

PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME

Spend your mornings with Bay Rec! Tumble mats, bouncing balls! A perfect opportunity to get your child out of the house, release some energy and make new friends! Parent supervision required. Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday, 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Location: Community Gym. Fee: \$2/child; \$4/non-resident.

CREATIVE CUPCAKES

Let your child's creativity shine in this cupcake decorating class! Students will learn how to decorate festive cupcakes for the holidays and bring their tasty artwork home to share. All supplies included. Location: Bay Lodge. Fee: \$28/session; \$43/non-resident.

Christmas Cupcakes: Saturday, Dec. 14; Ages 5-8, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Ages 9 and up, noon-1:30 p.m.

YOUTH YOGA

This full body workout will build your child's strength and flexibility! Session: Jan. 15-Feb. 5. Time: Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. Location: Police Station Community Room. Fee: \$40; \$55/non-resident.

AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH TENNIS (GRADES K-8)

Hold off on the homework and burn off some extra end of the day energy! Session: Jan. 6-Feb. 3 (no class Jan. 20). Times: Mondays and

Thursdays, 2:15-3:10 p.m. (Grades 3-4), 3:10-4:05 p.m. (Grades K-2), 4:05-5 p.m. (Grades 5-8). Location: Westerly School Gym. Fee: \$70; \$75/non-resident.

CREATIVE DRAMA

Dramatic exercises are tailored to meet the needs of the individual student. Session: Tuesday, Jan. 14-Feb. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Location: Bay Lodge. Fee: \$60; \$75/non-resident.

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Beat cabin fever with this year-round class! Increase your energy level, help lower body fat, tone your muscles and relieve stress. Times: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10 a.m. Location: Community Gym. Drop-in rate: \$7/class; \$8/non-resident.

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Join the biggest dance/aerobic craze! Monday evenings, 7-8 p.m., at Dwyer Center; Thursday mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Community Gym; Thursday evenings, 7-8 p.m., at Bay Middle School Gym. Drop-in Rate: \$7/class; \$8/non-resident.

KINDERGARTEN HOOPS

Season: Tuesday evenings, Jan.7-Feb. 25. Fee: \$68; \$88/non-resident. Location: Community Gym. Registration deadline: Dec. 13 (late fee \$10).

1ST & 2ND GRADE BASKETBALL

Learn the fundamentals of basketball in a fun recreational environment. Season: Jan. 8-Feb. 27; Wednesday evenings (1st grade) and Thursday evenings (2nd grade). Location: Community Gym/BMS Gym. Fee: \$68; \$88/non-resident. Deadline: Dec. 13 (late fee \$10). ●

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Incoming councilman eager to serve

I would like to thank my neighbors in Ward 2 for their vote of confidence to elect me as their representative for Westlake City Council. I also want to express appreciation to everyone who endorsed me and worked tirelessly on my campaign. No one wins an election by themselves. It requires grassroots supporters and a team effort. I look forward to continuing to build strong relationships with my neighbors, Mayor Clough, City Council President Michael Killeen and fellow city council members.

We live in a great community. I'm passionate about Westlake and look forward to continue my community service on city council. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting more of my neighbors during my campaign and listening to input on ward and city issues. I believe that I have a good sense of the key issues and I'm ready to roll up my shirt sleeves and work hard on your behalf.

I have always attended city council meetings and will continue to do so until I'm sworn in in January. As you know, the proposal to switch water suppliers from the city of Cleveland to Avon Lake is a promi-

nent activity for Westlake at this time. I urge you to keep abreast of the facts by visiting the city's website at www.cityofwestlake.org.

My promise is to continue to engage my ward neighbors and work hard on our behalf on issues which we face. The most important issue for me is to represent the rights and concerns of our ward and the city of Westlake. I want to ensure that our tax dollars are used responsibly and maintain the sense of pride in Westlake by helping to envision a plan to keep our city moving forward, ensuring future stability and growth.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the ward's voice on city council. I look forward to keeping in touch with my constituents and ask them to connect with me in whatever manner is most comfortable: call me, text me, email me, knock on my door. I can be reached at: Nunnari4Westlake@gmail.com, 440-263-2215, or via Facebook at facebook.com/ElectNickCNunnari.

Enjoy the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Nick C. Nunnari

Councilman Elect, Westlake Ward 2

Huntington Playhouse closes season with 'A Producer's Christmas Carol'

by TOM MEYROSE

Huntington Playhouse concludes their 2013 season with a production of "A Producer's Christmas Carol," adapted from the book by Charles Dickens. It runs through Dec. 22 with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings and a Sunday matinee on Dec. 22 at 2 p.m.

A producer at a local community theatre is trying to cast a production of "A Christmas Carol" and it is not going well. Actors are busy doing other shows, or just not interested in doing a show during the holiday season. Faced with the possibility of canceling the show, the beleaguered

producer elects to do the show by himself. The show features Huntington Playhouse managing director Tom Meyrose as the producer facing this challenge. It is a unique telling of this Christmas classic.

The theatre is also selling gift certificates and Flex Passes for the 2014 theatre season. Shows scheduled for production are: "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged," "Catch Me If You Can: The Musical," "No Sex Please, We're British," "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," Agatha Christie's "Murder at the Vicarage" and the holiday show will be "It's A Wonderful Life."

Contact the box office for information and arrangements, 440-871-8333. ●

READER'S OPINION

Old-Fashioned Values

by JOANNE RUBINO

I am on the desperate outskirts of middle age. Perhaps I am feeling it more so than usual as today is my birthday. I am also giving myself a bit of a pity party today owing to the fact that I have a terrible head cold.

After a sleepless night, I summoned the last of my energy reserves and made a drug store run for cough syrup. As I struggled homeward, I felt duty bound to stop and make my excuses for an event which I had promised to attend. Ever mindful of the contagion factor, I merely stopped at this person's doorway and made my apologies. The duration of this stop was about 30 seconds. She looked at my sick self and indicated she was afraid of catching whatever I had and shut the door. I felt like Typhoid Mary.

I picked my jaw from the floor, bit back my retort and headed home. As I dosed my cold I pondered this encounter. I thought this person quite lacking in manners. I lectured myself, thinking that because I wasn't feeling well I might have overreacted. Taking note of my advancing age I warned myself not to be a crotchety old lady.

Just then there came a knock on my door. There stood a young man who had gone out of his way to do me a kindness. He had brought over a box of tissues and said, "Take good care of yourself." I took myself back to my easy chair, smiled and thought about the difference in people. Maybe I wasn't overreacting to the first encounter. Somewhere in the recesses of my congested consciousness I heard my grandmother say, "There is never an excuse for bad manners." Thanks, Gran, for teaching me the value of common courtesy. ●



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BAY VILLAGE CITY SCHOOLS

WBVO editor honored by Bay Village Schools, Ohio School Boards Association

by KAREN DERBY

Tara Wendell, senior editor of the Westlake | Bay Village Observer, was honored at a recent Kiwanis meeting with The OSBA Media Honor Roll award for her excellence in working with the Bay Village City School District.

Schools superintendent Clint Keener presented the award, which states it is given for "fair and balanced education reporting, and exemplary service to our community."

"Tara does a truly fine job of covering our annual State of the Schools presentation, with photos and quotes for each speaker. Her articles drive lots of traffic to our website, and people do watch the videos!" said Keener.

He added that Wendell also works with a number of Bay Village Schools students who like to write and publish under their own bylines. "It is a great opportunity for our students," he said.

The Westlake | Bay Village Observer recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. It has grown considerably, having




Tara Wendell receives the Ohio School Boards Media Honor Roll award from Superintendent of Bay Village Schools, Clint Keener.

over 600 community journalists contribute, since it was started in 2008 by Tara Wendell and her father, Denny Wendell.

"We can always count on Tara to make room for the good news stories coming out of our school district," said Keener. "We know our residents love the paper, and we now rely on it for reaching many of them on a regular basis."


Wendell's award was also covered recently in the Ohio School Boards Association monthly magazine, Journal. ●



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FEATURED STUDENT: Jack Rodman

Featuring some of our communities' great high school students.

by KAREN DERBY

Bay High junior Jack Rodman likes to tinker. The aspiring mechanical/aerospace engineer likes to take apart and fix mechanical items, a skill which undoubtedly serves him well in his lawn mowing and snow removal business. He also likes to build things, and he recently completed a new bookshelf for his bedroom.

A vice president of Bay High's Student Council and a member of the National Honor Society, Jack has also played on Bay High's boys golf team for three years. He is a member of the school's A Cappella Choir and Bay High's Choraleers, a selective, auditioned group for those serious about singing and performing difficult music at a high level.

Outside of school, Jack is an active

member of Sea Scouts, a branch of the Boy Scouts of America that is focused on boat management, seamanship and water safety. He has also participated in the Appalachia Service Project to help rebuild and winterize homes of rural, low-income families, and he has done that work in Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. In addition, he serves on the Bay United Methodist Church Youth Council.

Bay High principal Jason Martin sees Jack as having the precise attributes that make a leader. "Jack is a student who has great spirit and pride in his school," said Martin. "He is active in many organizations and takes an active leadership role in these groups. Jack exemplifies what we look for in student leaders, and it is a privilege to have him as a student at Bay High."

On those occasions when Jack wants to just kick back and have some fun, he'll often get together a game of Ultimate Frisbee with his friends. He

also loves to go skiing. But, as of yet, you won't find him on social media, since he "finds it awkward" to talk about himself.

