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# WESTLAKE BAY VILLAGE Observer

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 6 | Community News Powered by the Citizens of Westlake and Bay Village | MARCH 15, 2016

## Active shooter training exercise at Bay High plans for the unthinkable



PHOTO BY KAREN DERBY

Bay Village police officers train at Bay High School with staff and students during an active shooter training scenario on Friday, March 11.

by KAREN DERBY

Bay High staff members and students collaborated with Bay Village police officers to prepare for the possibility of an armed intruder at the school. The training exercise took place Friday, March 11 – a day off school for students and a professional development day for faculty.

The morning began as a relaxed gathering in the cafeteria to enjoy coffee and donuts. Unexpected gunshots soon rang out, and two armed attackers had students running for their lives. Most students quickly escaped, but

several were left injured by gunfire

and screaming for help. Police officers killed or subdued the attackers before tending to the bleeding students, using tourniquets or other first aid for a variety of gunshot wounds.

The bullets were blanks, of course, and the injured students were playing roles. Teachers who tried to help the injured get away were asked to leave them there, as they were an important part of the officers' training.

"The training exercise is based on debriefings we've had covering the Chardon High School and Newtown shoot-

ings, as well as other shooter incidents," said Bay Village Detective Kevin Krolkoski.

"We do a lot of dry runs on lockdowns, here in the cafeteria or during class exchange, but everyone knows how it's going to start and how it's going to end," Krolkoski said. "In this scenario, no one really knows how it's going to start. People will evacuate the building or go into lockdown, depending upon where they are. It's a real opportunity to see how people react in a surprise situation."

Students later encountered

cial decisions, from offering business incentives to investing in infrastructure. A strong leader surrounded by a team of capable department heads and council members sharing a vision for the future have put the city on a path of growth.

In a long-awaited decision on the terms of Westlake's contract with the

Cleveland Division of Water, the Court of Common Pleas ruled last month in Westlake's favor, finding that the city is entitled to obtain water from a secondary provider and is not liable for any costs to Cleveland Water, as the water service agreement expired in March 2015.

» See WESTLAKE page 2

## Westlake State of the City address

City moves on from water decision, sets sights on improvements

by TARA WENDELL

When you have a sound plan and stick to it, you can expect things to turn out well. Such has been the case with Westlake. The city administration, under Mayor Dennis Clough, has a track record of making wise finan-



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough points out the city's low sewer rates during his presentation on March 8.

## Stand-up comedy coming to Westlake

by KEVIN DEFRANK

Why did the chicken walk into the bar, after it crossed the road?

Who knows! It is impossible to determine the intentions of a chicken. They lack advanced cognitive skills and are not capable of explaining themselves. But if the chicken was in or near Westlake or Bay Village, one might say it was looking for something fun to do!

As an alternative for people to get out and have fun, there is a series of stand-up comedy shows coming to Dave & Buster's in Westlake.

The project is being called Laugh Series CLE and the goal is to produce live entertainment (and better jokes than the one you read above) for

» See COMEDY page 2

## Westlake Easter Egg Scramble set for March 19

by AL PSOTA

Spring is in the air, Easter is fast approaching and both will be celebrated at the Westlake Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Westlake Town Criers.

This year the event will be held on Saturday, March 19, at the playground in front of the Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd. This is a

free event for children age 10 and younger.

Promptly at 1:00 p.m., children ages 4 through 6 will take off on a scramble for wrapped candy and in search for special eggs that are redeemable for stuffed animals. A second scramble will be held at 1:30 p.m. for children ages 7 through 10. Simultaneously there is a non-competitive egg hunt for children age 3 and under.

Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny will be passing out candy and will be available for pictures. There will also be face painting and refreshments hosted by members of the Westlake High School National Honor Society as well as a raffle for large stuffed bunnies.

There is no charge for the event and a good time is had by all. Please come early as parking is limited. ♦



PHOTO BY AL PSOTA

Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny will hand out candy at the Westlake Easter Egg Hunt.



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## TRAINING *from front page*

Meredith Brewer. “But after going through the drill several times, you become desensitized to it somewhat.” She and other students agreed that they are now sure they would recognize what a gunshot sounded like and knew better how to react.

“If you look at the history of school shootings – Chardon, for example,” said Bay High principal, Jason Martin, “a lot of the credit for lives being saved that day goes to the staff being trained and being aware of how they needed to respond. The value here is truly to make sure that if the situation does ever arise at Bay High, our staff is fully prepared.”

Mr. Martin said the students’ participation would help them lead fellow students in the event of an attack because they will know how the school expects them to respond, how police are trained, and how to step in if a teacher is not around or a staff member can use their help. About 80 students active in clubs or teams, representing grades 9-12, participated. “We want to instill in them the confidence that they can take over, they can help their fellow students and help

their teachers and staff. In handling this kind of event, it’s going to take a lot of people working together to save lives,”

Bay High’s assistant principal, Aaron Ereditario, sees the training as similar to other learning done in school every-day – learning by doing and learning by experience. “By putting ourselves in it,” he said, “we learn how we feel, how we react, where we go, where we don’t go, how we might panic and how we can separate from our emotions and make logical decisions in a time of chaos.”

Detective Krolkoski said the training objective was two-fold. “One, we want to see how the students and staff react to the scenarios. Two is how our officers respond. What are the dynamics when they enter a situation where they do not know what is going to happen? In this particular event, we’re using a munition to simulate actual gunfire. So our officers don’t want to get hit, and they need to be prepared to react to the situation at hand. It’s not static training. It’s more fluid where they’re going to have to make split-second decisions. Same objective with the school staff. We want to see the decision-making under stress, as much as you can get from a training situation.”

## WESTLAKE *from front page*

While Cleveland has vowed to appeal the decision, Mayor Clough expressed confidence in the verdict.

“Our attorneys indicate, and I tend to believe since I was the one who signed the original contract, that there’s really no basis for [an appeal],” Clough said in his State of the City address to the West Shore Chamber of Commerce on March 8. “The contract language is pretty clear, but we needed someone else to interpret it.”

The decision allows Westlake to have drinking water streaming in to the city from different directions – most likely Cleveland to the east and Avon Lake to the west.

Water isn’t the only thing flowing – money continues to pour into the city’s coffers, primarily from income and property tax collection. As income levels, property values and the number of

homes increase, the city’s budget grows.

On the income tax side, Westlake took in more than \$25 million last year, a historically high mark. One percent of the 1.5 percent tax goes to the general fund, while 3/8 percent is earmarked for capital improvements. Though the general fund is for operating expenses, Westlake uses surplus funds from that account to address infrastructure needs when feasible.

“You never stop paying for capital needs in a community when you’re trying to address your infrastructure,” Clough said. “[But] our main purpose is to make sure we always have at least a three-month reserve based on our yearly expenditures.”

The remaining 1/8 percent of income tax collection comes from a levy passed in 1996 to build and operate the recreation center. Clough stated that the city will ask voters in November to extend that levy for another 20 years for additional recreation development, including a transformation of Peterson Pool, and expand its scope to include construction of a new community center.

The proposed Westlake Family Aquatic Center will add 3,000 square feet of pool space – including a lazy river, lap pool, plunge pool and splash pad – and will nearly double the amount of grass and deck areas within the pool fence. Other goals identified through resident focus groups are to add walking trails and improve city parks.

Clough said that city is looking at potential locations for a new, larger community center to better serve a growing population. The community services department, which hosts many programs for older residents, also provides resources to those in financial need. “Even though people think we’re a very well-to-do community, we have individuals that need assistance on a regular basis, and our community services makes sure that those residents, those individuals, get the necessary services from us.”

In other improvement news, work is progressing on the traffic signalization

While debriefing the students at the end of the morning, Detective Krolkoski emphasized that the first level of school security is always threat assessment, relying on information provided by students or others. “We want you feeling comfortable telling your teachers, administrators and us about any concerns about what you’ve heard,” he said. “No matter how insignificant you think something might be, if something seems out of place or a little ‘off,’ let a teacher or principal know.”

He pointed out that in each school shooting case studied from Columbine (1999) to 2008, there was a direct or indirect threat in chat rooms (before social media) or text messages that were not reported to school administrators. He stressed that police and school officials would rather take the time to investigate something that turns out to be just a stupid comment than miss something that leads to a real threat.

Senior Annie Peters felt the training, though an emotional experience, was worthwhile. “I did just freeze for a moment when the gunfire went off,” she said. “But I watched how our teachers put our safety first, how they put themselves out there to make sure we were protected. I feel more secure about it now.” ●

project. The city is replacing every traffic signal with “smart signals” allowing for traffic monitoring from the Westlake police station. System software will be able to adjust signal operations based on traffic patterns.

In his address, Clough put to rest a matter that has been pending for several years – the proposed Westshore fire district. Touted as another regionalization strategy allowing Westshore cities to pool resources, the conversation appears to be tabled for now. “The mayors feel pretty strongly about it but we haven’t been able to bring some community members in, some fire departments in,” Clough said. Unlike the central dispatch center, which has been a success, “it takes a lot more ‘buy in’ to get a fire district, from a lot more different groups, and we haven’t been able to get that.”

The city’s debt, which spiked in the late ‘90s, has been decreasing for the past 15 years and is now just over \$13 million, near the level it was 30 years ago when Clough took office. With the general fund now approaching \$17 million, the city could technically pay off the debt balance.

“We are pretty much debt free,” Clough said, noting that the debt schedule does not include bonds issued for the American Greetings expansion, which AG and Crocker Park are obligated to repay.

Issuing those bonds to attract the greeting card company to Westlake’s “world-class town center” was another in a long series of sound financial decisions that have helped transform a quiet farming community into one of the premier suburbs in Greater Cleveland.

*The State of the City address will be broadcast on the city’s website and local access TV stations. Residents are invited to attend a community event March 16, when Mayor Clough will present an abbreviated version of his address, and Superintendent Geoff Palmer will present a State of the Schools address with CFO/treasurer Mark Pepera. The event begins at 6 p.m. at the WHS Performing Arts Center.* ●

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### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:tara@wbvobserver.com). Please include full contact information.

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

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# Lions Club collects eyeglasses, hearing aids

by DAVID SACCO

Since 1925, when the Lions Club pledged to help the blind and to work to eradicate preventable blindness at the urging of Helen Keller, they have lived up this promise in numerous ways. One such effort has been the collection of used eyeglasses. The Lions are most recognized by their eyeglass collection boxes that can be found in any town or community in such places as libraries, grocery stores, waiting rooms and so forth. If you have an old prescription sitting in a drawer or if you've lost a loved one and are unsure what to do with their glasses, the Lions Recycle for Sight Program has the answer.

The WestShore Lions Club is collecting your old eyeglasses, sunglasses and hearing aids. Your donations will be cleaned and packaged to be utilized in missions going to third-world countries.

Donations may be dropped off at the following locations: Bay Village Dwyer Senior Center, 300 Bryson Lane; Westlake Center for Community Services, 29694 Center Ridge Road; Westlake Police Department, 27300 Hilliard Blvd.; Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road; Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.

Through membership in a Lions



Lions district Past Governor Mary Chentnik and WestShore Lions interim President David Sacco with one of the eyeglass collection boxes, located at Westlake Porter Public Library.

Club, people not only help those in need, but have opportunities to develop personal friendships and gain valuable leadership skills. If you would like to become a future "eyeglass donation site" or for more information on becoming a Lions Club member, call the WestShore Lions Club at 440-250-5564 and leave your name and phone number. (The Club currently has a vacancy for an individual to represent the Bay Village area; if interested give us a call.)

