How smart is this?

Hugh Fisher is a Cedar-Fairmount resident.

Captured at the intersection of Fairmount Blvd. and Coventry Road is a Smart car surrounded by six gigantic SUV’s. One wonders how a paleontologist would interpret this scene.

How smart is this?

Smart car surrounded by six gigantic SUV’s. One wonders how a paleontologist would interpret this scene.

continued on page 10

Community addresses foreclosure threats

Deanna Bremer Fisher

With about 800 vacant houses in Cleveland Heights, foreclosures are a primary community concern. Three panelists addressed this issue at a program sponsored by the League of Women Voters on June 12 at Cleveland Heights City Hall. Rick Wagner, manager of housing programs for the city of Cleveland Heights, Kathryn Lul, executive director of the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), and Scott Wachter of the Cleveland Federal Community Leadership Institute spoke to an audience of about 40 city residents.

Wagner stated that of the 15,000 single family dwellings and 1,260 two-family dwellings in Cleveland Heights, about 800 are vacant and 300 of those are in active foreclosure proceedings.

He said he saw the beginnings of today’s problem in the late 1990s when changes in banking regulations and or unconstitutional appraisers, among other factors, bled equity from properties and enabled loans to be sold to out-of-state banks. Many people fell for get-rich-quick real estate promotions and bought blocks of houses, hoping to become millionaires.

Three city programs are in place to aid the community. Community Development Block Grant money is being used to finance the conversion of a group of doubles to condominiums on East Derbyshire between Cottage Grove and Lee roads. This investment will create a new neighborhood.

continued on page 10

Residents share ideas for Cedar-Fairmount

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Enhancing livability in the Cedar-Fairmount business district was the topic of discussion at the Cleveland Heights Community Center on June 5. In the first of three planned public meetings, residents, business owners, consultants, and public officials attended the visitation. Representatives from City Architecture and Michael Baker Jr., Inc., presented their analysis of existing conditions in the district and attendees shared their reactions and ideas.

The city has formed a steering committee of residents, business owners and other stakeholders to guide the planning process. Funding is provided by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA’s) Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative.

“One of the main goals of the project is to provide a balance between the vehicular traffic, bicycle traffic and the pedestrian realm. Currently that balance does not exist and the vehicle is favored,” says project architect Paul Volpe.

Cedar Road is currently six lanes in the Cedar-Fairmount business district. According to a traffic study conducted by Michael Baker Jr., Inc. the morning peak hour sees approximately 1,450 cars traveling westbound through the district and 2,800 cars travel westbound down Cedar Hill. In the evening, the situation is reversed. Roughly 2,800 cars travel eastbound up Cedar Hill. About 1,450 of those veer left to East Heights Boulevard, while about 1,500 continue eastbound through the district.

continued on page 10

continued on page 7
Foreclosure and hope in the Heights

Judi Miles

Whether local, regional or national, it seems there are but five topics that dominate the news these days: the 2008 presidential election, the war in Iraq, the high price of gasoline, global warming, and the foreclosure crisis. This may be one of the few times in history when national issues feel extremely local. With the exception of an actual home invasion, a homeowner is unlikely to feel more vulnerable, then when a house near you is under foreclosure, and subsequently boarded up.

Vacant houses invite vandalism. A thriving underground market for copper and aluminum is enabled by “look the other way” scrap yards and contractors who accept and pay for the raw materials. But for the tell-tale notices posted on doors or windows, one might not even know whether a home is in foreclosure or vacant for some other reason. And sometimes, it doesn’t matter. But, recently, something has caused me to hope that opportunities exist to turn the crisis around—something that requires a new sense of community that seems to have been lost;

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Heights Observer, publisher and staff of FutureHeights

Correction
Resident David Hunt was misidentiﬁed in a photo accompanying the article “Budget cut spurs citizen activism” on page 1, Number 3 of the Heights Observer.