Jack is already looking at colleges that will help him attain his career goals, and he wants an environment that matches his own penchant to hold himself to high standards. "I thought that might be a small school," he said. "But really the best engineering schools are larger because they need more resources." He has looked at the University of Michigan, the University of Dayton and Case Western Reserve University. He plans a trip to Cornell University with his parents, Bridget and John, and perhaps his older sister Colleen, a 2013 Bay High graduate.

"We may be able to sneak in a ski trip when we visit Cornell," he said, noting the school is close to the ski resort, Bristol Mountain.

Wherever he goes to college, Jack knows exactly the type of job he'd like to tackle after graduation. "Have you



Jack Rodman, Bay High junior, wants to work on cutting-edge aviation technology.

ever heard of Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works?" he asked. "They work on the best, top-secret aeronautical technology. I would love to be one of the engineers who help develop the next propulsion system, something different from the jet propulsion system that's been in use since the 1940s. It might be magnetic, or who knows? That's what I want to be a part of." ●

WHS senior scores perfect 36 on ACT

by KIM BONVISSUTO

Westlake High School senior Krish Shah scored a perfect 36 on the ACT test given last spring. Fewer than 1/10th of one percent of the average 1.6 million students who take the ACT annually earn

a top score of 36. This is the eighth time in five years a WHS student has earned a perfect score on the test.

Krish is a National Merit Semifinalist and was part of the Westlake Demons boys tennis team that swept the Southwestern Conference Tournament last spring. The team earned the title of Tournament Champions and Krish won his third singles title.

As a sophomore, Krish won the Omnitek Best Sensors/Medical IT Gold Award through the Case Western Reserve University Diamond Lab in the Department of Chemical Engineering. He was a 2012

& Engineering Fair in the chemistry category. He also won first place in the special awards category for his project that demonstrated electrochemical detection of nitric oxide using a diamond electrode.

Krish plans to study pre-medicine and work toward receiving both an MD and an MBA at a yet-to-be-determined college or university. ●



WHS senior Krish Shah

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Give back by fixing up bikes for tikes

by DONNA WILSON

Thanks to all the people who stopped by the Village Bicycle Cooperative on Dec. 8 to make bracelets, votive candle holders and star ornaments from unusable bike parts. It was a great way to socialize and utilize the bike parts that have been donated by generous people.

If you are interested in learning more about bicycle maintenance and repair, a great way to do so is by starting on children's bicycles. Under the skilled help of the VBC technicians, you will learn quickly. It is also a great way to give back during the holiday season because the refurbished bicycles will be donated to the Salvation Army and St. Raphael's Church to be given to needy children. Village Bicycle Cooperative has donated 21 bikes in the last three weeks to charitable organizations.

Volunteer hours are Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. at VBC, located on the ground floor of the Bay Community House at 303 Cahoon Road. The website is www.village-bicycle.org.

Upcoming events are being planned for 2014 and we could use

people skilled in communication and business to help organize these events. Further information on this will be coming.

Thanks to all who have volunteered this year. We want to wish all of you a wondrous, adventuresome and peaceful holiday and wishes for many miles of open road and clear skies in 2014. ●



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

Tessa Knapp, 6, looks on as her aunt, Lauren Ticak, and grandma, Eileen Sebold, all of Bay Village, disassemble a bike chain to make a candle holder at the VBC on Dec. 8.

Westlake and Bay Village students share their seasonal traditions

The holiday season has arrived, with all of the magic and wonder that make this time of year so special. It is a time for rejoicing, connecting with loved ones and creating memories that will last a lifetime. In keeping with the Observer's annual last-issue-of-the-year tradition, Mrs. Martha Fisher of Westerly Elementary School in Bay Village and Mrs. Melissa Graham of Bassett Elementary School in Westlake asked their students to share favorite family traditions. These are some of their responses.

Setting up the Christmas Tree

by Brian B., 4th grade, Bassett

Every year, a few weeks before Christmas, my family puts up a Christmas tree. Sometimes we put up a real tree and sometimes an artificial tree. This year we put up a real tree! First we go to the basement and bring up all of the bins that hold the Christmas ornaments.

Then, we sort the ornaments into seven piles, one pile for each family member. My whole family puts the lights on the tree together and then we go in the kitchen and get some candy canes. We each hang our pile of ornaments and candy canes on the tree. My parents wrap an ornament for each of my siblings and we get to unwrap the ornaments on that day. Lastly, we hang our new ornaments on the tree. The tree looks really cool when we are finished decorating!



These are my Christmas Traditions

by Elizabeth H., 3rd grade, Westerly

I have two elves on the shelves. Do you know about the elf on the shelf? They are elves that come at Thanksgiving and stay till Christmas and every night they fly back to



Santa and tell if you're good or bad and in the morning they hide so you have to find them. You can't touch them though, and they can't go in water, and you can get them at Barnes and Noble. They are my favorite thing about Christmas because I am an only child and there are not many kids on my street. My elves keep me company and sometimes they stay two more days than they're supposed to. I also invite my best friend over to help decorate the tree and she brings her elf on the shelf. We put all three elves on the shelves while we decorate the tree. We then put all three elves in a basket and go to the zoo. My friend and I love it because the Christmas animals like the polar bear and seals are out. Santa and his reindeer are there. He is in the wolf lodge. The elves are my friends, and I love going. Mrs. Claus is also there giving out candy canes. This is my favorite tradition playing with my elves, and friend, decorating the tree, and going to the zoo to see Santa.



Christmas Eve Excitement!

by Emma K., 3rd grade, Westerly

Every year on Christmas Eve, my family and I go to the Saint Ladislav's evening mass!



When mass is finished, we head home and get out of our beautiful church clothes. We wait for my grandma and aunt to come over. When they arrive, they join us on the couch as we watch some football on television. When my mother and father are done preparing our yummy dinner and appetizers, they let us each open one present! I am always excited about this Christmas Eve tradition and I look forward to it every year!

The Start of a New Beginning!

by Reanne J., 4th grade, Bassett

My family has a party on New Year's Eve. First, we start by getting things ready the day before.

We bake chocolate chip cookies, pick out a special movie to watch and decide on a game to play. Some games we play are Sorry, chess, dominoes and a lot of other fun board games. My cousins, aunts and uncles all come over for the party. We enjoy eating desserts and get ready to watch the ball drop on television. We count down the seconds and right when it hits midnight, the new beginning starts. My family cheers and gives each other hugs. I enjoy staying up late and having fun. Happy Holidays!



My Family Christmas

by Michael B., 3rd grade, Westerly

We decorate inside and outside of the house right after Thanksgiving. My brother and sister and I all have our very own Christmas tree in our rooms. We make hundreds of cookies and give them out to all our neighbors. We love decorating the sugar cookies. We gather up all of the winter and Christmas themed books and put them in a basket by the light of the tree. We make homemade ornaments for our grandparents. We get to go caroling with Sophia and her friends. On Christmas Eve we go to Meme's and Pepe's house. The "Holiday Armadillo" always leaves presents for us there. We eat Meme's homemade pierogies. On Christmas morning we wake up and open all of our presents from Santa. Then later in the day we go to my Grandma's house for a huge dinner with lots of family. Most importantly, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve we go to the most beautiful mass at St. Charles. Everyone sings.

Sometimes us kids are so tired we fall asleep. We leave reindeer food, and milk and cookies for Santa.



Trash or Treasure

by Joey H., 3rd grade, Westerly

We have lots of Christmas traditions but this is my favorite one. We go to both of our grandmas' houses and we have a tradition called trash and treasure. My cousins come to grandma's house too. We have a real tree. All of Mom's relatives participate in trash and treasure. We all wrap up stuff we don't want any more and put it in a pile. Everybody picks a number to see who will pick the first present. After the first present is picked, the next person can choose whether to pick a new present or steal a present that has been opened. If your present is stolen you can go again. Once your present has been stolen three times, it can't be stolen again. When it is time to go home, we hide behind the house so we don't have to go!



The Ornament Exchange!

by Tess M., 4th grade, Bassett

Christmas is my favorite time of the year! You might think it's because of all the presents, by that's not it! I love Christmas because of the fun parties. My favorite party is an ornament exchange party. A few days before the party, we go out and buy a funny ornament for the party and wrap it in a box. My whole family goes to the ornament exchange and we eat a tasty dinner. Sometimes, I get to even help make dinner! We choose numbers that determine who will select an ornament first and then the numbers are called out from least to greatest. When your number is called, you go up and pick out a wrapped ornament. After all the numbers have been called, you open the box and see what kind of ornament you have! Last year I got a peanut butter and jelly sandwich ornament and I can't wait to hang it on my family's tree this year!



Christmas Traditions

by Iain R., 3rd grade, Westerly

Christmas is my favorite time of year. My family goes to see "The Nutcracker" with my mom's side of the family. We always go to the Christmas tree festival. I put my raffle ticket in the box to try to win a bunch of cool stuff like an Ohio State Buckeyes couch and an Xbox. We cut down a humongous tree and take a long time picking it out. Another thing we do is a caroling party and Santa comes and gives the girls rings or coloring books and the boys whoopee cushions. We have been caroling for four years now. We have around 100 people now. Caroling started out small for us, but it has gotten much bigger. This year I had an idea that we could go to the homeless shelter because my

DI group went there. We are doing a birthday in a box for that month's birthday. DI means Destination Imagination.