The WestShore Lions Club meets the first Thursday of each month at Porter Library from 7-8 p.m. ●

# Tri-C program examines ways to build wealth

by KRISTIN BROKA

The Westshore Campus of Cuyahoga Community College will examine investment strategies as part of its free "Learning for Life" lecture series at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23.

The program, "How to Invest Wisely," features Paul Fleming, director of research and investment solutions with Mirador Family Wealth Advisors. He will discuss how to build an investment strategy, multiply your wealth and

take safer financial risks.

The lecture is free and open to the public, with no reservation required. The event will take place in the Westshore Campus Atrium, 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake.

The program is part of a wide-ranging education series taking place this year at Westshore Campus and Corporate College West. The series includes brown bag lunch discussions and interactive evening lectures.

For a full schedule of events, visit [tri-c.edu/LearningforLife](http://tri-c.edu/LearningforLife). ●

# MS Awareness Month

by MEL MAURER

March is MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Awareness Month in Ohio. Appropriately so, since our state has a higher incidence of this cruel chronic illness than almost any other state. Why this is so, is one of the many mysteries of MS. Other mysteries include why it usually strikes people between the ages of 20 to 50 and why two to three times the number of women have it than men.

MS may be described briefly as a very unpredictable disease of the central nervous system which interrupts signals within the brain and between the brain and the body. No nerve in the body is safe from MS and the damage it does. While there is at present no cure for it, a number of drugs/treatments exist to address its symptoms, relieve them and/or slow the progress of its attacks. The earlier the symptoms are treated the better the results – the sooner MS is diagnosed the better for the patient. That's why awareness of MS and its many, varied symptoms is so important as we try to make them known with a special month of information.

Possible signs of MS, realizing that these may also indicate other ailments too, include: ongoing fatigue; optic nerve involvement with blurry vision maybe with pain or tenderness of the eyes, sometimes with

blindness; weakness and/or pain in the legs, including clumsiness, legs may also feel heavy; numbness and/or tingling (pins-and-needles feeling lasting more than a few minutes); urination and incontinence problems; speech slurring or slowing requiring more concentration on each syllable. These are but a few. A computer search for "MS symptoms" will provide more comprehensive listings of signs and symptoms. I also recommend a visit to [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org), the website of the National MS Society, for valuable information on all facets of the disease.

I encourage additional reading on MS but no conclusions should be reached regarding any individual without consulting a neurologist. Even then the unpredictability of the disease will make its effects on anyone almost impossible to know. Some people have an attack and never have another one; some will be attacked and then go into remission for a while and others will have varying degrees of progress attacks with continuing damage. It's as if MS is specifically designed for each person that has it.

Our hope is that with the ongoing progress in fighting MS as new drugs and treatments are developed, a vaccine and/or cure to heal damaged nerves, MS will one day be defeated. My wife, Elaine, and I have been fighting it for 50 years. We haven't given up, nor should anyone else. ●

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## Kathy Fern receives volunteer award from Porter Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

Westlake Porter Public Library Book Nook and Book Sale volunteer Kathy Fern received the library's Myrna Chelko Volunteer Award at a volunteer recognition ceremony held on March 6.

A volunteer for over 12 years, Fern is an unsung hero who's not always visible to library visitors. She is known for helping Book Nook customers locate specific titles, and her interactions with them are always friendly and welcoming. Fern also actively looks for books that Book Nook customers request, and holds them, if found.

In addition, Fern not only works one or two shifts a week at the Book Nook, she also helps manage and sort the donations. Even when she's not scheduled for a shift, she will stop by to see if there's anything that needs to be done, and she's always looking for ways to improve service and organization in the Book Nook.

"Kathy is one of the reasons the Book Nook netted over \$38,000 for the library in 2015, and we are lucky to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer and Ambassador," said Library Director



Westlake Porter Public Library Director Andrew Mangels congratulates Kathy Fern on receiving the Myrna Chelko Volunteer Award.

Andrew Mangels.

The Myrna Chelko Volunteer Award was established by the library Board in 1995 to honor visionary volunteer Myrna Chelko. Myrna served as a member of the Board of Trustees, serving as its secretary and president. She helped found both the Friends of Porter Public Library and the Porter Library Foundation. The Myrna Chelko Volunteer Award is given annually to a library volunteer who exhibits the same spirit of volunteerism as Chelko did. ●

### HUMOR

## I have to laugh at myself

by CAROL JANOVSKY

I've heard senior citizens say, "I wish I was young again." Guess what? I just realized that I have reverted to what's known as second childhood. I recently found myself telling people, "I'm 84 and a half." How many little folks have you heard telling someone, "I'm 4 and a half, or 5 and a half"? Both of us are proud of our age. I have to laugh at myself.

There was a time in my life several years back when out in a restaurant and I needed to use their rest room. I was just about to enter when a gentleman emerged and informed me, "This is the men's room!"

The next time my daughter and I were in a restaurant didn't I do the same thing again! This time I walked in, noticed a difference from

how the women's room looked but did it register? No! With mission accomplished I left. Fortunately no one else came in while I was in there.

As my daughter and I were leaving the restaurant I was telling her what I had done. A lady, who was in her 50s, was entering the restaurant, heard what I told my daughter and said, "Now I know what I have to look forward to." Fortunately that was my LAST entrance into the men's room. Thank goodness.

Now if any of you can enlighten me as to why in the world I did that – twice – please let me know. I have never figured that one out. I could have died of embarrassment but as I'm not ready to die just yet (I have more stories to write) I decided it would be better just to laugh at myself. ●

## Spring Fling to benefit WECPTA

by MEGAN NAVRATIL

Join the Westlake Early Childhood PTA (WECPTA) at Rue 254, 32025 Detroit Road, Avon, on Saturday, April 9, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. for an evening of fun and socializing! The Spring Fling is the WECPTA's annual spring fundraising event. Tickets are \$20/person, and include heavy appetizers and desserts. There will be a cash bar. Invite your friends for a great night out!

As always, we will have our renowned auction with incredible items for you to bid on and take home. This year our fundraiser will include a wine pull for \$20. Wines will be sorted into reds and whites, valued between \$10 and \$50. Everyone's a winner!

Additionally, we have a raffle for an Acer Chromebook 11. Tickets for this raffle

are \$5 each, or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the event on April 9, however the winner does not need to be present to win. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for the Chromebook raffle, please contact Marie Novak at president@wecpta.org.

The WECPTA is an inspiring organization for families with children ages 6 and under. WECPTA is associated with various public and private schools in the greater Westlake community. Its members live not only in Westlake, but in its surrounding communities as well. WECPTA has activities and programs for its members throughout the year including field trips, playgroups, children's parties, biannual Kiddie Closet Resale, moms and dads nights out and so much more! Our members actively give back to the community, as well, through many community service opportunities throughout the year.

To purchase tickets, please contact Leila Daiuto at leila.daiuto@yahoo.com or Jamie Martinez at j.marcone.martinez@gmail.com. For more information about the WECPTA or membership to the organization, please visit [wecpta.org](http://wecpta.org). ●

## UH Rainbow Babies & Children's brings new kids running series to Westlake

by JENNIFER WALKER

If you are looking for a way to get the kids up and moving and out from behind a screen this spring, the Healthy Kids Running Series may be the answer. The Healthy Kids Running Series is a five-week running program in the spring and fall for kids from Pre-K to eighth grade. Each Race Series takes place once a week and offers age appropriate running events including the 50-yard dash and the 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile and one-mile run.

Kids compete each week of the Series for a chance to earn points and at the end of the Series the top boy and girl with the most points in their respective age division receive a trophy. It doesn't matter how fast or slow they run because all participants

receive a T-shirt, medal and gift bag for their achievements. Start a lifelong love of running while helping kids adopt a healthy and active lifestyle, increase their self-esteem, and make new friends!

Go to [healthykidsrunningseries.org/race\\_locations/cleveland-oh](http://healthykidsrunningseries.org/race_locations/cleveland-oh) for more information and to register. Races take place at Westlake Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd. on Sundays, April 10, 17 and 24 and May 1 and 8 at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$35 for the Series; a sign-up form is available for download at [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com). Those interested in trying one race can sign up onsite for \$10.

Contact Carli Markiewitz at 216-983-1147 or [carli.markiewitz@uhhospitals.org](mailto:carli.markiewitz@uhhospitals.org) with questions or to volunteer. ●

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LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

# Families adventure to space

by WENDY HANNA

With the introduction of Family Adventures in Space, the offerings for families at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's planetarium continue to grow. Introduced in March, this program provides another opportunity for audiences of all ages to explore outer space together.

Each weekend, families at the Bay Village institution will travel through space, visit different objects in the Solar System, explore constellations in the night sky and learn about NASA's missions. The program runs Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. in the planetarium which was transformed in 2014. Tickets are just \$3 per person and guests are

invited to explore the rest of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center at which admission and parking are always free.

"The Center provides families with excellent opportunities to connect with our natural universe and with each other. We're thrilled that this new program provides us with another way in which to do that," says Executive Director Cath-

erine Timko.

Family Adventures in Space joins the already family-friendly lineup of You-niverse (for all ages), Twinkle Tots (for children ages 0-3), Stellar Stars (for ages 3-7) and the children's full dome shows (for ages 4-12). Programs run daily and the entire schedule can be found at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or by calling 440-871-2900. ●



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center offers families a chance to explore space in the renovated planetarium every weekend.

# Something for everyone at the Dwyer Center in March

It's not too late to sign up for several upcoming activities at the Bay Village Dwyer Senior Center:

**Wednesday, March 16 (12:30 p.m.) Leaving a Legacy, Matters of the Heart** – Unlike legal wills that transfer material possessions, an ethical will bequeaths personal values, reflections, traditions, advice and memories to loved ones. Join us to learn more. RSVP, 835-6565.

**Wednesday, March 16 (2 p.m.) 2016 Tour Preview: Fun-filled extended trips** – Richard Urbas from Wendt Touring will provide highlights of two upcoming trips. Detailed flyers and registration forms are available from the Dwyer Center.

**Tuesday, March 22 (10 a.m.) New! Creative Stirrings Readers' Theatre & Arts** – You are invited to attend a social gathering introducing "Creative Stirrings," a new class beginning this spring at the Dwyer Center. Enjoy a warm beverage and light fare as we discuss the details of this Readers' Theatre and Arts Group. Your input is welcome! We will consider the dramatic subjects and themes to be featured in class. Bring a friend! A class series will be offered April 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 3:30-5 p.m. Fee: \$15 for Bay residents, \$20 for non-residents. Registration open now.

**Wednesday, March 23 (10:30 a.m.) Medicare and You** – Hosted by Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP). Many people who join Medicare have questions and concerns about their new, different type of health insurance. In addition, important deadlines exist for certain benefits. Come get your questions answered and learn about Medicare benefits, supplemental insurance policies, Medicare Advantage plans and prescription drug coverage. Register at 835-6565.

**Wednesday, April 6 (11 a.m.) Bay Village Rocks!** – To celebrate the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony we have scheduled a "King of the Moondoggers" presentation and musical listening program presented by Dennis Sutcliffe of Lost Cleveland. Follow Alan Freed on his journey to Cleveland and beyond as rock 'n' roll is being born. Dance at the Moondog Coronation Ball! Program includes audio clips from nine early rock 'n' roll favorites. Light refreshments served. RSVP, 835-6565. ●

# Are you fearful of speaking? Toastmasters can help!

by TERRI BREWER

Are you terrified of speaking in a group or one-on-one? Don't let your fears hold you back any longer. It's time to face your fears like the champion you know you are. Inside of you is a person who has a lot to say and the Toastmasters community needs to hear your ideas. Toastmasters is not only about speaking, it is about sharing from your heart and offering what others need to hear.