Cleveland Heights resident Ralph Solonitz (artist/writer) was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany, the son of Holocaust survivors. He began doodling very early on…first in German and a few years later in his new language English. His father gave him motivational advice... “Stop your doodling, you are wasting time and will amount to nothing.” Fast forward 55 years, thousands of dollars in therapy and he still can’t stop doodling.
A Shakerite’s ode to her Cleveland Heights neighbor

Sophie Wesner

As I look forward to studying for a mas-
ter’s degree in comparative journalism at
the University of Swansea, Wales, I feel
that I can finally assess how the Heights area has affected me. As a Shakerite
resident throughout high school and
college, the undated graduate student
and former Cleveland Heights Universe
editorial board member, I have grown to
know Cleveland Heights thoroughly
thanks in large part to a good friend
whom I’ll call “Monica,” a native of
Cleveland Heights.

In my first semester at Cleveland State,
I attended a fraternity party with
Monica. We met at a Heights High alum-
num who greeted us by announcing
that nowhere else in the country but in
the Heights area could the label “tree
nut” no longer apply. You hear the
touching tale of an inspiration, a
Wesner whose inspirational music teacher
symbolized both as a teacher and as a
friend to my grateful students.

In my first semester at the University of
Swansea, Wales, I feel
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Cleveland Heights City Council highlights

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting Highlights
Monday, May 5, 2008 meeting

First Suburbs supports county land bank
Council Member Ken Montlack reported that the First Suburbs Consortium Executive Committee supports County Treasurer Jim Rokakis’s county land bank proposal, but asserts that the land bank’s non-profit board needs to include representation from the First Suburbs Consortium. The committee also endorses the Governor’s Building Ohio Jobs Program even though it no longer includes a neighborhood or downtown revitalization piece.

Sewer line service fees
Council raised fees for flushing private sewer lines from $30 to $100 for work performed during normal business hours and from $75 to $200 outside those hours. For households with household exemptions, fees will increase from $25 to $75 during business hours and from $75 to $200 outside those hours. The fee for video inspection of sewers will be $100. The new fees are still lower than those of a private contractor.

Houses declared nuisances
Two foreclosed houses on Kildare Road (3376 and 3377) were declared nuisances, authorizing the city to undertake repairs. Rehabilitation of 3376 will cost about $15,400; 3377, at least $15,000.

Wage freeze for employees
Council approved a labor agreement with the city’s public works employees allowing a three-year wage freeze. Council Member Mark Tumeo, vice chair of city council’s administrative services committee, thanked the union for sharing the burden of balancing the city’s budget.

Field House fees raised
Council raised yearly fees for community center field house passes, effective June 1, 2008,

- Young adults ages 18-24: $65
- Adults ages 25-59: $92
- Adults over age 60: $59

These fees were increased by $5, a change recommended by the City Manager’s Executive Committee.

No tax proposal for August ballot
Mayor Ed Kelley stated emphatically that no tax increase proposal would be on the August ballot.

LWV observers: Katherine Solender and Blanche Velancz. Report summarized and edited by Maryann Barnes.

Monday, May 19, 2008 meeting

AT&T equipment at Turtle Park
AT&T planned to install new equipment, needed for its expansion into Turtle Park, which is at the corner of Euclid Heights Blvd. and Hampshire Rd. However, council members, frustrated by the unwieldy utility boxes, recommended that the new equipment be placed where there would be better screening from public view.

Natural gas services
Council authorized continuation of the Gas Aggregation Program with Integrys Energy Services, Inc. for providing natural gas services to Cleveland Heights residents and businesses. The new price will likely be higher than the current rate of $0.99 per thousand cubic feet. This service is not mandatory.

Cedar Hill project update
The Cedar-Fairmount traffic study, which is related to the Top of the Hill project, is just beginning to collect stakeholder and public feedback. NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) is funding the study.

Parking fines raised
Effective July 1, 2008, most parking fines will increase by $5.00. Illegal parking in handicapped spaces will increase steeply to $100.

Vicious dogs
Council voted to require owners of “vicious dogs” [defined as all pit bulldogs and any other kind of dog on record for biting someone] to register the dogs annually with the animal ward and show proof of insurance. The code change also increased permit costs.

Council welcomes phone calls
Council Member Nancy Diestrich assured citizens that phoning council members at home is appropriate and welcome.

Progress towards regionalization
Mayors and city managers from sixteen northeastern Ohio counties met May 15 to consider regional planning and tax sharing. The phase one report "led to the discovery of what many have been preaching for many years; not only is tax sharing required, but real regional planning is a must. Directing resources to the urban core is essential.” Council Member Ken Montlack cautioned that obstacles remain, but the leadership and support of exurban mayors demonstrated real progress. Eventually the Ohio Assembly must act to mandate changes in regional governance but Montlack expressed optimism that state legislators are noticing how regional ills affect the entire state.