The Destination Imagination program encourages teams of learners to participate in different challenges from the arts to engineering to service learning. We are going to invite neighbors and friends. I hope Santa comes to the homeless shelter!



Diwali

by Manav A., 4th grade, Bassett

My family enjoys celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights! Diwali is not just one day but it's a five-day holiday! It occurs in October or November. We light 50 candles and put bright lights on our trees outside. The candles stay lit for five days! We pray for our new year goals and after we are done praying, we enjoy delicious Indian sweets such as Indian cake. Indian cake is similar to cheesecake. My family plays card games and my parents give us money to purchase a special gift. Diwali is a very exciting holiday because I get to spend time with my family!



A Very Yummy Christmas

by Jacob M., 3rd grade, Westerly

My family enjoys making gingerbread houses every year at a family friend's house. My uncles, aunts and grandparents all join us. Everybody brings different candy to add to their houses. When we arrive, the gingerbread is baking and it always smells delicious! When the gingerbread is cooled and ready, we glue our houses together with frosting. After the frosting is dry, we start to decorate our houses with candy. We use Twizzlers, M&M's, Swedish fish and Hershey bars. When we are done decorating, the gingerbread houses look beautiful! I always eat tons of candy while I'm working and am so full when we leave. Making gingerbread houses is my favorite family tradition!



My Christmas Traditions

by Annie D., 3rd grade, Westerly

Christmas is my favorite holiday. My favorite part of Christmas is the stuff I do. I like hiding the pickle ornament. The pickle is hidden by one person. The rest of the people try to find it. You hide the pickle on Christmas Eve. One year I hid it so well that my family didn't find it till Christmas. Another one of my favorite things to do is when my family and I wash our faces with money for luck. My parents believe that if you wash your face with money that your dreams will come true that night. I think that might be true. It's a mystery to me. I always love my mom's special breakfast. We eat it before we go to my grandma's house. It is made with eggs, sauces and bread. We go to my grandma's house for Kris Kringle. The year before you pick out of a hat to see who your Kris Kringle is and buy them a present. It is sort of like a secret Santa. These are the things I love about Christmas.



Happy Birthday, Grandma!

by Michael H., 4th grade, Bassett

My favorite family tradition is going to my grandma and grandpa's house on Dec. 24. We celebrate my



grandma's birthday and Christmas. Her real birthday is actually Dec. 25, but we celebrate it a day early. My cousin and I help my grandma set the table for dinner. When we are done helping, we play a board game until dinner is ready. At 5:00 we have dinner in the dining room on grandma's beautiful china dishes. After dinner, my grandpa brings in a cake with birthday candles. We sing "Happy Birthday" and enjoy some delicious cake and ice cream. We head over to the tree and exchange Christmas and birthday gifts. After opening gifts, the kids head outside for a giant snowball fight! Happy birthday, Grandma!

Christmas is My Favorite Time of Year

by Caroline F., 3rd grade, Westerly

My favorite holiday in the whole world is Christmas! I love all the traditions! I like the elf on the shelf! I have an elf on the shelf and his name is Clyde. I don't like the book though! Well I used to but my mom read it too much so it got old! One of my favorite family traditions is every Christmas we pick out the best Christmas tree. It has to be perfect! This year we are going to Costco. I know why my mom and dad say we are getting it from Costco – because they are cheap! Then we go shopping for ornaments. Usually we make our own. Last year for Christmas we made ornaments out of Popsicle sticks. I think this year I'm going to make ornaments out of rainbow loom! Rainbow loom is a rubber band bracelet maker. OK you still don't get it! You can make bracelets or charms or almost anything! Plus it is made out of rubber bands. I also go to church on Christmas Eve. Don't you love Christmas?



My Christmas Morning Tradition

by Cadence S., 4th grade, Bassett

My favorite Christmas tradition is when my grandparents, aunts and uncles all come over to my house on Christmas morning. We have a delicious breakfast with eggs, bacon, french toast and lots of other amazing food! My favorite part of the morning, though, is not the delicious breakfast, but opening presents! I always get some really fun presents! After we have opened all of the presents, we watch one of my favorite movies, "The Polar Express." While we enjoy watching the movie, we drink some of the creamiest hot chocolate! Yum! This is my favorite tradition this time of year.



Where the Fun Begins!

by Basheer A., 4th grade, Bassett

There is one very special day of the year and that day is New Year's Day! New Year's Day is where all the fun begins at my house. It's a special day because there is usually snow and I get to have a snow ball fight and build snowmen with my brother, sister, mom, dad, aunts and uncles. After we have played in the snow for a while and we begin to feel cold, we come inside and enjoy some great tasting hot chocolate and cookies. We warm ourselves by the fire and get to stay up really late! The



best part about New Year's Day is that I get to spend time with my family. What's your favorite family tradition?

Christmas Traditions

by Mateo B., 3rd grade, Westerly

For Christmas I go to Dayton and at night we go into the neighborhoods to look at all the lights. In the morning we make gingerbread houses. I make mine without a roof so I can make a bed in it. I make a sidewalk and a door out of gingerbread, or sometimes I use a Lego. I make a chocolate pool and gum drop trees. I use Hershey's for the sidewalk and make ice cream mountains. We set up the tree in the living room on Christmas Eve. I go to church in Dayton. It is very fun when I get a Lego set that is so big we can all build it together.



Christmas with Family

by Marie H., 4th grade, Bassett

Every year my grandparents take my brother, my six cousins and I to my grandma's work at The Gathering Place. At The Gathering Place, we join in on a Christmas celebration by getting our faces painted, eating great desserts, getting tattoos, making gingerbread houses and even singing Christmas carols with the piano player! We also watch some entertainment that usually includes jugglers, acrobats, dancers and magicians. We always have such a great day because my grandparents are so much fun!



My Christmas Traditions

by Maeve R., 3rd grade, Westerly

Christmas is my favorite time of year. Every year my family and I always go to a Christmas tree barn. We each pick out a Christmas ornament. Then we drink hot cocoa. The hot cocoa tastes like a warm chocolate bar melting in your mouth. After that we have lunch. Next we look around the store. The store has really cute Christmas decorations. Last year I picked out an ornament that had a puppy on it. Then we pick our tree. We always pick a big one. Then they put it in a machine that wraps it in rope. After that we put it on top of our car. I think it would be funny if the tree fell off of our car. We always have so much fun!



My sister, Dad and I always take a train to Tower City near Christmas. We dress warm because we get cold waiting for the train. We hang out and shop at all the fun stores. They sometimes have a play showing. We always go to the candy store. The candy store has lots of candy. We buy a present for my mom there. On the way home my sister Ava and I eat some of our candy. On Christmas Eve my cousins come to church with us. When we get home we play dress up, house, school, and lots of other games. We have dinner from a restaurant. We track Santa on our Santa tracker. He moves really fast. He can hit one house in one second and I am not kidding. We take turns saying what we want for Christmas. We all can't wait for the next morning. On Christmas Day after we open presents we eat pancakes. We always stay home and watch movie after movie. We also play board games. We have so much fun!

Bay library bids farewell to children’s librarian, manager

by BARBARA ISAACS

The Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library will soon be absent a librarian. Susan Ballard will be retiring after more than 30 years as a librarian. Hired initially as the teen librarian in 2001, Susan became head of the children’s department in 2005. A longtime advocate for children and literature, Susan has worked in several libraries in Northeast Ohio during her long career.

She is known in Bay Village for participating in various public events as a representative of the library. Bay Days found “Ms. B” encouraging children to make a craft at the library’s booth or sign up for the Summer Reading Program. She championed the adoption of an animal at the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center each summer by implementing a program for the children to read numerous hours to reach an established goal.

Some parents came to the library exclaiming that their child was reading more “to help support the fox (or the groundhog or the boa or the owl).” Each year the goal was reached and the Friends of the Bay Village Branch gladly endorsed this endeavor.

Bringing stories to life for the little ones in the community was Susan’s favorite part of her job. She dressed up as Mother Goose and even as a zombie at Halloween to spark a child’s interest in reading, also sharing stories in the kindergarten classes at all of the elementary schools in Bay Village. She will be missed by both parents and children who come to find something to read at the library.

Stop in the library before Dec. 30 to say goodbye to her and wish her a happy retirement!

Mark McKinstry, manager of the Bay Village Branch Library, retired earlier this month after 34 years as a librarian. Mark’s career began in Kentucky before he became a manager at the Olmsted Falls branch of the Cuyahoga County system, transferring to the Brooklyn branch for 11 years before coming to Bay Village.

Under his leadership the Bay branch started an annual ice cream social and participated in Cahoon in June. Mark’s extensive knowledge of music and movies



PHOTO BY TARA WENDELL

Bay Village Branch manager Mark McKinstry and children’s librarian Susan Ballard retired from the library this month.

led to many discussions with customers and often resulted in him being sought out for his expertise in those areas. His presence in the library will be missed by staff and customers, but he still may be spotted checking out items periodically. Feel free to wish him well should you see him! ●

Westlake Kiwanis welcomes new family member, K-Kids at Parkside

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The Westlake Kiwanis family welcomed a new member when a K-Kids Club was chartered at Parkside Intermediate School. The Club was chartered through the efforts of Kiwanians Joanne Clancy and Bonnie Smith who will be advisors, along with cooperation of Parkside’s principal, Mark Bregar.

The Kiwanis K-Kids program opens avenues of service and development to elementary school children around the world. In the more than 1,200 K-Kids clubs, children learn the value of helping others, the importance of teamwork and the benefits of leadership.