A Toastmasters club is a group of people who want to learn how to improve



Mary Anne Burrows is the club leader for the Unity Toastmasters.

their speaking skills. Toastmasters will give you the skills and confidence you need to effectively express yourself in any situation. Whether you are a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the most efficient, enjoy-

able and affordable way of gaining great communication skills.

By learning to effectively formulate and express your ideas, you open an entirely new world of possibilities. You'll be more persuasive and confident when giving presentations, and you'll improve your one-on-one interactions with others. The purpose of each meeting is to allow as many voices to be heard by giving speeches, evaluations, practicing impromptu speaking and filling other roles that help develop speaking and listening skills.

The environment is friendly and supportive, and the self-paced program allows you to build confidence with each speaking assignment. You may come because you want to improve your speaking, but you will stay because you love it!

"Toastmasters has completely changed my life," said member Anna H. "Now people listen to me when I talk, whether it's in front of a big group or one-on-one."

"The atmosphere of Unity Spiritual

Center inspires my passion to succeed with new ideas for my freelance storytelling. It gives me opportunities to help new Toastmasters," said member Louise D.

"Speaking publicly is a tremendous fear of mine," said member Charlotte H. "After coming to Unity Toastmasters, I have heard some excellent speeches. I was inspired when the speakers explained that before Toastmasters, they were very uncomfortable speaking. Slowly I have begun to participate and I can see great improvement already."

Don't let your fears of speaking hold you back from a better job, social skills, or superior communication with co-workers, friends and family. Stop in for a visit to see if Toastmasters is for you. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Road in Westlake. The fee for Toastmasters International membership is \$20 and monthly club dues are \$6. For more information, call Mary Anne at 216-374-3205. ●



## WESTLAKE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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# Stamps, stamps, stamps



PHOTO BY DENNY WENDELL

Is your stamp collection turning into an accumulation? There is a way to de-clutter and help out wounded veterans.

by EILEEN VERNON

As a budding stamp collector, I received a huge bag of stamps about 40

years ago from the attic of an old house my in-laws bought. I eagerly started to examine them and bought a guide, only to discover that this takes more time

than I ever had to do something of this sort. So I stashed them away until recently when we caught the de-clutter bug that is going around – only to find that

I had even less enthusiasm for sorting them. There are thousands of stamps, many nondescript U.S. stamps all from the 1920s and '30s. There were some pages where a person sorted and attached them to a catalog page.

Not being sure how to describe them, I read a few articles about stamps. I learned quickly that a stamp collection is quite different from a stamp accumulation.

Simply, it's a pile of stamps that kept growing over many years, always one day to be sorted and identified. Like the snow outside my window, where once there was dry pavement, now there is a pile of stuff, which has been gradually piling up, and may continue to pile up even higher (and who cares why it's piling up).

I did not have a stamp collection. I had a stamp accumulation.

Someone unknown to our family in the 1920-1960s had piled up stamps from all over the world. She added many addressed envelopes with

stamps from Germany, mostly pre-WWII.

I sent out a notice online seeking anyone interested in plowing through them. One man answered that he too had stamps from his father. I hope he reads this. Well, just in case there are others with similar accumulations of stamps, here is one solution.

To the rescue comes Jim Potter, he explained that he would sort through the stamps for anything of value. While highly unlikely, he could turn up something of interest. Afterwards he will take them to the The Black River Stamp Club where, after further sorting, they send the stamps to Stamps for the Wounded. This volunteer group, sponsored by the Lions Club, has been collecting stamps and related materials since 1942 to be used as "hobby therapy" for wounded veterans.

"The veterans enjoy going through the stamps," Jim Potter said. I can't think of a better place for my accumulation of stamps to end up. ●

## WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

### WHS freshman's film debuts at Cleveland festival

Westlake High School freshman Katie Cirincione's animated short film, "Checkers the Cat," was accepted and is part of this year's Cleveland International Film Festival, which runs March 30-April 10 at Tower City Cinemas.

Her stop-motion animation film is about a drawn cat named Checkers who comes to life. The piece was created when Katie was in pre-engineering teacher Kurt Thonnings' Electronic Communications class.



Katie's film will be shown at Tower City Cinemas on Sunday, April 3, at 11:30 a.m. A second screening will take place Sunday, April 9, 11:30 a.m., at the Akron Art Museum. Her two-minute film is part of the Family Shorts Program 1, FilmSlam International Shorts Program, and FilmSlam Shorts Program for Middle School Students.

Learn more at [clevelandfilm.org/films/2016/checkers-the-cat](http://clevelandfilm.org/films/2016/checkers-the-cat). ●

### WHS speech and debate team attends state tournament

by KIM BONVISSUTO

The Westlake High School speech and debate team enjoyed a successful state tournament at Cincinnati Princeton. Over 1,000 students from 106 schools participated in the competition this year.

Bradley Katcher, Allyson Simon and Avi Kirpekar qualified for the state tournament after an excellent season with a winning record at the district tournament.

Bradley and Allyson were named octafinalists in the

Public Forum Debate category. They placed eighth overall out of 65 teams in the preliminary rounds with a 5-1 record, then lost on a 2-1 decision in the octafinal round of the Top 16 teams in the state.

Avi Kirpekar was named a semifinalist in the Congressional Debate category. Avi, who only began competing in the Congress category in January, was among the 25 percent of students who advanced to the semifinalist round out of 192 students from around the state. ●



Bradley Katcher



Allyson Simon



Avi Kirpekar

### Westlake preschoolers follow Avon Lake eagles

A pair of eagles nesting outside an Avon Lake elementary school became a lesson for Kathy Nash's Hilliard Elementary School preschool class.

Since the students were beginning a unit on national symbols, Nash incorporated the eagles into an International Baccalaureate unit of inquiry.

The lesson helped her preschoolers develop questions and research skills, while incorporating math, science, social studies, language arts and social skills into the lessons.

Students worked together using measuring skills to create a life-sized eagle, which they compared to their own size. They researched the eagles' markings and colors, and talked about what the eagles might be doing when they leave the nest. The students also are collecting sticks



Hilliard Elementary preschool students are learning about eagles by following this one in Avon Lake. A camera mounted above the nest captures video that is broadcast live online.

and will create a life-sized nest while they continue to research eagle facts.

The class also is monitoring Avon Lake's Eagle Cam on

YouTube to follow the eagles, recently discovering two eggs are now in the nest. Visit [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com) for a link to the live videostream. ●



A Hilliard Elementary preschool student compares his arm span to the wingspan of an eagle.



SNIPPETS OF BAY VILLAGE HISTORY

# Catherine Porter Foote, a Dover pioneer woman

by KAY LAUGHLIN

None of us today can imagine the hardship a pioneer woman and mother dealt with each day. Their Bible study and caring daily for those in need, they saw their tasks to the finish. A tiny woman, Catherine went about her tasks in a positive manner, seeing that all was taken care of.

Four-year-old Catherine Porter traveled with her sister, Emmiline, and her parents, Rebecca and Ashahel Porter, from Waterbury, Connecticut, to Dover Township, Ohio, arriving in the afternoon of Oct. 10, 1810, making the Porter family the second family in Dover Township. Along on the journey were her uncles, Reuben Osborn and Leverett Johnson.

The Porter family built a log cabin near the lake on Lot No. 94, Section 7, Range 15, of Connecticut's Western Reserve, and set up housekeeping. The next year, 1812, a sister, Angelina, was born and a brother, Dennis, in 1814.

In April 1814, Catherine's mother, Rebecca Porter, traveled to Cleveland in a row boat with her infant son Dennis, Noah Crocker and George Smith. On the way home, the weather turned stormy and the lake became choppy with swells, forcing the little band to find shelter in the Rocky River.



Catherine Porter Foote arrived in Dover Township (now Bay Village) in 1810 at age 4. She lived in the township until her death in 1886.

her two sisters alone. Aunt Sara Osborn took them in and raised them as her own.

Catherine married Ransom (also called Ransom) Foote in 1824, and resided the rest of her life at 30906 Lake Road on the David Foote farm, Lot No. 97. Catherine began her married

life in an old log cabin with her in-laws, David and Betsy. David Foote built a frame house in 1828, on the north side of the old Indian path which today is Lake Road. When Betsy passed, Catherine and Ransom moved into the big house to care for David.

Catherine and Ransom had 12 children. By 1846, when Ransom passed away, they had lost two children, leaving Catherine with her father-in-law David and 10 children to care for. The 1850 census shows they employed a domestic and farm hand to help with the farm. In 1850, Catherine was 44 years old and David, 92. The Foote farm stretched from Bradley Road west to the Avon county line and south to just past Walker Road. They had orchards and grew what a family needed to survive. Later on a sawmill was constructed on the property.

Not opposed to adversity, Catherine persevered to keep her large family together. Catherine died in April 1886 at the age of 79. A very religious woman, she attended the Dover Lake Shore Methodist Episcopal Church where she was a founding member and her Uncle Epitaph preached.

The Foote farmhouse, built in 1828 and recognized as a Bay Village Landmark Home, was torn down by a developer in the 1990s. The sturdy house built from oak and chestnut was 165 years old. The basement was built from the ballast from the ships that plied the lakes. The Landmark sign for the house is in Rose Hill Museum. ●



The Foote farmhouse at 30906 Lake Road was built in 1828 and recognized as a Bay Village Landmark Home. It was torn down in the 1990s.

Before they made it to the mouth of the river, the boat overturned and all but Noah Crocker were drowned.

Rebecca and Dennis were the first burials in Lakeside Cemetery. Ashahel Porter, Catherine's father, distraught over the loss of his wife and son, sold his property on the lake and moved the family to Rockport, Ohio. He died in 1820, leaving Catherine and

FAMILY OBSERVATIONS

# Something to look forward to

by RJ JOHNSON, pastor at Advent Episcopal Church

"It's going to be just the two of us," I said to the boy. My wife was taking the girl to visit two college campuses over the weekend, so we were on our own.

The boy thought for a moment, then asked, "What are we going to eat?"

He was not asking this question out of a fear of starving because there would be no mother to cook for him. I cook often enough that he knows I am perfectly capable of preparing a meal. "What are we going to eat?" is one of his favorite questions. He will often ask, "What's for supper?" before he leaves for school in the morning. Sometimes he will come in and ask the question before anyone but he is out of bed.

"Don't you dare ask that question unless you have a cup of coffee in your hand," is my wife's response. I just pull the blanket over my head.

For a while, I was concerned that the boy was becoming a little neurotic about food. He's never really gone hungry. There is always plenty to eat. So, I asked him why he always wanted to know what was for dinner. "It's not like you're going to go somewhere

else if you don't like the menu," I said.

"I just like having something to look forward to," he explained.

I had never thought of it in that light. Supper gave him something to look forward to all day long. When one of the mean girls at school is making fun of his lack of fashion sense, he can ignore her and think, "I can get through this because we are having pork chops for supper." When he's getting threatened with detention because he did not notice the plastic bag static electricity had stuck to the arm of his coat, he can think, "It's no big deal, Mom and I are making focaccia pizzas when I get home." When he realizes he's forgotten to study for a test, all he has to do is remember he will be eating hamburgers in a few short hours. If you know what you're having for supper, there is always something to look forward to.

My wife did put her foot down one night when the boy was still clearing the supper dishes and asked, "What's for supper tomorrow night?"

"Give me a break," she said. "We've hardly finished eating tonight's supper."

"Sorry," he said, "how long do I have to wait to ask?"

"I guess we can have take and bake pizza all weekend," I joked in response to the boy's question about what we would eat on our weekend of man time.

"Can you grill something?" he asked.