No city plans for Coventry School
Mayor Ed Kelley made it clear that, despite speculation, council has neither plans nor money to authorize the city to purchase or tear down Coventry School.

LWV observers: Carol Gibbon and Kay Hyklon
Report summarized and edited by Maryann Barnes.

These summaries of LWV Cuyahoga Area-Heights Chapter reports of Cleveland Heights City Council meetings contain member observations and selected highlights. They are not official statements by the League of Women Voters. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

To subscribe to listserv postings of the full reports send an email to two_suburbsrequests@bub.net and place “subscribe” in the subject field. Each posting includes self-unsubscription instructions.

Council meetings can be viewed on Cable Channel 25 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the Mondays.

MONS, continued from page 1
are great because the kids will be able to use them for school in the fall.”

319-398-6206), the local hospital, which although impacted by the flood, is now back in operation and providing direct assistance to victims.

Nivi and Sue are impressed with the outpouring of creativity and concern that the Heights community has shown in a short period of time. They encourage parents to get their children involved. “Children can help collect toys, write a letter or send a picture with your donation,” said Nivi, “It’s important that our kids can connect with the kids in Iowa to let them know we’re thinking of them.”

For more information visit: www.boundlessslift.com/summersanta.

Cleveland Heights and University Heights
Summer Fun Guide 2008

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<th>Date</th>
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Call for more information or visit our community calendar at heightsobserver.org
For Laser Vision Correction, This Shortstop Didn’t Stop Short of the Best.

Trust Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute for your laser vision correction surgery. You’ll be cared for by the same world-renowned specialists who treat the most serious eye conditions. Ranked nationally by U.S. News & World Report, our team of experts is by your side from consultation to post-surgery checkups.

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Call for a free consultation at Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute, or for more information visit us at clevelandclinic.org/2020 216.445.8585
Brigitte’s moves up Cedar Hill

Kaye Lowe

The year was 1966, the days of the Beehive Hair styles, when women used knitting needles to scratch their heads and they had their hair set once a week. Sabina Schaner’s mother, Brigitte, decided to open a beauty shop. She sponsored 16 German immigrants to come to the states and work with her as beauticians. The shop started in the location now known as the Fairmount Martini & Wine Bar. Brigitte continued at that location until 1973 when she turned over her beauty shop to Anthony Marotta.

After a brief sabatical, Brigitte returned to the business in 1975. She moved her shop to the location next to Nighttown Restaurant. Her daughter Sabina joined her in 1984 working her way up to partner. She became sole owner at the retirement of her mother in 1994.

After 42 years of offering excellent service to ladies and men alike, Sabina decided to expand her salon from 900 to 2,000 square feet moving two blocks east to the Heights Center Building. She used the master craftsmanship of the carpenters from the Beard Group, Cleveland Heights contractors, to create a relaxed atmosphere in a simply elegant, non pretentious setting.

When you enter the new shop (now called Cedar Hill Salon) you will witness an authentic child’s metal barber chair duplicating an adult’s. Just inside the front door discover a lounge with comfortable chairs, couch, and coffee bar. There are large expanses of windows overlooking Cedar Road, dark maroon walls, tile and wood floors and exotic overhead lighting to create an elegant atmosphere.

You will find seven individual stylist stations, and a separate area for shampoo and color. Little ones can experience having their hair cut in a race car.

The expanded salon has added an upstairs for manicures, gel nails, pedicures, and eye lash applications. There is a private room for massages and total body waxing.

The atmosphere of the new Cedar Hill Salon, whose talented staff have a total of 178 years of experience, is one of classy, quiet ambience. Sabina said she is grateful to building owner, Michael Occhionero for giving her and her staff the extraordinary business opportunity to be a part of serving their community.

Sabina’s goals for the future are to keep her talented employees happy, as she feels without them she wouldn’t be able to serve the Cleveland Heights community she has resided in for 43 years. Her philosophy is cleanliness is everything; she plans to continue offering new techniques and top quality service to her customers.