The students attain important life skills known as developmental assets, which better prepare them to deal with challenges and avoid risky behavior. Students are active participants in their own success, so they’re more engaged in learning. Students connect with mentors and learn about and practice peer mentoring.



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

The first meeting of Kiwanis K-Kids at Parkside Intermediate School.

Their first meeting was in November. They will meet monthly before school with projects taking place after school. Their first project will be making Linus blankets along with the Key Club. The blankets will be given to Blessing House which serves as a safety net for children

of families in crisis, by providing a temporary safe home for children and support for their families.

The Westlake Kiwanis, Builders Club, Key Club and Aktion Club are proud to have the K-Kids as part of the Kiwanis family. ●

Porter Library tree glitters with gold

BY JEAN SMITH

The lobby of Westlake Porter Public Library is glowing brightly with a beautiful holiday tree. On the Monday after Thanksgiving, the Westlake Garden Club came to the library with boxes and bags of ornaments and materials to decorate the tree.

The garden club is winding down a yearlong 50th anniversary celebration – a Golden Anniversary.

It seemed appropriate that the theme of this year’s tree is “golden”

items from nature. In addition to hundreds of white lights, there are gold balls, bows, leaves, pine cones, acorns, pears, apples and swans, with white hydrangeas and baby’s breath garland.

This is the second year the garden club has decorated a tree and according to library director Andrew Mangels, it will be an annual project.

The tree committee consisted of chairperson Gail Morse, Pat Dailey, Judy Hullinger, Regina McCarthy, Robert Pearl, Alberta Ricciardi, Margaret Schulz, Jean Smith, Carolyn Steigman and Agnes Tark.

The committee met several times to discuss a theme and select items to be displayed.

This project is a lot of fun to work on after the gardens are put to bed for

the winter. There were many positive comments on the tree last year and we hope visitors to the library take a moment to stop by the tree this year and enjoy all of the different ornaments. The tree is located in the lobby near the door to the café.

The Westlake Garden Club supports many educational and civic projects in Westlake and the Westshore community throughout the year.

We meet the third Wednesday of every month, except January, at the library. Membership is open to anyone from any community who has an interest in horticulture and the environment and in meeting people and making friends. Visit our website at www.westlakegardenclub.org, and make sure you visit the holiday tree at Porter Library. ●



The Westlake Garden Club chose a “golden” theme for the Porter Library lobby tree.

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GREEN SCENE

Borrow reusable table ware for your large holiday gatherings

by **BRENDA O'REILLY**

Ever thought of partnering with your family and friends to share reusable plates, cutlery, cups and napkins for your large holiday parties?

There is no denying that the holiday season generates an enormous amount of waste. It only takes a few simple changes to reduce the waste that you and your family are sending to the landfill. One of those changes is to start thinking “reusable” when you shop and entertain. It is truly amazing how much waste you can reduce when you minimize single-use



PHOTO BY BRENDA O'REILLY

Reusable plates, bowls and napkins look more appealing and reduce the waste at your holiday gathering.

items such as Styrofoam plates or cups and plastic cutlery. When is reusable tableware not

Did you know: By some estimates, the single-use plates, cups, forks and spoons used in the United States each year would circle the equator 300 times.

eco-friendly? When you only use it on a rare occasion. The key to making reusable tableware eco-friendly is to really use it.

Even though it does take energy and water to produce and clean the ceramic or china plates, the benefit is that they can be reused again and again – for many years! If you are having a really large party, borrow some reusable tableware from family and friends. This way you don't have to run out and buy a large number of plates, cups and utensils that will only be used infrequently. And don't forget the cloth napkins.

My family had a large chili party the Saturday after Thanksgiving for some out-of-town relatives. Several of us brought our ceramic bowls and cutlery, along with a tub to

bring it home. This worked well and no one had to buy additional reusable products that would only be used two or three times per year. In addition, the ceramic bowls were so much more appealing than Styrofoam bowls for our guests.

Another idea for “greener” entertaining – serve “finger foods” which greatly reduces the amount of tableware needed.

If you are in the market for inexpensive ceramic tableware, local thrift stores are a good place to look. Also, some of the local dollar stores have really good prices on ceramic dishes. Whether you borrow tableware or buy your own, don't be afraid to mix and match patterns and colors – it makes for a very interesting table setting!

So SHARE and USE your reusable tableware this holiday season to make a difference! ●

Have a “green” topic to suggest for a future article? Email it to bayvillagegreenteam@gmail.com.

Ames Family Hospice House awarded prestigious LEED Gold

by **LAURIE HENRICHSEN**

Hospice of the Western Reserve announced that its new 40,000-square foot patient care center in Westlake, Ames Family Hospice House, has been awarded LEED Gold certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Ames Family Hospice House achieved LEED Gold certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

Opened in July 2012, Ames Family

Hospice House reflects the non-profit agency's commitment to improving human and environmental health. More than 70 percent of the site is green space. The natural creek running through the property was left undisturbed and all of the lawns and gardens are chemical-free. A tree planting program ensures that the wood lot remains diverse and healthy. A rain garden was installed to mitigate storm water runoff. Special parking for eco-friendly vehicles and bike racks encourage the use of alternative transportation.

“We are committed to sustainable organizational practices and environmental stewardship not only at Ames Family Hospice House, but throughout the agency,” said Bill Finn, Chief Executive Officer, Hospice of the Western Reserve. “Environmental stewardship, economic vitality and social responsibility are closely aligned with our mission to promote quality of life for our current patients and families, and to leave a positive lasting

legacy for future generations.”

“Building operations are nearly 40 percent of the solution to the global climate change challenge,” said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the U.S. Green Building Council. “While climate change is a global problem, innovative organizations like Hospice of the Western Reserve are addressing it through local solutions. The Ames Family Hospice House project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet.”

LEED certification of Ames Family Hospice House was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. These features include:

- Only wood certified as sourced from responsible providers was used
- LowVOC paint, carpet and furnishings ensure indoor healthy air quality
- Water-efficient fixtures reduce projected water use by 28 percent
- Interior courtyards and walls of windows bring in ample natural light
- Motion and photosensitive light fixtures respond only when needed

- High-efficiency climate control systems are zoned for the occupants' comfort
- 75 percent of construction debris was diverted by repurposing or recycling

In 2012, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District provided a grant to Hospice of the Western Reserve for the purchase of recycling containers for Ames Family Hospice House, as well as expert advice on signage and education. The award of \$1,989.66 was used to purchase 39 recycling containers, including internal receptacles for the built-in recycling centers, mixed-use material containers for public areas, and mixed-use and paper-only containers for staff areas. The grant ensured that recycle containers were in place when the first patient arrived at the facility.

Hospice of the Western Reserve is committed to long-term environmental sustainability. An example is the non-profit agency's relationship with Buckeye Industries. Through the partnership, Hospice of the Western Reserve is able to remove its cardboard and Styrofoam and repurpose it, which also supports its mission of keeping individuals with developmental disabilities independent. ●



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— **Robert Stromberg**,
Academy Award-winning production designer for Avatar

Bay Village Education Foundation grants \$13,000 to teachers and students

by MEREDITH MYATT

BVEF President Scott Best, Grants Co-Chair Ellie Bricmont, Rhonda Schneider and Jacquie Mayer from the foundation awarded and celebrated over \$10,000 in grants to several Bay Village Schools educators at the Nov. 25 Board of Education meeting. The generous number and total of 11 grants combined was awarded in partnership with Bay Village Kiwanis.

Each year, educators have the opportunity to submit requests for instructional support and enrichment materials that

intend to have a significant impact in students learning for years to come. The foundation annually contributes to these requests, from contributions and fundraisers, awarding these educators the opportunity to strengthen and add innovative ideas into students' daily learning experiences.

This year, the following educators were awarded grants from various schools in the district:



This year's BVEF grant awardees, from left: Cathy Bogart, Stacey Evans, Jen Szelesta, Anne-Marie Young, Beth Drinan, Nicholl Bing, Laura Godfray, Rick Manderine, Aaron Ereditario, Kelley Mitchell, Dan Sebring. Not pictured: Martha Fisher, Danielle Harkins, Devon Gess.

Normandy Elementary

- Teachers Cathy Bogart, Stacey Evans and Jen Szelesta received \$532 for classroom incubators to help support their yearly Science Lab Literacy program, where science concepts are blended with literacy skills for students.
- Beth Drinan and Nicholl Bing were awarded \$1,809 for special Hokki stools that will help support student learning in special education at Normandy with learning through movement.
- Teacher Laura Godfray was granted \$385 to purchase multiple CD players to fostering reading fluency with her students to support their reading goals by creating engaging literacy centers in the classroom.
- Dan Sebring, first-year principal, was awarded two grants this year. He and the Normandy History Committee were awarded \$1,400 to help kick off a Presidents Day celebration this year, geared towards making "History Alive!" for all of the Normandy students. This involves informational reading and a variety of president impersonators/actors coming into the school to bring life to the day for the students. In addition, Mr. Sebring and the Normandy Literacy Committee received \$2,500 to apply to the "One School One Book" program for Normandy students. This program is planned to foster a collaborative and shared literary environment in the school, with all students reading the same book and completing activities with each other to strengthen literacy skills as a community.