"Sure, if the weather is warm enough," I said, starting to feel a little less sad about the ladies being gone for a whole weekend. I always feel lonely when my wife is gone, but at least I could look forward to burgers on the grill. ●

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

# West Shore Council of Governments (WCOG) meeting, March 9, 2016

by LWV observers NIKKI SALUPO (Fairview Park) and KATHY KOSIOREK (Lakewood)

*This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Bobst's office prepares official minutes.*

Present: Mayors Bobst (Rocky River), Clough (Westlake), Patton (Fairview Park), Summers (Lakewood), and Sutherland (Bay Village). Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted) was absent.

County Office of Sustainability Director Mike Foley spoke. His department, formed 13 months ago, was created to encourage use of greener energy. He spoke about the Clean Energy Finance Hub, which will help businesses, institutions, local governments and homeowners reduce their energy costs and access affordable clean energy retrofits and renewable power supplies. This bundling would take advantage of a 30 percent tax credit for solar power installations. His department will also help cities by performing energy audits.

Newly appointed County Chief Economic Development Officer Ted Carter introduced himself. He is from Jacksonville, Florida. He outlined how the county can assist communities in economic development. He will attend the May WCOG meeting.

Bay Village Law Director Gary Ebert spoke about the Mutual Aid Agreement to provide security for the Republican National Convention. Cleveland has asked cities for use of half of their police force – especially those that are Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) trained. He asked mayors to check with their law directors about their city's liability insurance.

Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney presented WEB's January financials and consideration of new WEB pay rates.

Susanne Blackburn, CERT Coordinator candidate, was introduced and spoke briefly about her qualifications. The position will be 10-15 hours per week, with an office in Westlake.

NOACA will discuss the funding of Fix-It-First project.

County Planning Commission – there is a need to train cities' citizens who volunteer for this job.

Cuyahoga County Mayors & Managers Association (CCMMA) will discuss the impact of loss of funding previously attained through the Local Government Fund. They will meet in Columbus to educate our state legislators.

District 1 Cuyahoga Council Member David Greenspan and CCMMA Executive Director Lisa Barlow were also in attendance. ●

Join in at [www.wbvobserver.com](http://www.wbvobserver.com)

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## THE GREEN REPORT

## One million per minute

by JENNIFER HARTZELL

One million per minute. That is how many plastic bags the world uses. It is estimated that worldwide use of plastic bags is between 500 billion and 1 trillion a year. Furthermore, it is estimated that Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags a year. The average American family brings home 1,500 plastic bags a year.

Not only are plastic bags a nuisance for the environment because they either sit in a landfill for hundreds of years or worse are blown around in our environment, ending up in trees and contaminating our waterways, but at least 12 million barrels of oil are used each year to manufacture those bags. Twelve million barrels of oil. A year. For something that is pretty much unnecessary.

Plastic bags were introduced to our society in 1977. Since then, these bags have become a crutch in our use-and-toss culture. We expect them everywhere we make purchases. More than 98 percent of them are thrown away and end up in a landfill after being used for 20 minutes.

Many counties and cities across the country are start-

ing to pass plastic bag taxes, meaning for every plastic bag you need at a store you are charged for it, usually between \$0.05 and \$0.25. After Washington, D.C., enacted a plastic bag tax, they saw a 72 percent reduction in plastic bag litter cleaned up in the Potomac River! I wonder if Lake Erie would benefit the same.

What can you do today? Invest in reusable bags. Each reusable bag will save hundreds of plastic bags a year. Reusable bags are very easy to use, and are sold in most every grocery store. I've also seen them at Marshalls and T.J. Maxx.

I keep reusable grocery bags in my car, and I keep small nylon bags that fold into themselves in my purse (that I bought for \$1 each at Ikea) for when I may purchase clothing or other spur-of-the-moment items.

If you're at a drug store or grocery store, sometimes they try to put only one item in a plastic bag when you can easily just carry the item (or consolidate into fewer bags). Refuse those bags. Each time you do that, it helps! And please don't switch to paper bags thinking they are better for the environment – they're not.

I know many of you are

wondering what you'll use for walking the dog, but I'm sure you end up with plenty of plastic bags (from bread products, newspapers and other items) that can be used for dog clean-up. Not to mention, I haven't taken a plastic bag from a store in more than a year, but they still end up at my house! People use them to bring something over, or kids bring them from school, etc. There is no shortage of pet clean-up options here despite never getting plastic bags from the store.

What else can you do? Write your County Councilman/woman and let them know you are concerned about this issue. In Bay Village and Westlake, our County Council representative is Dave Greenspan, dgreenspan@cuyahogacounty.us. Maybe someday Cuyahoga County or even the entire state can institute a plastic/disposable bag tax. In the meantime, please bring your own! This is important, and yet another simple step you can take that makes a difference for the environment.

And please don't forget about Earth Hour on March 19! Turn off those lights between 8:30-9:30 p.m. and be part of a worldwide, grassroots movement! ●



PHOTO BY PATRICK MCGANNON

Plastic bags litter the banks of the Cuyahoga River.

## Humor writing workshop open to new members

by MALCOLM WOOD

If you enjoy reading humorous writing by authors like Dave Barry and Erma Bombeck, this is the group for you. Come join us at 9:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month at Westlake Porter Public Library to engage in writing humorous pieces on various subjects such as growing up, old age, freaky friends, politics or whatever other aspects of life hit your humor bone.

At each meeting, we do impromptu writing on an assigned subject and read our assignments from the previous month for feedback from the group. This workshop is especially helpful to memoir writers who want to add a little zip to their writing. There are no fees or membership dues.

For more information, contact Mary Wood, 440-331-1349. ●

## HUMOR

## 'Houdini cat' a master of escape

by MARY WOOD

When Toetu came to live with us, we had no inkling that she was an escape artist. She liked to play in the front entryway where she could look through the screen door at the outside world. While looking at the outside, she was dreaming on how she could be part of the outdoors. Imagine our surprise when we discovered her wandering down the driveway in front of the garage.

How had she managed to get out of the house when all the doors

were locked? Mystified, my husband called her name, scooped her up and brought her back in the house. Twenty minutes later, we were sur-



PHOTO BY MALCOLM WOOD

"Toetu the Houdini cat" in the vestibule window, looking for another angle of escape.

prised once again to see her outside smelling the bushes alongside the driveway.

Now we were really dumbfounded, how had she managed to escape again? Was she a witchy cat with magical powers or Houdini reincarnated performing his great escape one more time? Pondering all these thoughts, we got Toetu back inside. Desperate to find her secret escape route, we checked her last known whereabouts indoors. It became abundantly clear how she escaped when we noticed the outside mail chute door was raised and we could see a clear way to the outside. Toetu had managed to push her way out through the mail chute door using her head, not once, but twice.

My husband quickly put an end to her escape shenanigans by blocking the inside mail chute opening, thus thwarting any new Houdini escape ventures. ●

Do **you** have a "good news" story? Become an Observer and share it with the Westlake/Bay community at: [wbvobserver.com/members](http://wbvobserver.com/members)



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THE DIGITAL WORLD

Scott Kelly’s use of digital tools is out of this world

by TAK SATO

When I was growing up in Japan, I wanted to be an astronaut. That’s probably nothing special as kids the world over must dream of being an astronaut when they grow up. Although multiple decades ago, I still can recall how obsessed I was with the idea. From my drawings to using big empty boxes from my dad’s shop strung together to look like a rocket lying horizontally on the ground, I could almost taste that cardboard cylinder rocket taking me into space.

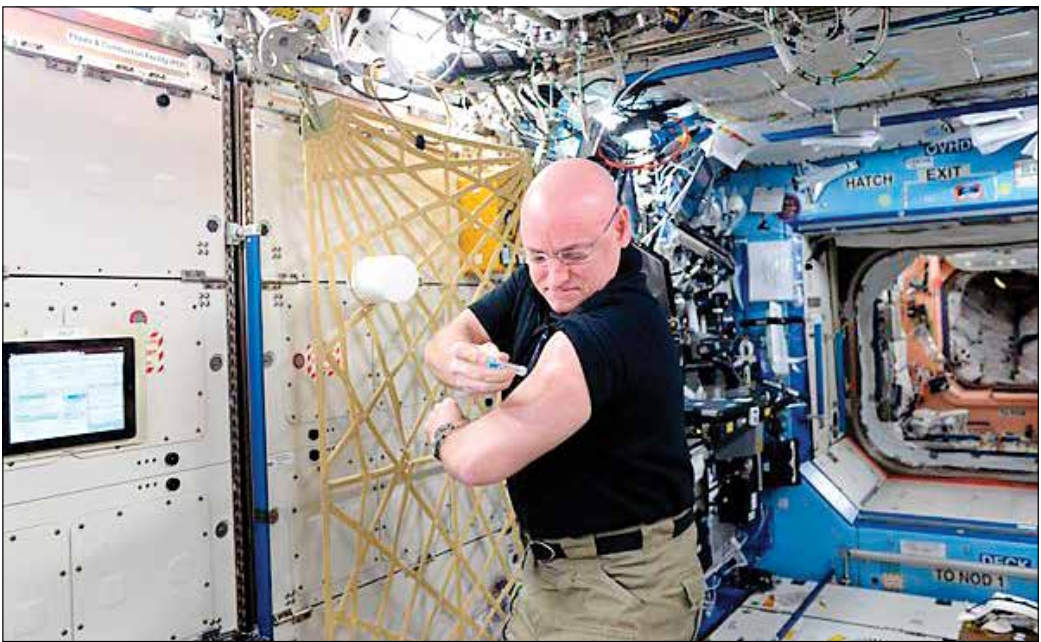
As I mined my archived childhood memories, I do remember a distinctive “feature” all the rockets in my drawings had: mostly white from top to bottom, with black square patches strategically placed throughout. Yes, the telltale sign of the rockets from the mighty NASA Apollo program.

This recollection made me more nostalgic, and equally curious, of one other memory I have – watching, on our

small TV set, fuzzy black-and-white video footage of astronauts landing and walking on the moon in 1969. So I did what anybody living in the 21st century will do – Google it – and there I was watching the glorious one-minute, 44-second footage of the lunar landing. I was content and was reminded of how great this country is.

My wife has been following the posts by American astronaut Scott Kelly, a highly decorated retired naval officer turned astronaut, for quite some time now. She has been nudging me to peruse his Instagram postings, Tweets and Facebook posts, but I always was too busy. I’m still busy but as soon as I rekindled my youthful memories with the lunar landing video on Youtube, I was down the rabbit hole.

“Blown away” is not a phrase I use lightly, especially when referring to some-



Astronaut Scott Kelly posted this photo of giving himself a flu shot in the International Space Station last September. Kelly used various forms of social media to share his yearlong space mission.

one’s use of digital world tools, but Scott Kelly has done just that. I wish I had listened to my wife (don’t let her hear that) as I’m still catching up on his other contributions from space.

Anyone can Tweet and post videos. Sure, he was in an environment of which only a handful can say “been there, done that” so the pictures and videos can be exclusive for that reason alone. What Scott Kelly has done is not only share those exclusive images but to really “connect” with us whose souls never left terra firma. It was as if we were stand-

ing alongside him at the International Space Station observing how polluted the earth has become; celebrating Halloween together on ISS; getting a flu shot in zero gravity ... whatever he was experiencing, technology let us experience and connect with him. Even after returning to Earth his communicate connects with us.