Sabina Schaner and her Cedar Hill Salon staff’s goals are to “Make Every- day a Beautiful Hair Day.” They invite you to stop by at 12433 Cedar Road to view the new salon and enjoy a cup of coffee. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

“Adios” Que Tal, “Konnichiwa” Tree Country Bistro

New Coventry Asian spot differentiates itself with Korean fare

Christina Klenotic

Tree Country Bistro, Coventry’s newest Asian restaurant, took over the space formerly occupied by cult-followed Que Tal when it closed its doors after a 13-year run. The extensive menu features a taste of Japanese, Korean and Thai food including sushi, noodle and fried rice dishes, Thai curries and more.

Tree Country Bistro joins fellow Coventry Asian restaurants Hunan Coventry, Mint Café and Pacific East... and let’s not even talk about Lee Road, which is sporting two new sushi joints, Aiyoshi and Aosshi Café. Seems Cleveland Heights is morphing into Little Asia. In fact, as I was leaving Tree Country Bistro after my second visit, I overhead a passerby comment, “Another Asian place!”

The good news is Tree Country Bistro differentiates itself from its neighbors with Korean offerings and the presentation of its dishes. For example, an intricately carved carrot butterfly sits atop served sushi dishes. Korean special- ties are served with miso soup and rice, and the tender spicy pork bulgogi ($22.95) we sampled was served sizzling on a skillet over a wooden board.

Appetizers were a hit. Spring rolls ($4.95) were light and crisp. The sushi appetizer ($2.95 for four pieces) was fresh and flavorful, and the scallion pancake ($5.95) and its accompanying green curry sauce were finger-lickin’ fantastic. In fact, the appetizer sauce prompted me to try green curry with tofu ($6.95 for lunch, $10.95 for dinner). Unfortunately, the dinner dish didn’t pack the same flavor punch as the appetizer’s curry.

I’ll come back for the Thai iced tea, which has an addictive and aromatic milky, chai flavor. An assortment of fruit shakes also are offered (tapioca beads can be added for a bubble-tea effect).

The casual space has a welcoming aura with richly painted walls in plums and greenery (albeit fake). Tables are spaced generously apart for privacy, which were generously apart for privacy, which were filled by families, college students and groups of friends over the course of our visits, although nowhere near capacity. At the sushi bar, a chef prepares sashimi and maki rolls (I really wanted to try the Coventry Maki that featured spicy tuna, avocado, cucumber, tempura crumbs and tobiko, but never got to it).

Food service was quick, but not rushed. Staffers were attentive and presented dinners with a rolled, room-temperature hand towel once seated.

It’s evident that the Tree Country Bistro staff takes pride in its work and aims to please. I swear a couple of servers almost seemed melancholy when we left food scraps on our plates.

Tree Country Bistro is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Takeout service is available.

Per her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a “good eater” who never met a carb she didn’t like. She enjoys sampling our area’s eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods.

The elegant interior of the new Cedar Hill Salon.
Home Repair Resource Center office offers "Home How-To" each year to a new group of eighteen women homeowners in Cleveland Heights. To join the Home How-To program, you must be a homeowner/occupant here in Cleveland Heights who is a single woman head of house. There are also some income requirements that depend on household size.

For information, call Becky Stager, program coordinator, at 381-9960, or visit www.hrrc-ch.org.

Becky Stager has been the repair education programs coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center since 1980 and has taught classes of women graduates from the "Home How-To" program.

**Duties:**
- To serve as an educational role model by assisting elementary school students with homework and study skills at the Library.
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**Qualifications:** Strong background in elementary school subjects such as math, science, social studies, and English. Desire to help diverse student populations succeed academically. Willingness to work at least one two-hour shift per week (center hours are 3:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday) for a nine-week period beginning August 2008.

Children under the age of 18 will require parental permission and a letter of recommendation from a teacher. Background checks will be performed on anyone age 18 and up. Training will be provided by Heights Library personnel.

If you are interested, please contact Sarah Biscuso, Children's Services Librarian at 932-9600 ext. 293 or sbiscuso@heightslibrary.org.
Circulator provides vital link

Jerry Masek

With hundreds of residential units, and more than 1 million square feet in commercial space, Severance Town Center is "just what the doctor ordered," as far as the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is concerned. The #821 Circulator began service June 30, 2003, connecting Coventry, Little Italy, University Circle and Shaker Square. However, ridership was never strong, says Joe Calabrese, RTA CEO and general manager. "It was clear that the route needed a major trip generator," Calabrese says. "We believe that Severance Town Center is the answer. As always, we continue to monitor the route to maximize the service to our riders."