Bay High School

- Rick Manderine received \$400 to help fund the Bay High School program PAL, which partners with other local Westside schools to help unite and make meaningful connections between special needs high school students with other students from their schools and those surrounding in the area.
- Aaron Ereditario, assistant principal, received \$1,000 of support in fund-

ing WINGS, a program that assists at-risk high school girls to achieve success in their lives and education throughout their school experience.

- Devon Gess, choir music director, was granted \$1,200 to aid in funding the start of a Choral Commission in Treble Choir in which a local composer will help students to learn how to compose and perform an original choral piece of music in the spring.

Bay Middle School

- Kelley Mitchell and Danielle Harkins, fifth-grade teachers, were granted \$865 and \$615 to aid their students in supporting one of the district's goals of focusing on informational text in the classroom. Kelley Mitchell intends to support Common Core informational literacy by purchasing skill builder sets and leveled readers for her science classes, while Danielle Harkins will invest in high interest and motivating Scholastic magazines for students to use to enrich their reading experiences.

Westerly Elementary

- Martha Fisher received \$554 to dedicate towards the Westerly Outdoor Science Lab to hold an Environmental Fair at Westerly, celebrating its exciting 20-year birthday. Several different science related activities and celebration materials will be included in the day's fair.

The Kiwanis funded three grants totaling \$2,050. The PAL program was provided with additional funding and Anne-Marie Young's Global Arts Project at Bay Middle School was given support to recruit guest speaker representatives of local arts groups and cultural clubs to connect with classes to be liaisons to a variety of different countries. Also, funding for "Musher" at Westerly Elementary School, was given to Kristen Thomas to cover costs of a school cyber visit with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. With Kiwanis support annually in helping the BVEF, many educators see their instructional dreams come alive.

The community can support the BVEF in their efforts to provide enrichment and support creativity in Bay Village schools by participating in the Ten Campaign (forms available at school offices, the Board Office or online at BayEdFoundation.org) and by attending the organization's annual fundraising event, "Creating Opportunities" on Sunday, Jan. 26, at Arrabiata's in Bay Village.

This event features a silent auction, raffle, door prizes, dining and a night filled with fun with various members of the community and those surrounding. Visit BayEdFoundation.org for more details. ●

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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Wednesday, Dec. 11 (10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE! – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOOKS WITH BELLA – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with Bella the Bulldog! Bring your own book to share with Bella or choose one of ours. Registration begins every Wednesday at 3 p.m. No session on Dec. 25.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 (5-5:45 p.m.) THE BOOK-A-HOLICS: TWEEN BOOK CLUB – Join us for discussions about books, audio, apps and more. Grades 5-7. Please register.

Thursday, Dec. 12 (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) USED COMPUTER SALE –The library will sell used computer and networking equipment, including 12 Dell Optiplex GX280 desktop computers, 11 Dell flat-panel monitors, some Fast Ethernet 10/100 switches, and other miscellaneous equipment. Cash, check or credit card accepted for payment. All items will be sold “as is” with no warranties and all sales will be final.

Thursday, Dec. 12 (7 p.m.) NON-FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION – The December selection is “God’s Hotel: A Doctor, A Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine” by Victoria Sweet.

Friday, Dec. 13 (Siblings, Ages 1-6: 9:30-10 a.m.) (Toddler, Under Age 3: 10:30-11 a.m.) (Preschool, Ages 3-6: 11:30 a.m.-noon) MUSIC THERAPY & MORE – Parents and caregivers can learn how to have a direct role in bringing music to life at home, at school and in the community. This session is geared to children 1-6 years of age. Siblings are welcome. You must RSVP for the session by calling 440-250-5563. Space is limited.

Friday, Dec. 13 (10-10:45 a.m.) COME PLAY WITH ME! – Open playtime with age-appropriate toys, songs and rhymes. For children ages 2-5 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome! Registration begins Dec. 6.

Saturday, Dec. 14 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) CRAFTS A GO-GO! – Come on in and make a craft! We provide the supplies, you provide the creativity. No registration necessary. Meets in front of the Youth Services Desk. No registration.

Saturday, Dec. 14 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) POKEMON LEAGUE – Bring your cards and accessories for a fun morning of play! For kids ages 6-12 only. Please, no younger siblings. Registration begins Dec. 7.

Saturday, Dec. 14 (2-2:45 p.m.) GINGERBREAD FUN! – Create your own gingerbread house with us! Just bring your sweet imagination; we’ll supply all the parts and pieces. Ages 7-10. Registration begins Dec. 7.

Monday, Dec. 16 (4-5:45 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to WPPL’s Teen Lounge on Monday afternoons! We’ve got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more!

Monday, Dec. 16 (7-8:30 p.m.) INVESTOR INTEREST GROUP – 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW – Ian Abbott will discuss where the best performers were in 2013. He will also look at what is happening now and what you can do to benefit from it. Please register.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 (10 a.m.-noon) Career Transition Center: Improving Interviewing Skills – Preparation is the essential ingredient for a successful job interview. Learn how to discover what the employer needs so that your answers will differentiate you from other candidates.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 (10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.) LET’S SING AND DANCE! – Join us for a fun session of singing and dancing for children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Space is limited, so please arrive early enough to receive a ticket at the Preschool Desk.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 (4-5:30 p.m.) BOOKS WITH BELLA – Stop by the Youth Services Department each Wednesday and sign your child up for a 10-minute reading time with Bella the Bulldog! Bring your own book to share with Bella or choose one of ours. Registration begins every Wednesday at 3 p.m. No session on Dec. 25.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – The December selection is “A Week in Winter” by Maeve Binchy.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 (7-7:45 p.m.) STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER – Drop off your favorite stuffed animal by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Come to our bedtime storytime the following evening to pick it up and find out what happened overnight! Ages 3-6. Registration begins Dec. 11.

Friday, Dec. 20 (10-11:30 a.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP – Parent discussion group led by a local pediatric expert. Childcare is offered but space is limited. You must RSVP by calling 440-250-5563. Topics are listed at connectingforkids.org.

Saturday, Dec. 21 (10:30-11 a.m.) MOTHER GOOSE ON THE LOOSE! – Join Mother Goose for this interactive storytime featuring simple books, rhymes, songs and movement. For ages birth-3 years old with adult caregiver. No registration.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY: LIBRARY CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 27 (10 a.m.-noon) PORTER’S FIBER FANATICS – Socialize, share, and solve problems while you work on your current project.

Friday, Dec. 27 (2-4 p.m.) MOVIES @ YOUR LIBRARY – Join us for a kids’ movie series. Titles may change without notice due to availability. In accordance with library policy, children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult. All titles are rated PG. Registration begins one week before each session. Planned title is: “Planes.”

Saturday, Dec. 28 (2-2:30 p.m.) JUNIOR BRICK BUILDERS! – Let’s build with Duplos! Bring your imagination and we’ll provide the bricks. Ages 3-5 only. No registration.

Saturday, Dec. 28 (2:30-3:30 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB – Love those LEGO bricks? Then bring your ideas and

imagination to the club! All bricks provided. Ages 6-12. No registration.

Monday, Dec. 30 (1-7 p.m.) – AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Monday, Dec. 30 (2-4 p.m.) MOVIES @ YOUR LIBRARY – Join us for a kids’ movie series. Titles may change without notice due to availability. In accordance with library policy, children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult. All titles are rated PG. Registration begins one week before each session. Planned title is: “The Smurfs 2.”

Tuesday, Dec. 31 – NEW YEAR’S EVE: LIBRARY CLOSSES AT 5 P.M.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 (10 a.m.-noon) POKEMON FUN DAY! – We’ll have a Pokemon War Tournament, epic contests, spirited trading and chances at winning free cards! Ages 6-12. Registration begins Dec. 24.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) CRAFTS A GO-GO! – Come on in and make a craft! We provide the supplies, you provide the creativity. No registration necessary. Meets in front of the Youth Services Desk. No registration.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 (11:15 a.m.-noon) COUNTDOWN TO NOON FAMILY STORYTIME – Join us for a family storytime celebrating our favorite stories, songs and rhymes. We’ll make a simple craft and do a countdown to 12:00 (noon). Ages 3-5. Registration begins Dec. 23.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 (1-2 p.m.) SURVIVOR: NEW YEAR’S EVE EDITION – Celebrate the end of 2013 with an afternoon of action-packed games. Grades 1-3. Registration begins Dec. 23.

Wednesday, Jan. 1 - NEW YEAR’S DAY: LIBRARY CLOSED

Thursday, Jan. 2 and Friday, Jan. 3 (2-4 p.m.) MOVIES @ YOUR LIBRARY—Join us for a kids’ movie series. Titles may change without notice. In accordance with library policy, children under age 9 must be accompanied by an adult. Movies will run from 2-4 p.m. All titles are rated PG. Registration begins one week before each session. Titles: Jan. 2: Epic, Jan. 3: Despicable Me 2

Sunday, Jan. 5 (2-3 p.m.) BOREDOM BUSTERS! – Are you bored? Drop by the Storytime Room for board games, crafts, puzzles and more! Grades K-5. In accordance with library policy, children under age nine must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, Jan. 6 (1-7 p.m.) – AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Tuesday, Jan. 7 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER:NETWORKING FOR HIDDEN JOBS – People are your single greatest resource in a job search, and networking helps you reach those people. Learn how to build and maintain business relationships that will assist you in your job search and beyond.

Tuesday, Jan. 7 (7-8:30 p.m.) CONNECTING FOR KIDS COFFEE & CHAT – Parent support group for families who have a question or concern about their child’s development. Please refer to connectingforkids.org for the topic.