Bravo, Scott Kelly! You are a maestro of using the communication tools entrenched in the digital world in a way I haven’t seen many do – i.e. “connect” with others. ●

WESTLAKE-WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL

Art historian bares colors of the Impressionists

by LOUISE SEEHOLZER

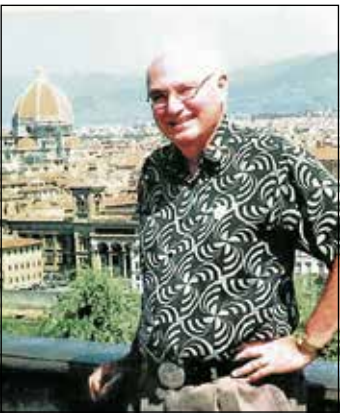
The Westlake-Westshore Arts Council presents a program on “Impressionism from Manet to Monet” by art historian Sean Crum on Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m., at Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road.

Four 18th-century artists and their works will be Sean’s focus as he shares his knowledge and experience on Impressionism and its repercussions in the art world. His spotlight will be on Edouard Manet, Pierre August Renoir, Edgar Degas and Claude

Monet, contemporaries who were born within a nine-year span – 1831 to 1841, all central figures in the Impressionist Movement.

Sean describes the Impressionists as the creators of a new way of painting and looking at the natural world. He adds that they challenged historical conventions that stood for centuries and created a new vision based on direct observation, sketchy brush strokes, high keyed color, and a keen awareness of the science of perception.

This interesting and informative program, which the



Art historian Sean Crum will discuss Impressionism at Porter Library on April 5.

WWAC offers free to the community, will illuminate the history and detail around these four artists and their treasured paintings, which have become highly identified works, even to the unstudied art observer.

Sean, a professional artist and musician for over 40 years and a professional art historian

for 30 years, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cleveland State University and a Master of Arts degree from Case Western Reserve University.

His credits include over 35 art and educational awards, being featured in 12 one-man shows, and accepted in more than 50 juried shows. Numerous collections have his work, including Patricia Heaton’s collection and The Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas. Sean has conducted tours at the Cleveland Museum of Art and has done numerous workshops and demonstrations for various organizations. He retired from teaching art and art history for North Ridgeville High School in 2012. He is currently teaching art history for the Center for LifeLong Learning at Lorain County Community College. ●



“Mlle. Irene Cahen” by Pierre August Renoir



“Water Lilies” by Claude Monet

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WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upcoming events at Westlake Porter Public Library

by ELAINE WILLIS

**Thursday, March 17 (7-8:30 p.m.) GOOGLE DRIVE** – Learn how to use Google Drive to create and edit forms, documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Prerequisite: Gmail account.

**Friday, March 18 (BASICS SESSION: 9:30 A.M.; ADVANCED SESSION: 11 A.M.)** Teach Me to Play – For children 3-6 years old who need help with communication and social skills. Join us for a play-based program designed to model and teach families strategies to improve their child’s social interactions, facilitate communication, and manage behavior in a positive way. Led by an early intervention specialist in behavior. To register: [connectingforkids.org/handsontaining](http://connectingforkids.org/handsontaining).

**Friday, March 18 (4-5:30 p.m.) WEIRD-ER SCIENCE: MATHEMATICAL SCIENCE** – Learn science while having fun! Our interactive after-school science program for middle school students teaches fundamental principles in an entertaining format. This month we’ll perform experiments using measurements and probability. Grades 5-6. Please register.

**Saturday, March 19 (2-4 p.m.) CARRY-OUT CRAFTS** – Stop in to create our featured craft. We have all the supplies you’ll need to create something fantastic!

**Saturday, March 19 (3-5 p.m.) MAD 4 MANGA** – Each month we watch a different Anime series and talk about our favorite Manga. Sometimes we even throw in some crafts, trivia or Japanese treats! Grades 7-12.

**Sunday, March 20 (2-3 p.m.) POM POM CRITTERS** – Come to the library to make some cute and cuddly critters. You can choose from a variety of Pom Pom critters to make and take home. Ages 8-10. Please register.

**Monday, March 21 (7-8:30 p.m.) INVESTOR’S INTEREST GROUP:** Understand-

ing The Wizard of Oz, Reading Behind the Financial Headlines – Much like in The Wizard of Oz, financial headlines can leave you frightened and paralyzed. Join Todd Williams, associate professor of business and economics, as he looks “behind the curtain” and explains how to interpret positive and negative financial headlines as they relate to your wealth development. Please register.

**Monday, March 21 (3:30-5:30 p.m.) TEEN LOUNGE** – Need a place to hang out after school? Come to the Teen Lounge! We’ve got computers, video games, board games, snacks and more! Grades 7-12.

**Tuesday, March 22 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: Making Positive First Impressions** – If you’re networking or interviewing, you need to make a positive impression. Get tips on the things that determine how you are perceived and how that perception impacts your success.

**Tuesday, March 22 (1-1:30 p.m.) YOGA RHYME TIME!** – A perfect way to introduce yoga and practice simple poses with rhymes that imitate animals and nature. Remember to wear comfortable clothing and bring a towel or yoga mat. Ages 3-1/2 to 5 years.

**Tuesday, March 22 (7-8 p.m.) TINY HOUSE MOVEMENT** – Adam Davenport from the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization will discuss the first permanent Tiny House in Cleveland and the EcoVillage brand. Learn more about sustainability-based housing and the movement towards living smaller and more efficiently. Please register.

**Wednesday, March 23 (2 p.m.) WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION** – The March selection is “The Paris Architect” by Charles Belfoure.

**Thursday, March 24 (noon-1:30 p.m.)**

**SMALL BUSINESS\$ LUNCH & LEARN: WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?** – Financial management for your small business. Learn how to calculate your start-up costs, do a cash flow projection, and manage your business funds. Bring your lunch; coffee is provided. Please register.

**Thursday, March 24 (2-3 p.m.) TRAVEL CLUB** – Join us for travel planning tips and sources and destination suggestions. Let’s share our best travel experiences with others. This month: A New Zealand travelogue!

**Friday, March 25 (10:30-11:15 a.m.) SENSORY STORYTIME** – Features an adapted storytime for children with special needs and their caregivers. Siblings are welcome. Includes time for social play. Content is geared to ages 3-7. Registration begins one week before each session.

**Friday, March 25 (4-4:45 p.m.) FUN SCIENCE FRIDAY** – Explore the wonders of our world in a curious, caring and creative setting. This month, we’ll investigate the stormy science of clouds and weather. Discoveries will be made through hands-on experiments, active participation and a simple take-home project. Ages 4-6. Please register.

**Saturday, March 26 (10:30-11:30 a.m.) POKEMON FUN!** – Bring your cards and accessories for a fun morning of Pokemon-themed play, prizes, and crafts! Ages 6-12.

**Saturday, March 26 (2-3 p.m.) BRICK BUILDERS CLUB** – Bring your ideas and imagination to the club! Ages 3-12. Lego and Duplo bricks provided.

**Saturday, March 26 (2-4 p.m.) THE HEALING POWER OF PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE DOGS** – Jane Miller, licensed social worker and psychiatric service dog expert, discusses her work with psychi-

atric service dogs and the healing benefits they provide to individuals. Please register.

**Sunday, March 27 – EASTER : LIBRARY CLOSED**

**Monday, March 28 (1-7 p.m.) AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

**Monday, March 28 and Tuesday, March 29 (2-4 p.m.) MOVIES @ THE LIBRARY!** – Join us for movie matinees! All ages. Registration begins one week before each session. All movies rated PG.

**Tuesday, March 29 (10 a.m.-noon) CAREER TRANSITION CENTER: WRITING TO EMPLOYERS** – Learn letter-writing techniques to prepare effective cover letters, marketing letters, follow-up letters and more.

**Tuesday, March 29 (7-8:45 p.m.) INTRODUCTION TO FINDING GRANTS** – Learn how to find potential grants for your nonprofit organization using Foundation Directory Online, a comprehensive online database and research tool. Please register.

**Wednesday, March 30 (7-8:30 p.m.) FYI OPERA** – Please join the Westlake Westshore Arts Council as they present David Bamberger and the Cleveland Institute of Music students.

**Thursday, March 31 (2-3 p.m.) CELEBRATE HARRY HOUDINI’S BIRTHDAY!** – Celebrate Harry Houdini’s birthday month by exploring some simple magic tricks and illusions. Grades 2-5. Registration begins March 24.

**Thursday, March 31 (7-8 p.m.) PINTEREST BASICS** – This is a lecture-based session focused on the basics of using Pinterest followed by an open Pinterest Lab. Please register.

To register for any of the programs, visit [westlakelibrary.evanced.info](http://westlakelibrary.evanced.info) or call 440-871-2600. ●

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bay Village officials to discuss animal ordinances

On Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the committee room at city hall, the Bay Village Environment and Safety committee chaired by Councilman Paul Vincent will discuss animal ordinances and make recommendations to make the wording and fines stronger.

Specific topics will be tethering and proper sheltering of outside animals.

The Friends of the Bay Village Kennel ask for your support and participation at this meeting for the animals in Bay Village. You may also provide written communication to Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council, which she will ensure the council members receive. Email letters to [JKemper@cityofbayvillage.com](mailto:JKemper@cityofbayvillage.com).

Our animal police logs reflect that these updates are needed. Most importantly the animals need you to speak up for them too! The animal police logs and other helpful information are posted at [friendsofbayvillagekennel.com](http://friendsofbayvillagekennel.com).

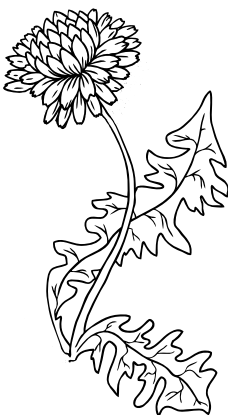
– Nancy Brown,  
Friends of the Bay Village Kennel

POETRY

The Lily

by Bruce Leigh

The lily is a very pretty, white flower. Its petals emit a gentle fragrance. The strong, white petals are like a mother’s arms holding a sleeping child. A mother’s love is strong and forever. When you get elderly, the lily may be the last flower you smell. The sweet odor will follow you into eternity.



The Dandelion

by Bruce Leigh

The Irish are glad because a flower is bright yellow on top of a green stem. The yellow flower is like the sun shining and the strong green stem is like the powerful resolve of the Irish spirit. It may bend, but never break, no matter what happens.



Professional Newborn Photographer

wanted at St. John Medical Center in Westlake. Perfect part-time and creative outlet opportunity. Must have morning availability, flexible schedule, and digital SLR camera. We provide training and pay is commission based. Please email [info@pictureperfectbabies.com](mailto:info@pictureperfectbabies.com) for more information.

2ND ANNUAL SPRING BOUTIQUE

Sun., March 20  
11am-4pm

Rocky River Civic Center  
21016 Hilliard Blvd,  
Rocky River

Come Support Angels on the Avenue with raising money for the residents of St. Augustine Health Campus. Over 35 vendors and crafters, chinese raffle, food and baked goods.

Visit with the Easter Bunny & enjoy activities at the Kiddie Corner



## BAYARTS

# BAYarts' juried exhibition Best of Show goes to 'Scream of the Butterflies'

by JESSICA STOCKDALE

Married artists Laura and Gary Dumm took Best of Show in BAYarts' recent juried exhibition. The bold piece juxtaposes film villains against environmental concerns. Their acrylic piece, "Scream of the Butterflies," shows The Bride of Frankenstein (wearing a beauty queen sash reading "Ms. Monsanto") spraying a can of Raid into her mouth, as vividly orange monarch butterflies fly out of frame.

In describing the process, Laura Dumm makes it sound seamless. "First we discuss what subject we want to paint. Then Gary draws out the idea, we discuss it more and do a bit of fine tuning, then he transfers that to the canvas and hands it over to me to paint! It's great working together; we bring our different strengths and the finished painting shows that."