After much community input, Severance was added to the route of the #821 University Circle/Heights Area Community Circulator on Dec. 11, 2006. Service runs every 30 minutes, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. The fare is $1. A round trip takes about 45 minutes.

RTA began offering Circulator service in 1996 to complement big-bus service with smaller vehicles that operate in a specific community or neighborhood. The #821 usually attracts about 2,000 riders a month, but that jumped to more than 6,300 in April.

Where it goes
- In the Heights, the Circulator serves: • Severance Town Center • Cleveland Heights City Hall • Dave's Supermarket • Coventry Village
- In Cleveland, the Circulator serves: • Little Italy • Case Western Reserve University • Severance Hall • Cultural museums • University Circle Red Line Rapid Station

Many connections
The Circulator also connects to many other popular routes:
- #6 Euclid Avenue
- #567 Oxford/Berea—University Circle
- #80 University Circle—Downtown
- #81 University Circle—Lakewood Heights
- #92 Cleve-Mark
- #42 Fairmount
- #48/48A University Circle-East 131
- #60X Red Line

The free Circle Link service operated by University Circle Inc.

The lure of Severance
Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward J. Kelley is one of many people who enjoy the service to Severance Town Center. Kelley has been an RTA board member since 2000, and is now vice-president of the board.

"I like the route to Severance and Coventry. Both are unique areas in our city, and I often ride the Circulator with my kids," he says.

"Severance Town Center is an important attraction for many people in our community, and it's a great anchor for an RTA route. With Cleveland Heights City Hall, retail stores and recreational opportunities there, it's a natural trip generator."

An operator’s viewpoint
Circulator operator Quinton Hudson Sr. provides a way to work for many Severance employees. He likes the route because it is "diverse, scenic and easily accessible from the Rapid Station." He has been driving for RTA for about 10 years.

At Severance, he says he carries a lot of customers to Wal-Mart, Baker's Square and the International House of Pancakes. From 9 a.m. he carries many high school and college students.

Customers appreciate the ride
The #821 riders are a diverse group. Keith Allen, 53, a retiree from East Cleveland, just likes to hop on the Circulator "to see where it goes." It's a scenic way to spend the day, he says.

Ralph Bemlit, 61, lives near University Circle, and rides the Circulator 2-3 times a week. Today, he is going to Wal-Mart, then Coventry.

"The Circulator is fast and convenient, and it goes into the neighborhoods more than larger buses do. I enjoy riding it," he says.

Nurse Annette Steen, 36, rides the Circulator to work three days a week. "I love the convenience," she says. "Many things I need are not far from this route."

Ride RTA to Dave's Market
In March 2007, Dave's Market and RTA began a joint promotion to increase Circulator usage. Shoppers who travel to the store on a Community Circulator route and spend $15 in groceries will receive a $2-tick farecard. The promotion is good at any Dave's Market located on a Circulator route — including the store at Severance Town Center.

For more information
- Visit rideRTA.com, where you can print a timetable, use a trip planner, and sign up to receive a bi-monthly e-mail newsletter.
- Call the RTAanswerline, 621-9500.

Jerry Masek is a member of RTA's Marketing Department.

Cycling class helps adults ride safely and confidently in traffic

Joy Henderson

The League of American Bicyclists and FutureHeights are teaming up to offer a cycling class that teaches the skills needed to ride safely and confidently in traffic. Cycling for transportation is becoming more attractive as gas prices rise, and having the right cycling instruction can ease the transition to a less car dependent lifestyle.

The two-part Road I class will be offered on Saturday mornings in July (see below) to adults and teens over 14. The class will be taught by Ann Whalen, a LAB certified instructor and includes classroom instruction, cycling skill development in a closed parking lot and on the road. Students also learn about basic repairs — including how to fix a flat tire. "Learning the basics about bike handling and safety makes people want to ride and gives them the confidence to drive a bike instead of riding a bike," said Whalen. "And most importantly they discover all the benefits — fitness, economics and the sheer fun of it."