To register for any of the programs, please call 440-871-2600 or visit signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080.

Get investment advice at Westlake Porter Library

If all you want for Christmas is better returns on your investments, come to Westlake Porter Public Library for help getting there. The library will be hosting its last Investor Interest Group program on Monday, Dec. 16, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The topic will be a review of the stock and investment side of 2013.

Ian Abbott, President of Abacus Financial Services, will discuss the best performers of 2013 and take a look ahead at what’s happening now and what you should do with your investments to benefit.

To register, please call 440-250-5460 or visit signup.westlakelibrary.org:8080.

Straight from the Heart Raffle features \$100,000 grand prize!

Would you like to win \$100,000? How about a two-year lease on a Volvo or Mazda? A Harley Davidson motorcycle? Or a Mediterranean cruise for two? These are just a few of the 40 incredible prizes offered through the 10th annual Straight from the Heart Raffle to benefit the cardiovascular programs at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

Sponsored by the Community West Foundation, the raffle to select the 40 prize winners takes place on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, at the Straight from the Heart red-tie gala at LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility in Westlake. In addition, early raffle ticket purchasers are entered into two early bird drawings on Dec. 13 and Jan. 17, 2014. Each winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize.

With such a great cause and so many incredible prizes, why not purchase a Straight from the Heart raffle ticket for your chance to win the \$100,000 grand prize and 39 other amazing prizes? Raffle tickets are \$100 each or three tickets for \$200.

To see a full list of available prizes, or to purchase raffle tickets online, visit www.straightfromtheheartevent.org or contact the Community West Foundation at 216-476-7061.

All proceeds from this raffle will benefit the Heart Centers at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

Upcoming programs at Bay Village Branch Library

by JOYCE SANDY

The Bay Village Branch Library staff wishes everyone a very happy holiday season! This has been another fun, successful year at the library and it's all because of our priceless patrons! We know that the coming year will bring exciting programs as well, and we look forward to sharing information and entertainment with all of the communities.

The new year will also bring changes. Susan Ballard, head Children's Librarian, will be retiring at the end of December. Please stop in and wish her well as she begins her new adventures. She would love to talk to the patrons that she has served over the years, and there are many little ones – and not so little ones! – that will surely want to wish Ms. B. well!

Weekly storytimes for all preschool ages will resume the week of Jan. 6. There is a storytime every day of the week except Monday. Stories and More meets on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. for ages birth-5 years. Snuggle Bugs on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. is for little ones ages birth-30 months, and Morning Movers on Thursdays at 10 a.m. is for ages birth-3 years. Preschool Pals will be a weekly storytime this winter at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. That storytime is a chance for your preschooler to attend storytime on his/her own while you enjoy some quiet time in the Children's Room. It gives the preschoolers a chance to go into the room on their own, and fosters their independence.

There are a few special programs in December before the winter session begins – we hope you'll join us, or stop in to browse the collection. Check out a book on CD for any car trip you'll be going on, or some music of the season to enjoy.

Please note that Bay Library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25, and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!

Annual Great Books for Kids list is at the Bay Library

by JOYCE SANDY

The annual Great Books for Kids list is here just in time for gift-giving and reading together! It's the list of the very best recent publications for kids of all ages compiled by the people who know books best! From titles for birth to age 18, to family read-alouds, this list can be found online at www.ccplgreatbooksforkids.org. Click on the age range you're interested in and you'll find several great titles and summaries of the books. Also, at the bottom of the home page, you can access lists from previous years. On every book summary page there is a link to request the book from the library right there, or add it to your Wish List for gift giving.

Some examples of the titles include:

AGES BIRTH TO 4 YEARS

“Little Mouse” by Alison Murray

A little girl explains how she does not always fit the nickname of “little mouse” that her mother gave her. Sometimes she feels as brave as a lion or as loud as an elephant.

“Slow Snail” by Mary Murphy

Slowly creeping her way through various objects such as a boot and a brick, a little snail is on her way to dinner. Little ones will enjoy follow-

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Dec. 11 (1:30 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION – Please join us for a discussion of the book “Truth in Advertising” by John Kenney.

Tuesday, Jan. 14 (10 a.m.) SPIRITS IN THE RHODES MANSION – County Archivist Judy Cetina will talk about the spirits that occupy the Rhodes House and share information about the County Archives, its services and its holdings.

TEEN DEPARTMENT

Monday, Dec. 16 (3:30 p.m.) INVESTIGATE IT! DIY PAPERMAKING – For grades 6-12. Recycling one ton of paper saves about 17 trees. Join us to save some trees and make your own scented recycled paper.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Saturday, Dec. 14 (10:30 a.m.) SENSORY STORYTIME – For ages 3-6. Join us for a sensory storytime designed specifically for children with special needs and their families.

Monday, Dec. 23 (11 a.m.) MAKE A GRAHAM CRACKER GINGERBREAD HOUSE – For ages 5 and up. Need a holiday decoration or gift? Families with children ages 5 years and up are invited to stop in the library to make your own graham cracker gingerbread house. Children ages 5-6 years require a caregiver. Please register to attend this program.

Saturday, Jan. 11 (11:30 a.m.) 3,2,1 COUNT ON FUN FOR WINTER – For ages 2-1/2 to 5 with a caregiver. Enjoy a class filled with games, stories, dancing and activities based around the theme of numbers! Discover how much fun you can have with numbers and counting in this one-time Baby Signs class with certified instructor Bridget Daley.

Please register to attend these programs online at cuyahogalibrary.org, by calling 440-871-6392, or when you stop in to visit us at 502 Cahoon Road. We look forward to seeing you! ●

ing snail's silvery trail throughout the simple story.

AGES 9 TO 11 YEARS

“Boy on the Porch” by Sharon Creech

One morning Marta and John discover a boy fast asleep on their porch with a crumpled note asking them to care for him awhile. The boy does not speak, but has a great talent for the arts.

“Kid Pickers: How to Turn Junk Into Treasure”

by Mike Wolfe and Lily Sprengelmeyer, illustrated by Mike Right

Discover treasures at garage sales, flea markets and among family heirlooms with tips from the creator and star of the History Channel's “American Pickers.”

FAMILY SELECTIONS

“I Scream, Ice Cream!: A Book of Wordles” by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Serge Bloch

Wordles are “groups of words that sound exactly the same but mean different things.” Families will enjoy guessing the matching wordles such as “heroes” and “he rows.”

“Meet the Marvel Super Heroes” by Scott Peterson, illustrated by Pat Olliffe and Hi-Fi Design

Comic fans of all ages will enjoy learning about familiar characters like the Hulk and Captain America, as well as lesser known heroes like Sunspot and Gamora.

Check out the Great Books display in the Children's Department at the Bay Village Branch Library and pick up a flyer that provides more information and the website so you can access all of the titles. Happy reading! ●

SPORTING VIEWS

‘Twas the night before deadline (revisited)

by JEFF BING

(With heartfelt apologies to Clement Clark Moore)

‘Twas the night before deadline, and all through the house
Fresh out of ideas, and annoying my spouse.
Browns gear hung inside the chimney with care
The NFL basement – once again – too much to bear.

The Cavs again a team any Clevelander dreads
Had me seriously considering doubling my meds.
Left now with only my block “C” Indians cap
To help me get through my chemically-induced nap.

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window, I flew like a flash
My face in a frown; and my teeth they did gnash.

Couldn't see the source in the moon's white glow
Yet a solitary voice pleaded, “It's Santa, Bro.”
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear
But Brandon Weeden, in his Browns gear.

He threw me a present, straight and quick
Overthrew me by a mile; but I'm used to that trick.
I wondered why to my house he came
He replied critics like me bear most of the blame.

“Now, critics! Now, Browns fans! I don't need fixin'!
The play-calling's bad, just not enough mixin'!”
‘Twas clear his concussion was worse after all
Reality had been dashed away, dashed away, all.

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly
I bid Brandon a swift and heartfelt good-bye.
More noises on the roof-top – more noises, they grew
A guy who looked like Santa – might it really be true?

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
Another familiar voice, and my happy dreams went “poof”.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson in the chimney; ‘twas stuck coming down.

He was dressed in all fur, from his head to his foot
I said, “Man, this is Westlake – your Garmin must be full of soot.”
A bundle of invoices he had flung on his back,
“Your next water bill,” was his annoying wise-crack.

His eyes, how they twinkled; his dimples so merry,
His cheeks were like roses (from perhaps too much dairy).
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
Lit his pipe and said, “Water rates are going up, you know.”

The stump of his pipe he held in his teeth
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face – and a little round belly
Was it the pipe, or bills, that were smelly?

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf
Asked for a little more time to get the money myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
“Sorry, pal, no extensions!” he said.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
Threatened to turn off my water, and I realized I missed Mayor Perk.
Must have read my mind, for he then thumbed his nose
And said, “No water for you,” and up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle
Returned all the families' gifts for cash – all the while I did bristle.
To the next house he flew, for more water bill pranks
He shouted, “Merry Christmas to all – and tell Mayor Clough I said, ‘THANKS!’” ●

Bay High grad Matt Deibel creates sculpture with purpose

by MARGE WIDMAR

“Proud” and “impressed” describe the experience of walking into Kent State’s Oscar Ritchie Hall Uumbaji Gallery on Friday, Nov. 15. In the midst of the quiet, sensitively lit gallery, talking with two visitors, was former Bay High School student, Matt Deibel, surrounded by his art that could challenge professionally recognized sculptors. The exhibition, “An Allegory of Life and Death,” is part of Matt’s Master of Fine Arts studies with KSU professor of sculpture, Paul O’Keeffe.