For those curious about the Monsanto beauty sash, it refers to a company known as being one of the worst offenders to the environment. A leading producer of genetically engineered seeds, Monsanto also

creates and sells the troubling herbicide glyphosate, which is sold under the name of Roundup.

This herbicide called glyphosate that kills weeds, kills off the monarch butterflies food source of milkweed (a weed) which has been directly linked to a rapidly reduced monarch butterfly population. On a Star Talk podcast in July 2015, popular scientist Bill Nye cited the numbers as being "reduced over the last two decades by 90 percent."

This knowledge informs "Scream of the Butterflies" all the more, showing the thoughtful concern that this piece of art conveys.

Judged by Corrie Slawson and Susan Squires, the



Laura and Gary Dumm's "Scream of the Butterflies" makes a bold statement for environmental protection.

juried show received 140 artist applicants from all over Northeast Ohio. The exhibit is on display at BAYarts through the end of the month, Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ●

## Antique dealers, artisans invited to 47th Cahoon in June

by CYNTHIA EAKIN

The Bay Village Historical Society invites antique dealers and fine craft artisans to participate in its 47th annual "Cahoon in June" event on June 18.

Held in Bay Village's beautiful and historic Cahoon Memorial

Park on the shores of Lake Erie, the show attracts a variety of quality antique and collectible dealers as well as crafters from Ohio and neighboring states. In addition to the exhibitors, this year's show will feature a wide selection of interesting food, culinary artisans, live music and children's activities.

Admission to the show is

free, which draws a large crowd. Last year's Cahoon in June attracted nearly 2,500 visitors.

Show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with set-up time beginning at 7:30 a.m. The show will go on rain or shine. Visit bayhistorical.com for complete booth space information or phone 216-213-0312. The deadline

for reservations is May 31. All vendors who register before the deadline will get a listing in the show program.

Cahoon in June is part of a city-wide "Destination Bay" event involving a number of community organizations throughout Bay Village on June 18. ●

## Summer Camps, Activities & Programs



Promote your summer activities in the Observer ... contact Laura at 440-477-3556 or email [laura@wbvobserver.com](mailto:laura@wbvobserver.com)

## Lakewood Recreation



Lakewood Board of Education  
Tom Einhouse  
Betty Bergen Shaughnessy  
Linda Beebe  
Edward Favre  
Emma Petrie Barcelona

Adult summer softball team registration available through March 31

A variety of men's and co-ed leagues are available, including Sundays and weeknights

Email Rick Wallenhorst for information: [richard.wallenhorst@lakewoodcityschools.org](mailto:richard.wallenhorst@lakewoodcityschools.org)

216-529-4081



## 6th-8th Grades Boating Education Program

### LEARN SAFE BOATING SKILLS

Hands-on classes in PWC, Power Boats, Sail, Kayaks and Canoes

#### OHIO BOATING EDUCATION CLASS

The Spirit of America Boating Education program requires students to attend and complete the Ohio Boating Education Course which will be held on Saturdays, May 7 and 14, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the Bay Village Community House, 303 Cahoon Rd. Attendance is mandatory.

#### DROWNING PREVENTION & EQUIPMENT AWARENESS CLASS

Date and time to be announced. This class will be held at the Bay Village Community Pool. Students will learn to properly fit and use personal flotation devices (PFD), upright and overturn sailboat, and learn other water safety skills.

#### ON-THE-WATER CLASSES

The on-the-water classes will be held on Mondays, June 13, 20 and 27, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Whiskey Island Marina near Edgewater Park.

Cost for entire program is \$20.

Application available at [bayvillageschools.com](http://bayvillageschools.com), Bay Library, Bay Rec Dept., or email [cuyahoga@spiritofamerica95.org](mailto:cuyahoga@spiritofamerica95.org). Deadline April 22.



This program is partially funded by the Safe Boating Education Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft.

Sponsored by the Spirit of America Foundation and in association with the Bay Village Schools

## A Lifetime of Art begins here

Members register on-line for campART beginning April 12 [www.bayarts.net](http://www.bayarts.net)

BAY arts





FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

You are invited to a free, interactive Stations of the Cross and labyrinth walk

by KAREN PETERSON

Please join St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Saturday, March 19, from 1-3 p.m. for reflection, prayer and an interactive experience. Come prepare for Palm Sunday and Holy Week by reflecting with us on Jesus' journey to the cross. All are welcome, no exceptions. The interactive stations will engage all five senses. The pilgrimage will start in the Sanctuary, and is designed for you (and your family) to go at your own pace. Please dress

comfortably for the weather as the final Stations will be outside in the prayer garden and in the labyrinth. The Stations of the Cross have been an important devotion used in Lent for about 800 years, a means of enabling Christians who could not go to Jerusalem personally to follow Jesus' footsteps on Good Friday. We walk with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane, his condemnation by Pilate, through his suffering and death, and finally to the tomb and resurrection. Historically, the labyrinth pre-dates the Station of the Cross by several hundred years. The Chartres Labyrinth was constructed in the stone floor of Chartres Cathedral, France, in 1201 AD. Medieval Christians visited Chartres (and other churches and cathedrals) to walk the labyrinth as an alternative to taking a hazardous pilgrimage to Jerusalem to walk the "foot steps of Christ." Modern "pilgrims" walk the labyrinth path as one of many tools to enhance prayer, contemplation, meditation and personal growth. For more information, please contact St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 468 Bradley Road, Bay Village, at 440-871-6200 or visit [stbarnabasbv.org](http://stbarnabasbv.org).

Step into a Bright New Beginning!

Unity Spiritual Center

EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, March 27 • 9AM & 11AM  
Nursery Care 9AM & 11AM



Unity Spiritual Center  
23855 Detroit Rd • Westlake • 440.835.0400  
[www.UnitySpiritualCenter.com](http://www.UnitySpiritualCenter.com)  
(Near Clague Rd. I-90 Exit)

Easter Worship Services



Join us for Easter Sunday at

WUMC WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Sunday Worship

8:15 am Reflective

10 am Classic

11:28 am Modern

You're invited for Westlake United Methodist Church's Holy Week & Easter Events

Thursday, March 24th at 6:30pm - Last Supper Remembered  
Simple soup supper, children's choir, communion

Good Friday, March 25th at 8pm  
Tenebrae worship with chamber orchestra & choir

[westlakeumc.org](http://westlakeumc.org)  
27650 Center Ridge Road  
Westlake, Ohio 44145  
Phone: (440) 871-3088

Easter Sunrise Service at 7 am  
Evergreen Cemetery • 29535 Center Ridge Rd



ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday – March 24 at 7:30 pm  
Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday – March 25 at 7:30 pm  
Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday – March 27 at 8 am, 10 am and 5:30 pm

The Rev. RJ Johnson • 3760 Dover Center Road, Westlake  
[www.adventwestlake.org](http://www.adventwestlake.org) • 440-871-6685

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

23500 CENTER RIDGE RD.  
440.331.0834 • [WWW.CORUCC.ORG](http://WWW.CORUCC.ORG)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
6:30 p.m. Seder Meal	7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae recounting Christ's final days	7:15 a.m. Sunrise Service at Huntington Park
		10:30 a.m. Traditional Service



CELEBRATE OUR RISEN LORD

Palm Sunday, March 20 at 10 a.m.


Good Friday Service, March 25 at 7 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt, March 26 at 10 a.m.

Easter Celebration Service  
Sunday, March 27 at 10 a.m.

Parkside Church of the Nazarene  
23600 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake  
(Corner of Clague & Hilliard) [www.parknaz.org](http://www.parknaz.org)

St. Raphael Catholic Church



Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 20  
4:30pm Sat Vigil Mass  
8am, 10am, 12pm Sun Mass

Holy Thursday, March 24  
7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Eucharistic Adoration until 11pm

Good Friday, March 25  
12pm Stations of the Cross  
3pm, 7:30pm Veneration of Cross

Holy Saturday, March 26  
1:30pm Blessing of Food  
3-5pm Confessions  
9pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday  
8am, 10am, 12pm Mass

525 Dover Center Rd. • Bay Village • 440-871-1100 • [www.saintraphaelparish.com](http://www.saintraphaelparish.com)



# What does the cross mean to you?

by GENE SHERMAN, minister of Christ Church Westshore-Anglican

I find it fascinating that the cross is the symbol of the Christian faith. Crosses are everywhere in our culture. When you pause and think about it, a cross is an odd symbol. An execution tool would come to embody a movement of hope. Would you wear a tiny electric chair around your neck, or on a business card? I don't think so, yet we do so with the cross.

Why is the cross the symbol of the Christian faith? The cross is where God forgave the world without lowering His standards. How could He do this? In a sentence: God put our sin on His Son and punished it there.

*"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

– 2 Corinthians 5:21

This is what God did, but why? Moral duty? Heavenly obligation? Paternal requirement? No, we are told that God is required to do nothing. The only reason Jesus would die for you is because of His amazing love for you!

You see, the good news is that we don't have to clean up our act in order to be in right standing before God! This Easter we celebrate that Jesus not only died for us, but in addition was raised from the dead to prove He was God, so that we might believe in Him for the life we live today to the fullest, and forever! That's good news to me, and I pray for you as well. Come and join us at Christ Church this Easter! Services at Bay Middle School, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

May you and yours have a glorious Easter celebration. ●

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION AT

# St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

27993 Detroit Road, Westlake 44145

[www.stpaulwestlake.org](http://www.stpaulwestlake.org)

Join us for Easter Services and share the glorious news of our Savior's Resurrection

SERVICE SCHEDULE		8:30 & 11:00 am times provide both Trad. & Contemp. Services. For further information, call the church office at (440) 835-3050
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 20th</b>	<b>8:30 am; 11:00 am</b> /Communion in Contemp. Only
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 24th</b>	<b>12 noon</b> /Traditional Only; <b>7:00 pm</b> /Trad. & Contemp.
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 25th</b>	<b>12 noon</b> /Traditional Only; <b>7:00 pm</b> /Trad. & Contemp.
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 27th</b>	<b>7:00 am</b> /Traditional Only; <b>8:30 am; 11:00 am</b>

### Holy Week Services

**PALM SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.**  
The Sunday of the Passion

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.**

**GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 P.M.**

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**  
At St. John's, Ohio City, with five other congregations  
**7:00 P.M.**

**EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.**

**ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
468 Bradley Road  
Bay Village  
[www.stbarnabasbv.org](http://www.stbarnabasbv.org)  
(440) 871-6200



## Bay United Methodist Church



29931 Lake Road  
440-871-2082  
[www.bayumc.org](http://www.bayumc.org)

**COME AND JOIN US ON EASTER DAY**

**Easter Services**  
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

# Celebrate Easter with Us

## SUNDAY MARCH 27

### 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

### Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, 3/24 @ 7:00 pm  
Bay Middle School

Good Friday, 3/25 @ 12:00 pm  
Auburn Hall, Bay Presbyterian Church  
25415 Lake Road, Bay Village

Good Friday, 3/25 @ 7:00 pm  
Bay Middle School



Christ Church  
Westshore-Anglican

Meeting at:  
Bay Middle School  
27725 Wolf Road  
Bay Village, OH

440.899.7151  
[www.christchurchwestshore.com](http://www.christchurchwestshore.com)

Like us on Facebook  
Christ Church Westshore-Anglican

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

## AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL



**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20**  
*The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, preaching*  
8 a.m. Early Eucharist  
9 a.m. Mostly Jazz Mass  
11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23**  
6 p.m. Tenebrae Service  
Trinity Chamber Singers  
sing music by Allegri and Poulenc

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24**  
12:10 p.m. Healing & Eucharist Service  
6 p.m. Last Supper, Potluck, Garden of Repose

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25**  
12 p.m. Solemn Liturgy  
1 p.m. Good Friday Blues & Lamentations  
Music by the Gateway Band  
1 p.m. Children's Good Friday Program  
(Childcare available 12 – 2 p.m.)  
7:30 p.m. Good Friday Concert  
Requiem, Op. 48, and Cantique de Jean Racine  
by Gabriel Fauré  
Trinity Cathedral Choir and Trinity Chamber Orchestra  
Quatre Motets pour un temps de Pénitance  
by Francis Poulenc  
Trinity Chamber Singers, Todd Wilson, conductor

**EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27**  
6 a.m. The Great Vigil of Easter  
9 a.m. Contemporary Festival Eucharist  
Music by the Gateway Band  
10:10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children grades preK-5  
11:15 a.m. Festival Eucharist  
The Trinity Cathedral Choir with brass and timpani  
*The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, preaching at all services.*



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## WESTLAKE-WESTSHORE ARTS COUNCIL

## FYI: Opera's silver year shines (and sounds) like a diamond

by LOUISE SEEHOLZER

Magnificent music and outstanding voices will blend for the climax of the FYI: Opera program's 25th season on Tuesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. at Westlake Public Porter Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road. The Westlake-Westshore Arts Council has enriched the community

for a quarter of a century by offering FYI: Opera without charge.