The League of American Bicyclists is a 128 year old organization whose goal is to promote bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation to and from work through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America.

Bicycles built for comfort are perfect for around town errands.

Class co-sponsor FutureHeights promotes a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights through innovative ideas and civic engagement.

Heights Bicycling Class:
- What: Road I Bicycling Class for adults and teens over 14.
- Where: Heights High's library and east parking lot. Enter building on Washington Boulevard, enter door on east side.
- When: Saturdays July 19 and 26, 8:00 a.m. — noon.
- Fee: $30

For more information call 965-9795.

Joy Henderson enjoys cycling for transportation, fitness and fun, and the especially loves a comfortable bike.
Cross-country trip redefines

Lita González

As Baby Boomers start to retire they’re asking themselves “Where do I go from here?” Charlotte McGowan decided to explore that question in a unique way—by biking cross-country. Charlotte moved to Cleveland Heights from Athens Ohio ten years ago with her husband Terry. Before retiring, she was an educator with a Presbyterian church in Lyndhurst and enjoyed doing weekend bike tours with the Wandering Wheels, a group that helps promote biking. The idea of biking cross-country, though, was something she had thought about but never really felt she could accomplish. As motivation, she decided to use her cross-country trip to raise money for Heifer International, an organization that works towards sustainable development in poor areas globally and nationally. Her goal was to raise $5,000.

Charlotte started preparing for her trip by increasing her riding, taking more challenging routes and using her inside bike trainer during the winter. On March 28, 2008 Charlotte joined 43 other riders, including her 87 year old uncle, and dipped the back wheel of her bike in the Pacific Ocean at Carlsbad, California. The group stayed in churches and periodically a hotel as they biked through deserts and mountains, next to trucks along Highway 60 and through a sandstorm. Charlotte had her first 100-mile day in New Mexico and on May 9, she completed her journey by dipping her front wheels in the Atlantic Ocean at St. Simon’s Island, Georgia.

The trip also gave Charlotte plenty of time to think about what she wanted her retirement to look like. “Retirement is what you make it,” Charlotte says, “and I want to become more involved in my community.”

Charlotte wants to do volunteer work that builds on her knowledge of the education process and has started volunteering at the MOSAIC Experience, one of the five small schools at Heights High School. She will work with the principal, teacher leader, parents and other community members to develop a tutoring project to support incoming 9th graders. She also plans on being one of the tutors. “This trip taught me that if you dream it, you can do it. Sometimes you may not have a clear idea of what that dream is and then an opportunity presents itself. That is what keeps you alive.” She describes life as an adventure of hills and valleys, “Along the way we’ve got to try new things. If we fail, so what –you keep learning along the way.” Charlotte now sees her retirement as reorienting to a new life of challenges and accomplishments. “They didn’t think they could,” Charlotte says, “and I want to become more involved in my community.”

Charlotte cheers after completing her cross country bike trip on May 9, 2008.

I would finish the bike trip but in the end I received an award for most improved cyclist,” says Charlotte.

For information about the work of Heifer International visit www.heifer.org. For information about the Wandering Wheels program visit www.wanderingwheels.org.

Lita González, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Gesu honors Sister Jeanne Tighe’s 39 years of service

Mary Patton

Sr. Jeanne Tighe, s.s.c. began her teaching career at Gesu School in University Heights in the 1969-70 school year as an 8th grade science and math teacher. Upon her retirement in June, she shared memories about the Gesu community’s wonderful families, students, faculty, staff members and parishioners living throughout the Heights. From January to March 2008, Sr. Jeanne was the director of religious education for the school and for Gesu Church’s parish school of religion (PSR). Since 1981, she served as director of adult education and liturgy. She helped to coordinate hundreds of liturgies, including weddings, funerals, Communions, Confirmations, Masses of Anointing, the liturgical seasons such as Christmas and Easter, special ceremonies such as the installation of new pastors, and the jubilees of many Jesuit priests.

Add to that the dedication celebrations of the 1997’s building such as Gesu’s Educational Center, Family Center and Marian Chapel, and her liturgy duties which have touched a great many lives over the years. She was always busy working with the parents in the sacrament programs as well as coordinating retreats for senior adults, moms of school age children, men and women.