Matt graduated from Bay High in 1998. In 2001, he traveled to Italy, walking the same roads, he states, “that Caesar had commissioned, absorbing the visual aesthetics and grandeur.” It was Michelangelo’s Pieta and Sistine Chapel that awed him in Rome. In Florence it was the painting of Botticelli, the “grandeur of the Duomo, Brunelleschi’s dome, and Ghiberti’s doors on the Baptistry.”

An undergraduate degree in art education and political science precede Matt’s graduate studies in sculpture. His current work reflects upon his experiences, including his four years as a Marine with two deployments to Iraq. The installation of his work spoke professionalism from the moment we approached the gallery door.



BHS grad Matt Deibel’s installation at Kent State included three cone form sculptures of cow dung patties, referencing a pile of mashed potatoes at an American dinner table in contrast to the fuel used to prepare meals in Iraq.

“We promised we would never walk away during fight” was composed of four areas of light sand on the floor, close to the gallery entrance. Each area was unique and contained a word, such as Father, Brother, Son, U.S. Marine – men of the war, written in Arabic with a darker sand. Being a time-sensitive work, as we were there on the last night of the exhibit, a gentle trickle of sand from a ceiling tile above fell upon the sand forms on the floor, slowly causing the words to obliterate. It also caused the viewer to stand in thoughtful admiration for the creative process and the message.

On the wall to the right were hanging three solemn, black fabric pieces – shrouds symbolic of the Niqab, Hijab or Burqa – in Matt’s piece titled “You left without saying goodbye.” Beautifully cut into the fabric were sensitive negative shapes, including the

Arabic words for Mother, Sister, Daughter.

The third work, “Please Mom would you pass the mashed potatoes,” was a series of strong, spiral structures formed of cow dung patties, referencing the organic fuel source used in Iraq. Its title describes a common American moment – sharing a meal – that could be challenging for a mother and son to share in Iraq.

From Matt’s artist statement, “These pieces are not a commentary on the military actions, rather they are a documentation of the loss of life generated by warfare. Warfare is the ugliest

side of humanity.” He continues, “This body of work ... is annotating a voice for those silenced individuals unable to leave a mark or pass a message to defy time.”

A viewer experiencing this body of work by Matt Deibel leaves the gallery recognizing that Matt has and will continue to leave many marks that will rattle the silence. ●

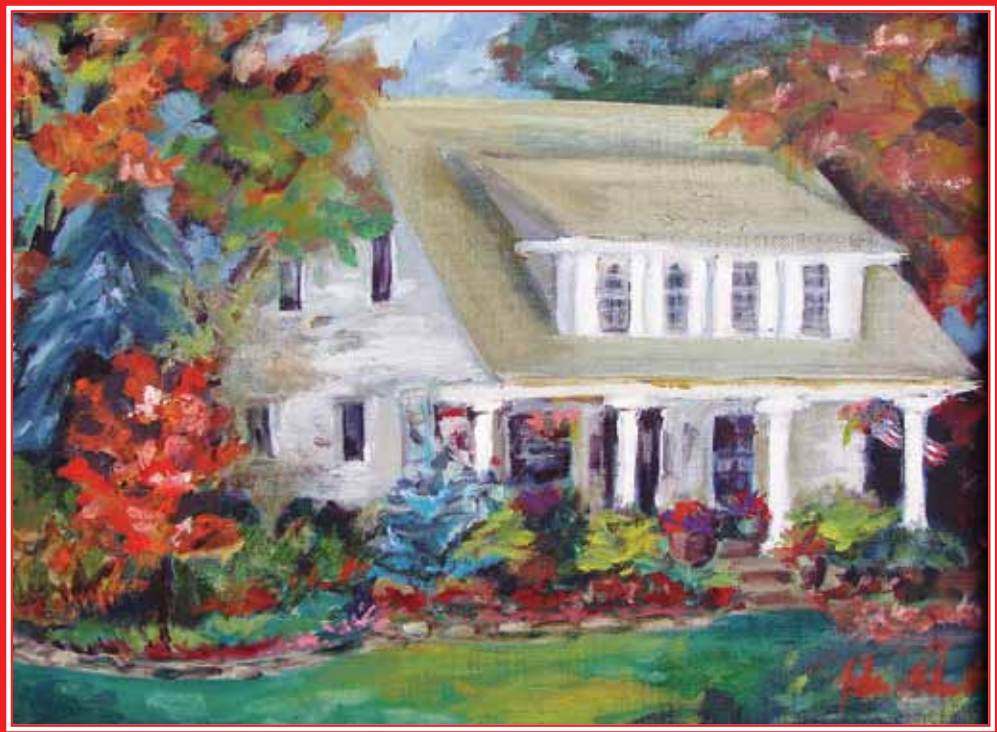
Marge Widmar is a retired Bay Village art educator.

“Up on your toes”



Ballerina Jennifer Norris from the Ohio Dance Theatre teaches ballet moves during an introduction to “The Nutcracker” at Porter Library on Dec. 6.

Maple Leaf, your hometown landscaper, wishes you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



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They Say...

Compiled by DAVE SCULLIN

They say... He was a premature baby. He was born before his parents were married.

They say... He's studying to be a trapeze artist so he can catch her in the act.

They say... He is a dry talker who is usually all wet.

They say... The only exercise she gets is running up bills and jumping to conclusions.

ONE SENIOR'S OPINION

Christmas Wishes

by DIANNE BOROWSKI

A light dusting of snow covers the landscape. It's midnight. All is quiet. Church bells ring, breaking the silence. The only people out so late on this night are gathered together in the small community church. A young child runs to a window in the church. Look,

look, he calls, it's the Christmas star! As children count down the days until the wondrous holiday arrives, remember: it's a birthday we celebrate. Wishing you a peaceful, love-filled season. As we prepare to leave the old year behind let kindness and patience fill your days. Coming together on Christmas Day to worship with family, friends and neighbors reminds us of the reason for the season. Merry Christmas to all. ●

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

The Perfect Gift

Join us on December 22 to celebrate the holidays and the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 11 a.m.
With a special program for kids

Join us for a Christmas buffet lunch after the service!

CrossRoads Church
626 Bassett Road in Bay Village
440 871 7569
(1/2 mi. N of I-90, Crocker-Bassett Road exit, just across the RR tracks)

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24th

3pm Traditional
5pm Family
7pm Contemporary
9pm Traditional

Children are welcome at all services. Free, professional childcare is also offered.

27650 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
440-871-3088
westlakeumc.org

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100% of the Christmas Eve offering goes to missions.

Christ Church Westshore

Walk with Us...

Sunday 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Communion Services
Bay Middle School (27725 Wolf Rd.)
An Anglican Community

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4 p.m. FAMILY COMMUNION WITH CHILDREN'S CHOIR
at Bay Middle School (27725 Wolf Rd, Bay Village)

7 p.m. TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COMMUNION WITH VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES
at Bay Middle School (27725 Wolf Rd, Bay Village)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE:

10 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION
at Bay Presbyterian Church - Auburn Hall (25415 Lake Rd, Bay Village)

"Go, make disciples, teach them to obey the commands of Christ." Matthew 28:19-20

Bay United Methodist Church

29931 Lake Road
440-871-2082
www.bayumc.org

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. – Family Service
A children's Christmas pageant.

7:00 and 9:00 p.m.
Hymns, Special Music, Christmas Meditation and Candlelighting

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30 A.M.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM: A LIVE NATIVITY
DECEMBER 13 & 14
6:30 - 8:30 PM

BLUE CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 20
7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
5:30 & 8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH
10:00 AM

ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tues., Dec. 24, 7:00 P.M.

Please join our Advent Family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Rev. RJ Johnson • 3760 Dover Center Road, Westlake
www.adventwestlake.org • 440-871-6685

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

27993 Detroit Road, Westlake 44145
www.stpaulwestlake.org

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND SHARE THE GLORIOUS NEWS OF OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Dec. 24th	Family Contemporary Service	5:00 pm
	Traditional Worship Service	5:00 pm
	Contemporary Worship Service	7:00 pm
	Traditional Worship Service	7:00 pm
	Traditional Worship Service	11:00 pm
Dec. 25th	Traditional Worship Service	10:00 am
Dec. 31st	Traditional Worship Service	7:00 pm

For further information, call the church office at (440) 835-3050

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE • DECEMBER 24TH AT 8 PM

Capture the blessings and beauty of Christmas at our the beautiful candlelight service and hear the inspiring message and the joyous music. It will have you and your entire family in the spirit of Christmas on this wondrous night!

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WESTLAKE, OHIO
440-835-0400
www.UnitySpiritualCenter.com

READERS' OPINIONS

A special time of the year

by BRUCE LEIGH

This time of the year brings back many thoughts and good memories. My granddaughter just got engaged to a very nice guy. She will be married in July.

She was a good baby and slept a lot. Her grandmother and I made daily trips to Columbus at that time. We took Amanda with us. She slept until we stopped for breakfast. She would have her bottle at the restaurant. She would sleep most of the time during our return trip home.

Amanda is now a school teacher

and I'm sure no one sleeps in her class. Amanda is also working on her master's degree. She is one busy lady these days. Grandma June would be so proud of our sleepy head. I know I am.