The March 29 program previews the Cleveland Institute of Music opera program "Sensational Scenes from Operas – Grand and Light." CIM Opera Artistic Director David Bamberger promises a potpourri of marvelous selections of great works from the whole history of

music theater.

Accompanying Bamberger will be four stars of recent CIM productions. Caroline Bergan and Matthew Maisano, Susanna and the Count in Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," will reprise selections from "Figaro," considered a masterpiece of Italian comic opera. They will also present highlights from the opening scene of Jules Massenet's most popular and enduring opera, "Manon."

Renée Richardson and Benajmin Liu, who sang the title roles in the CIM production of Hector Berlioz's enchanting "Beatrice and Benedict," will sing a duet from that opera.

Berlioz wrote the French libretto himself and used Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" as his plot. In addition to the Berlioz duet, these talented voices will perform other cherished arias.

The performance will be narrated by Bamberger and accompanied at the piano by John Simmons, the music director of "Sensational Scenes."

The March 29 FYI: Opera program offers an inviting sample of CIM's fully costumed production of "Sensational Scenes from Operas – Grand and Light," which will be performed April 15, 16 and 17 at CIM's Kulas Hall in University Circle. ●



PHOTO BY ROGER MASTROIANNI

Caroline Bergan and Matthew Maisano will reprise selections from their performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" as part of the FYI: Opera program March 29 at Porter Library.

## WESTLAKE KIWANIS

## Westlake Kiwanis hosts Builders Club

by VICTOR RUTKOSKI

At a recent meeting, the Westlake Kiwanis hosted one of their service leadership programs, the Lee Burneson Builders Club. Builders Club advisor Cassandra Persia, club president Lauren Havelka and vice president Vincent Corrado shared with Kiwanians some of the things the club has been doing.

Ms. Persia was so excited about the group of Builders Club members she has. She says they are eager and excited to be part of Kiwanis and she has new students



PHOTO BY VICTOR RUTKOSKI

Pictured from left: Cassandra Persia, Lauren Havelka, Vincent Corrado and Norm Resko.

asking everyday if they can join. They currently have 26 members. She is especially proud of Lauren and Vincent, who are go-getters and born leaders.

Both Lauren and Vincent spoke about themselves and related some of the projects Builders Club has completed and plans for upcoming projects.

They had a Hungry Pumpkin which people were

encouraged to fill with candy. They collected 198 pounds of candy which they gave to the Blue Stars Mothers who sent it to troops overseas. They had a project called "Can the Principal" where they collected canned goods and filled the principal's office which prevented the principal from using the office. The canned goods were then taken to the Westlake Community Food Pantry. It was the largest collection of food the pantry ever received.

Club members also took part in the Adopt a Family Project and adopted several needy families for Christmas. They purchased and delivered gifts to these families for Christmas. They created valentines and made little favors and delivered them to the Lutheran Home for Valentine's Day. They continue to collect ring tabs for Ronald McDonald House. They hope to have a project at a local animal shelter in the coming months. ●

## VILLAGE PROJECT

## NOURISH makes a healthy debut

by DIANE FRYE

More than 400 people attended the inaugural NOURISH event at the Hyland headquarters on February 27. The evening was planned to raise funds for Village Project.

Guests were treated to several different stations featuring delicious dishes prepared from Village Project recipes, as well as live, silent and Chinese auctions. In addition, guests were given Village Project "passports" allowing them to explore the many endeavors of the organization, which provides meals and sustaining services to families experiencing cancer in the western suburbs, including Bay Village and Westlake.

NOURISH raised \$26,000. The funds will



assist Village Project in moving toward its goal of cooking meals four days each week, increasing from the current two days. This will allow Village Project to care for more families and provide the opportunity for more volunteers to serve.

Barb Harrell, executive director of Village Project, was thankful for the enthusiastic turnout, volunteer help, party space and wonderful food. "We are incredibly grateful to Hyland Software for hosting this event. The venue was perfect, and they could not have been more welcoming." She added, "Marigold Catering was amazing: donating, preparing and presenting the event's delicious, nutritious and beautiful food. NOURISH received rave reviews, and we look forward to making it an annual event."

Next up for Village Project is the third annual Project Pedal which will take place



PHOTOS BY DIANE FRYE

Attendees to Village Project's Nourish fundraiser were treated to delicious dishes and bid on auction items throughout Hyland headquarters on Feb. 27.

during Destination Bay on June 18. Look for more details coming soon. For more information about Village Project, visit ourvillageproject.com or call 440-348-9401. ●



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**BAY VILLAGE BRANCH LIBRARY**

# Upcoming programs at the Bay Village Branch Library

by TARA MCGUINNESS

Has it been years since you last picked up your guitar? Or, did you recently get a new guitar and want an introduction to how it is played? Join us at the Bay Village branch library on Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. to re-discover your guitar as Rob Steinhardt, a former teacher at The Music Academy Asheville and participant in the prestigious Swannanoa Gathering, demonstrates the basics including an overview of the physical aspects of the guitar, basic chords and learning a simple song. Space is limited, so please register.

**CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT**

**STORYTIMES:** Caregivers and their children are invited to enjoy rhymes, songs, fingerplays, books and stories together. No registration is required.

- **Mondays (10 a.m.) TODDLER STORYTIME** – ages 19-35 months.
- **Tuesdays (10 a.m.) TODDLER STORYTIME** – ages 19-35 months.
- **Tuesdays (6:45 p.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME** – for all ages
- **Wednesdays (10 a.m.) BABY AND ME STORYTIME** – ages birth-18 months
- **Thursdays (10 a.m.) PRESCHOOL STORYTIME** – ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten)
- **Thursdays (6:45 p.m.) SENSORY STORYTIME** - Geared for children who are developmentally at the preschool level and specifically designed for children with special needs and their families. The program incorporates a scheduled board, double visuals and sensory opportunities for participants as well as socialization time following the program.
- **Fridays (10 a.m.) FAMILY STORYTIME** - for all ages
- Thursday, March 17 (3 p.m.) COOKIES AND BOOKS** – Children in grades 3-4 are invited to join us to discuss a good book. Copies of this month's book, "Skellig" by David Almond, will be available one month before the discussion.
- Saturday, March 19 (10:30 a.m.) SENSORY SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM** – Geared for children who are developmentally at the kindergarten to fifth-grade age level, this program is designed specifically for children with special

needs and their families. First we will build with Lego building blocks. Then we will have the option to use our creations to make a stop-motion animation movie. Registration required.

**Monday, March 21 (7 p.m.) ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK AUTHOR VISIT: MEET LYNNE RAE PERKINS** – Join us for a visit with Lynne Rae Perkins, the author of "Nuts to You," the One School, One Book title being read by students at Normandy and Westerly elementary schools.

**Monday, March 28 to Friday, April 1 (All Day) SPRING BREAK CRAFT** – Drop in to make a seasonal craft.

**Wednesday, March 30 (2 p.m.) SPRING BREAK MOVIE** – Visit the library for a special screening of a popular movie. Bring a blanket and pillow or sleeping bag. A parent/guardian must sign a release form before the program.

**Thursday, March 31 (2 p.m.) ROBOTIX BLOX: DRUMMING MONKEY** – Grades 2-4: If you get excited for science, technologies and building, then join us for a hands-on adventure into the world of LEGO WeDo robots. Team up with a partner and make music by building and programming a drumming monkey. Registration required.

**TEEN DEPARTMENT**

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (3 p.m.) TEEN ZONE** – Students in grades 5 and up can stop in to enjoy fun apps, book discussions, video games, community service, challenges and more!

**Tuesday, March 22 (7 p.m.) TEST STRESS: A PARENT'S REAL GUIDE TO COLLEGE TEST PREP** – This fun, free, interactive seminar will provide tips on helping your child deal with the stress and anxiety of taking tests as well as how to develop a high school action plan to be ready for college. Registration required.

**Thursday, March 24 (3-5 p.m.) TEEN CODING CLUB** – Grades 5-8: Want to crack into computer programming? Each session we'll explore different tools to create web pages, make video games, program robots and more. Bring an email account (for which you know the password), and make sure to bring a flash drive to save your work.

**Wednesday, April 6 (3 p.m.) NASA'S JOURNEY TO MARS** – Grades 5 & up: Are you interested in programming with real NASA scientists? Join us to learn about the Mars Rover

and what discoveries it has made.

**ADULT DEPARTMENT**

**Wednesdays (5:30-8:30 p.m.) DROP-IN AND DOWNLOAD** – Learn how to borrow free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, movies and music from our Digital Collection anytime, anywhere. Bring your device and passwords to the library and our staff will get you started. Our Digital Collection is available 24/7, 365 days a year, and there are never any late fees!

**Friday, March 18 (10 a.m.) BAYARTS BOOK DISCUSSION** – Join us for this monthly book discussion on the BAYarts campus in the Sullivan Gallery. This month's title, "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel, is available at the library or BAYarts.

**Wednesday, March 23 (7 p.m.) REDISCOVERING THE GUITAR** – This 90-minute class is designed for the guitarist who hasn't played for a while and wants to get reacquainted with the instrument and basic chords. It is also for the true beginner who is interested in learning a little more about the guitar, and how it is played.

**Wednesday, April 6 (7 p.m.) MASTER GARDENERS: NATIVE PLANTS, RUGGED EASY CARE SURVIVORS** – Join us as the Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County present gardening with native plants. Native plants possess certain traits that make them uniquely adapted to local conditions. These plants have evolved over a long period of time, in response to the following characteristics of our region: climate, soils, rainfall, drought and frost. In addition, native plants can often match non-natives in ruggedness and resistance to insects and disease.

**Monday, April 11 (7 p.m.) THE MAKING OF MAJOR LEAGUE: JONATHAN KNIGHT** – Please join us as Jonathan Knight, author of "The Making of Major League," gives us a behind-the-scenes look at one of the greatest baseball movies ever. Based on interviews with all major cast members plus crew and producers, it tells how writer/director David S. Ward battled the Hollywood system to turn his own love of the underdog Cleveland Indians into a classic screwball comedy.