I'm very happy that my children and their family members are doing so well and getting good educations. Part of that is knowing about the morals and meaning behind the joys and sorrows of this time of the year. It's not just about having gray Thursday or shopping on Black Friday. It's really about giving the gift of love and being together, breaking bread together.

Sharing family stories and laughing together is what this joyful time of year is all about.

Merry Christmas from my family to your family. ●

New Year's Trivia

by DIANE VINCENT

Pork and sauerkraut is the traditional New Year's Day food. In Spain they eat 12 grapes – one for each stroke of the clock. In Germany food left out after midnight ensures a well-stocked larder. Eating fish promotes moving forward. Some other good-luck foods include black-eyed peas and collard greens.

Foods to avoid on New Year's Day: Lobster because they move backwards. It could cause setbacks.

Chicken is a no-no as they scratch backwards. Any winged fowl may cause your good luck to fly away. In Asia they eat long noodles without breaking them. They must slurp them like spaghetti.

In Britain the first person to come through the door after midnight brings good luck. In Brazil they believe the color of underwear you put on New Year's Day has meaning. I'll have to check that one out. Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.

Hasn't this been fun? You might want to explore some trivia in the New Year. ●

BAYARTS

BAYarts Holiday Trunk Show is a great way to meet the artists

by KAREN PETKOVIC

BAYarts provides regional artists with a venue to sell their handmade work year-round, as an alternative to the do-it-yourself option of seasonal craft shows and fairs. Recent renovations that included refinishing the floors, installing all new lighting and brand-new fixtures raised the bar a little more. As a bonus, from Thanksgiving through December, the shop is transformed into an inviting, warm and relaxed alternative to harried Christmas shopping.

"I know when I bring my work to BAYarts it is in good hands," says Mary Breiner, a photographer. "I deliver it and BAYarts does the rest: inventory, marketing and awesome displays. This gives me the freedom to work more, and not worry about all the details that are often mind-boggling to artists."

Throughout the year, BAYarts hosts several "Trunk Shows," a chance for the artist and buyer to meet, which not only provides feedback for the artist but

also more meaningful purchases for the buyer. The Annual Holiday Trunk Show gets bigger each year as demand for this type of event grows.

On Dec. 12, artists including Lori Pamimadis (stamped jewelry), Jen Murray (Freckle Face), Judy Takacs (artist and author) and others will be on hand with their full lines in the Fuller House Sullivan Family Gallery. The event is from 7 to 9 p.m. and free. The Holiday Shop in the Huntington House will also be open for a campus-wide evening of friends and holiday cheer.. ●



BAYarts preschool gets early Christmas gift



PHOTO BY ERIN STACK

BAYarts instructors Teece Lester, left, and Amy Coursen, right, are joined by happy preschoolers in thanking Diana Kykros of Bay Pediatric Dentistry, center, whose generous gift has made it possible to renovate their classroom in the historic Huntington House, kicking off all-new, year-round preschool programming. BAYarts' motto is "A Lifetime of Art Begins Here": what a great place to start!

SPEND CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL



ANNUAL MESSIAH SING
Wednesday, December 18

12:10 p.m.
Trinity Chamber Orchestra, soloists, and YOU in the massed choir! Todd Wilson, conductor
Sponsor: Mrs. Robin Hitchcock Hatch

CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday, December 24

5 p.m.
Family Eucharist and Pageant
The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, preaching

10:30 p.m.
Prelude Britten: A Ceremony of Carols (choir and harp)
11 p.m.
Choral Eucharist
The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, preaching

CHRISTMAS DAY
Wednesday, December 25

10 a.m.
Eucharist with Carols
The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, preaching

BOAR'S HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL
Saturday, December 28

3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Freewill offering
boarsheadcleveland.org



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COMMUNITY EVENTS Post your group’s free community events online at wbvobserver.com

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

NEOPC Meeting
Northeast Ohio Personal Computers December meeting will feature Q & A with Bruce Brockman and Lee Gerber, our own experts. Topics will include Microsoft Windows XP, Vista, 7 and 8; Microsoft Security Essentials; CCleaner; software (e.g., MS Word, Excel); Yahoo Groups and NEOPC web site; wireless networks; tablets and smart phones; and what to backup and best method. Come at early, at 6:30 p.m., for refreshments. Free and open to all. Additional info at www.neopc.org.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

The Brain Lecture Series: The Calm Brain - The Science of Relaxation
This interactive evening lecture series will discuss relaxation and the brain, and introduce methods of relaxation. Free and open to the public.
Tri-C Westshore Campus, 31001 Clemens Rd., Westlake

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Bay Village Community Band Concert
This annual Christmas Celebration is an audience favorite. Come listen to the sounds of Christmas while the Bay Village Community Band plays all of the seasonal favorites. Bring the family and friends and enjoy this beautiful time of year! Refreshments will be served.
Bay Middle School, 27725 Wolf Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-noon

Taste of Home Cookie Walk
Cookies will be sold at \$8 per pound. Funds raised will provide seed money to purchase patio furniture for the large interior courtyard. Building is handicapped accessible, with plenty of parking.
The Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve, 2116 Dover Center Rd., Westlake

Thursday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Used Computer Sale
Westlake Porter Public Library will sell used computer and networking equipment, including

12 Dell Optiplex GX280 desktop computers, 11 Dell flat-panel monitors, some Fast Ethernet 10/100 switches, and other miscellaneous equipment. The library will accept cash, check or credit card for payment. All items will be sold “as is” with no warranties and all sales will be final.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m.

Westlake PTA Student Art Show
The event is free and open to the public. The Westlake Council of PTAs is sponsoring a student-driven art show based on its Reflections program. Westlake students from grades K-12 will utilize art, photography, choreography, song, poems, literature and film to illustrate what Believe, Dream, Inspire means to them. This art show will be judged by professionals in the community who are experts in the areas mentioned above.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Friday, Dec. 13, 3-4 p.m.

Holiday Open House
Please join us for our Holiday Happy Hour open house. Call 440-871-3474 for more details.
Bradley Bay Assisted Living, 605 Bradley Rd., Bay Village

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon

Holiday Fun Day with Santa
Come celebrate the holidays with the Bay Village Recreation Department. Crafts, refreshments and visit with Santa! FREE for Bay residents. No registration is needed.
Community Gym (Bay Middle School west entrance), 27725 Wolf Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Family Holiday Event
Join us for a free family holiday celebration to include free photos with Santa, pizza, cookies, hot chocolate and more. Help us support the Cleveland Food Bank and Toys for Tots by donating a non-perishable food item or unwrapped toy.
Pat O'Brien Chevrolet-Buick, 25100 Detroit Rd., Westlake

Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:30 a.m.

Bethlehem’s Child Worship Service
Join us for a special holiday Worship Service with the Bethlehem’s Child choir cantata.
Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ, 23500 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m.

Clague House Museum Holiday Open House
Bring your family and friends for an opportunity to enjoy the beautifully decorated Clague House Museum. Bring your camera and capture a new family tradition. There will be kid’s crafts and refreshments. For more information, please call 440-808-1961.
Clague House Museum, 1371 Clague Rd., Westlake

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2-5 p.m.

Youth Challenge Holiday Show
The Youth Challenge kids take center stage to present a fun, festive and free celebration of the season. YC brings together children with physical disabilities and youth volunteers for year-round adapted sports and recreational activities. The Holiday Show is presented by the volunteer and participant cast members from the YC Dance and Drama program. A short program follows to recognize the year’s top teen volunteers who gave more than 9,000 hours of service to the Youth Challenge participants and mission. YC Gift Shop and Christmas Cake Bake Raffle open at 2 p.m., Holiday Show begins at 3.
Magnificat High School Performing Arts Center, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Tuesday Morning Talkers Weekly Meeting
Do you have a fear of public speaking? Want to think faster on your feet? Interested in honing your leadership skills? How about meeting new people that will challenge you to succeed in a supportive atmosphere? Toastmasters International can help you meet your objectives!
Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Westside Professional Women’s Connection
Monthly professional women’s networking meeting. All women business owners and professionals are welcome! Begins at 11:30 with buffet lunch with speaker and plenty of networking opportunities. A holiday toast for all in attendance! \$20 for members and guests alike! No RSVPs necessary. For info: janicelitterst@gmail.com.
The Copper Cup, 680 Dover Center Rd., Westlake

Friday, Dec. 20, 10-11:30 a.m.

How to Prepare Your Child for Vacations and Family Gatherings
Loud, crowded family gatherings and vacations far from home and the normal routine can make many toddlers and preschoolers meltdown. Join us for this interactive discussion about how to prepare children for new experiences through social stories and setting expectations. This presentation will be focused on children who struggle with anxiety, sensory issues and or developmental delays. Childcare is available; to reserve a spot for your child, visit www.connectingforkids.org.
Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2-4 p.m.

Clague House Museum Holiday Open House
Bring your family and friends for an opportunity to enjoy the beautifully decorated Clague House Museum. Bring your camera and capture a new family tradition. There will be kid’s crafts and refreshments. For more information, please call 440-808-1961.
Clague House Museum, 1371 Clague Rd., Westlake

Monday, Dec. 23, 1-3:15 p.m.

Look Good, Feel Better for Those Touched by Cancer
Women undergoing cancer treatment learn wig and skin care techniques to cope with appearance related side effects.
The Gathering Place West, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake

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