**Please register to attend the programs at [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org), call us at 440-871-6392, or stop in to the library at 502 Cahoon Road and register with a librarian.** ●

**SPORTING VIEWS**

# When MLB cheating makes sense

by JEFF BING

Shortly after the announcement from Major League Baseball that Indians projected center fielder Abraham Almonte was suspended for the first 80 games of the 2016 season after testing positive for steroids, a friend and I were discussing the suspension.

While we weren't about to christen Almonte as the second coming of Grady Sizemore, Abe *did* play an above-average center field, and showed enough pop in his bat last year to be a competent hitter in the Tribe lineup, at least until Michael Brantley had recovered from surgery. The news that Almonte was popped for using Boldenone, a horse steroid, had us tempering our optimism for the upcoming season before it even began.

People often wonder why athletes risk getting busted for steroid use when the penalty is so great. The story of Almonte is an excellent example of why players roll the dice in spite of the penalties. Keep in mind that even though Almonte reportedly "accepted full responsibility" for having the steroid in his system, Honest Abe also maintained he didn't know how it got there. Makes me think that anyone with the ability to say something like that with a straight face has

a bright future in politics when his playing days are over. Then again, maybe that was the steroids talking and Almonte was just, ahem, "horsing" around. (Sorry, I couldn't resist).

But, back to why someone like Almonte might take the risk of using steroids. Just for a moment, pretend that you're a minor league baseball player who is at the Triple-A level, but having a hard time taking the next step to the "big." The minor league salary isn't bad, but it's a pittance in comparison to what you could get in the Majors. If only there was *something* you could do to get you to that big contract. *What to do, what to do* ... Suddenly that little light bulb goes on over your head, and you start thinking, *Hey, if it worked for Thunderbolt, maybe it will work for me...*

Now, I don't know what Almonte's thought process was; I don't know the man and have never spoken with him. But I do suspect that for anyone, that promise of one big contract – one big contract which could change your life forever – has to be mighty attractive, hasn't it?

Which now has *me* thinking ... I don't know if Boldenone would make me a better writer. Is it worth the risk? Probably not.

But merely the thought of increasing my readership into double digits IS rather tempting. ●

# Rite Aid Foundation awards \$10,000 to Youth Challenge

by KATHY RIGDON

Youth Challenge, the local KidCents charity, received a \$10,000 gift for participating in The Rite Aid Foundation's Big Hearts Give Challenge. The special challenge was designed by The Rite Aid Foundation to help KidCents charities raise awareness, grow their donor network and earn additional funds for their organization.

The donation will help Youth Challenge continue to offer a variety of adapted sports and recreational activities to hundreds of children with physical disabilities and their teen volunteer partners. Youth Challenge has offices in Westlake and Shaker Heights and offers free programming and transportation to participants in an eight-county area of Northeast Ohio.

Rite Aid "wellness+ with Plenti" members fund the KidCents program through purchases. Those members can round up their purchases to the nearest

dollar and donate their change to KidCents. They also can sign into their "wellness+ with Plenti" account and give their change to an approved KidCents charity of choice, like Youth Challenge.

"Our Big Hearts Give Challenge was a fun way for KidCents charities to earn a donation for their organization while raising awareness about the valuable work they are doing and expanding their donor network," said Rite Aid CEO of store and President of Rite Aid Corporation Ken Martindale, who also serves as president of The Rite Aid Foundation. "The Rite Aid Foundation looks forward to developing other unique opportunities through our KidCents program to help our partner charities raise much-needed funds, so that they can continue making a difference in the lives of the children they serve."

For more information about enrolling in the KidsCents program, visit [youthchallengesports.com](http://youthchallengesports.com) or call 440-892-1001. ●



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Post your group’s free community events online at [wbvobserver.com](http://wbvobserver.com)

**Tuesday, March 15, 5:30-7 p.m.**  
**Understanding the Changes in Memory Beyond Normal Aging**

As we get older, so does our brain. You may find you or your loved one experience more and more of those “senior moments.” It is important to know when your memory loss is due to the normal aging process or when it is an early sign of something more serious. Learn the difference in memory in normal aging and as a part of the early stages of dementia. Call 440-808-9275 to RSVP.  
*Arden Courts, 28400 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*

**Tuesday, March 15, 6 p.m.**  
**College Credit Plus Information Night**

Learn how your child can earn college credit while in middle or high school. More than 16,000 students have taken advantage of College Credit Plus at Cuyahoga Community College since the statewide program began as PSEO in 1989.  
*Tri-C Westshore, 31001 Clemens Rd., Westlake*

**Wednesday, March 16, 6:45-8:30 p.m.**  
**Cuyahoga West Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society**

Cuyahoga West’s March 16 program will NOT be at Westlake Porter Public Library, our usual meeting place. We will meet at the Westlake Family History Center for a free Familysearch.org tutorial, followed by time at the computers in the Center’s lab. Wi-Fi is available, so you may bring your own laptop, tablet or other mobile device. Meet in the lobby, right front entrance at 6:45 p.m.  
*Westlake Family History Center, 25000 Westwood Rd., Westlake*

**Thursday, March 17, 3-7 p.m.; Friday, March 18, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Annual Decoy Show Collectors Event**

Featuring outdoor sporting collectibles from over 80 exhibitors set up in hotel rooms on two floors. Free admission.  
*Hilton DoubleTree, 1100 Crocker Rd., Westlake*

**Thursday, March 17, 7-8 p.m.**  
**Toastmasters Meeting**

Overcome your fears of speaking, develop better speaking and presentation skills, learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet, and build strong leadership and mentoring skills. Contact: Mary Anne, 216-374-3205.  
*Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Rd., Westlake*

**Friday, March 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Group for Older Adults with Cancer**

Significant others welcome. Call Erin Rafter at 216-595-9546 or visit [touchedbycancer.org](http://touchedbycancer.org) for more information. Free.  
*The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr. Westlake*

**Friday, March 18, noon-3:30 p.m.**  
**Eggstravaganza**

Hop around the Center’s beautiful grounds for our popular egg hunt. Our resident bunnies will be on hand to help and hand out some eggcellent prizes. Weather not cooperating? We’ll move our hunt inside. For children ages 1-8 with an adult. Children ages 1-5 will be scheduled at 12:00, 1:00 or 2:00. Children ages 5-8 will be scheduled at 3:00. Please register in advance, 440-871-2900. Tickets are \$7/child. Event also occurs March 19, 20, 25, 26.  
*Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village*

**Fridays, March 18, 5-7:30 p.m.**  
**St. Raphael Lenten Fish Fry**

Join us every Friday in lent for your choice of baked or fried fish, mac & cheese, or pierogies. All meals include fries, cole slaw, rolls, beverages and dessert. Adults \$13, seniors and children \$8. Carryout available.  
*St. Raphael Parish Activity Center, 525 Dover Center Rd., Bay Village*

**Saturday, March 19, 9:30-11 a.m.**

**West Side Writers**  
A monthly meeting to critique fiction writing.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Saturday, March 19, 1-3 p.m.**  
**Interactive Stations of the Cross and Labyrinth Walk**

The interactive stations will engage all five senses. The pilgrimage will start in the Sanctuary and finish outside in the prayer garden and in the labyrinth. All are welcome.  
*St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 468 Bradley Rd., Bay Village*

**Saturday, March 19, 1 p.m.**  
**Westlake Easter Egg Hunt and Candy Scramble**

For children up to age 10, sponsored by the Westlake Town Criers. First scramble at 1 p.m. for ages 4-6, the second at 1:30 p.m. for ages 7-10. Ages 3 and under continuous from 1:00-1:30. Prizes, refreshments, face painting and raffles. Free to all.  
*Westlake Recreation Center playground, 28955 Hilliard Blvd.*

**Saturday, March 19, 8:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**Earth Hour**

The Bay Village Green Team encourages all to join the global movement and switch off all non-essential lights (as well as TVs and unnecessary appliances) as a symbol of your commitment to the planet.

**Sunday, March 20, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Bay Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast**

All-you-can-eat pancakes, syrup, link sausages, milk, juice and coffee. Tickets: \$6 in advance from any Kiwanis member, \$7 at the door and children under 5 eat free. Bring your camera for photos with the Easter Bunny. Proceeds benefit community service projects and scholarships.  
*Bay Middle School cafeteria, 27725 Wolf Rd.*

**Tuesday, March 22, and Thursday, March 24, 6:30-7:45 p.m.**

**Yoga for Those Touched by Cancer**  
A gentle relaxing exercise that helps increase energy and improve muscle tone and flexibility. Please bring your own mat. Advance registration required, 216-595-9546. Free.  
*The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

**Wednesday, March 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Embroiderers Guild of America, North Coast Chapter**

The group will be working on their philanthropy project, stuffing and sewing small bears that are donated to hospitals, including the pediatric units, and women’s shelters to provide comfort. Last year, the group made 750 bears. Please join us to meet fellow stitchers and to have fun. For more information, call 440-835-5183 or 440-734-2383.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Wednesday, March 23, 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**How to Invest Wisely**

Attend this free educational event and learn how to build an investment strategy, multiply wealth, and take safer financial risks. Speaker Paul Fleming is a seasoned investment professional who has developed a rich skill set in quantitative methods, risk management, securities trading and portfolio management for over 20 years.  
*Tri-C Westshore, 31001 Clemens Rd., Westlake*

**Thursday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Communion**

The community is invited to remember the Last Supper with a simple soup meal, music from the Westlake UMC children’s choir and the receiving of communion. Please RSVP to 440-871-3088 or email [westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org](mailto:westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org).  
*Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Friday, March 25, 8 p.m.**  
**Tapestry of Darkness: Choral Cantata with Chamber Orchestra**

The community is invited to a moving Good Friday Tenebrae worship experience centered

around the cantata “Tapestry of Darkness” by Ruth Elaine Schram. Westlake UMC Chancel Choir and guest chamber orchestra will perform this dramatic musical work. The cantata blends Scripture readings describing the last days of Jesus’ life with original songs that depict both the events and emotions of Holy Week.  
*Westlake United Methodist Church, 27650 Center Ridge Rd.*

**Sunday, March 27, 7 a.m.**  
**Community Easter Sunrise Service**

The community is invited to an ecumenical service in which we will greet the rising sun and hear the story once again of Jesus rising from the tomb to conquer death and offer us salvation. Donuts and coffee served after the service.  
*Evergreen Cemetery, 29535 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake*

**Monday, March 28, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Oh Dear, Oh Deer!**

Deer can wreak havoc on your landscape. Greg Malone, program manager of Cuyahoga Community College’s Plant Science and Landscape Technology Program, will discuss several ways to limit the damage including proper plant selection and deterring them through mechanical, chemical and natural means. Luncheon served; \$5 fee for Bay Village Garden Club guests. Call 440-933-8393 for reservations.  
*Bay Village Community House, 303 Cahoon Rd.*

**Monday, March 28, 5:30-6:15 p.m.**  
**Guided Meditation for those Touched by Cancer**

Relax, learn new coping skills, and practice mindfulness meditation techniques in a group setting. Call 216-595-9546 or visit [touchedbycancer.org](http://touchedbycancer.org) for more information. Free.  
*The Gathering Place, 800 Sharon Dr., Westlake*

**Sunday, April 3, 3-4 p.m.**  
**Meet an Animal: Eastern Cottontail**

Join us for a fun program about one of our resident animals. Learn about their unique features, diet, habitat, survival tactics and more as you get to see one up close. For all ages. Tickets are \$5/person.  
*Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village*

**Wednesday, April 6, 1-2:30 p.m.**  
**Free Family History Research Help Session**

Members of Cuyahoga West Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society will offer free family history research assistance, to the public. If you have data recorded to pedigree and/or family group sheets, please bring these forms, as they will aid the volunteers in helping you.  
*Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.*

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