Sr. Jeanne served under seven Jesuit rectors of religious education for the school and for Gesu Church’s parish school of religion (PSR). Since 1981, she served as director of adult education and liturgy. Sr. Jeanne has been a consultant to the Jesuit Detroit Province Development office and John Carroll University. She attended Ursuline College and holds bachelor and masters degrees from John Carroll University.

Sr. Jeanne was a published author, teacher and speaker on local and national levels. She has conducted national and diocesan conferences on faith formation and taught scripture and spirituality courses for teachers and parents throughout the Cleveland diocese.

Sr. Jeanne has been a consultant to the Jesuit Detroit Province Development office and John Carroll University. She is a member of the board of trustees for the Jesuit Retreat House and the Irish American Archives Society.

At her farewell Mass and reception on June 7, Sr. Jeanne commented, “I am grateful to the dozens of wonderful lay men and women who have helped assure that Gesu School and Parish School of Religion remain among the truly vibrant parishes in our diocese.”

Best wishes to Sr. Jeanne Tighe!

Mary Patton is a public relations consultant and a longtime resident of the Heights. She currently lives in University Heights with her husband and daughter.

Heights Observer gets international attention

Vive la Heights Observer on Strasbourg

A hotel clerk at the Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland enjoys learning about the Heights.

For information about the work of Heifer International visit www.heifer.org. For information about the Wandering Wheels program visit www.wanderingwheels.org.
In addition, the city has the opportunity to buy houses from HUD for $1 each. The city can then demolish them or rehabilitate the homes and place them back on the market. Although there have been slowdowns and halts to this program, 27 houses have been released to Cleveland Heights.

The city also secures vacant housing and maintains lawns. In 2007 the city took care of 400 properties and billed $81,000.

Lad told the audience that HRRC is now a HUD-certified counseling agency, which means additional funding and quality training for counselors. HRRC offers monthly classes to residents on budgeting, credit and home buying.

Home owners in trouble have three options for help: they can negotiate a repayment plan with the lender to pay the mortgage in full; they can work with the Ohio Rescue Home Fund and a similar Cuyahoga County program to advance money at 0% to bring mortgage payments current if they are experiencing temporary financial problems; or they can obtain a loan modification with the bank for a trial period of three months. HRRC urges residents to call when they sense that they are in financial trouble rather than waiting until the foreclosure process starts.

HRRC rehabilitates houses and will work with the city to take four of the 51 houses. Lad stressed the terrible condition of these houses and agreed with Wagner that some of them will simply have to be razed while others can be rehabilitated by HRRC and others.

Lad had four suggestions for citizen action: be informed, call state and federal representatives to advocate for regulation of banks and protection from credit card lenders; pay attention to the housing in your neighborhood, pick up newspapers lying in a drive or porch and mow a lawn; and support HRRC’s programs.

Wachter, a resident of University Heights and an employee of the Veterans Affairs department, joined six other federal employees in educating the community on housing issues. His group organized a housing fair at St. Agnes Church in Cleveland’s Hough neighborhood with 211 Call for Help, HUD, the Legal Defense Fund, and NID Housing Counseling Agency. About eighty people attended, including many elderly residents.

Questions from the audience touched on the need for regulation, problems of renters, green space, and appraisers. Wagner noted that if it passes, Ohio House Bill 136 will provide dollars to help cities with distressed homes. Lad spoke to the need of requiring banks to provide information that they will not provide voluntarily.

Wagner says he checks sewer rates, which have gone from about $5 to $35 per week, to keep tabs on vacant houses. City housing inspectors may notice vacancies as they examine the exteriors of homes, and sometimes residents call the city. He urged residents to contact the city about vacant homes and any suspicious activity they notice to forestall vandalism and theft.

Wagner is optimistic that Cleveland Heights can rebound because it is near downtown and University Circle, home of major employers. "Rising fuel prices may make inner-ring communities more attractive," he said, "between 1993 and 2003, Cleveland Heights led the county in appreciation of houses."

Anne McFarland is a lawyer, librarian, and writer who has lived in Cleveland Heights for almost 40 years.

The next public meeting will be held in late August or early September. According to Volpe it will focus on presenting the community’s ideas within the context of the district with preliminary street plans, roadway lane configurations, development opportunities, and small scale initiatives that can occur in the district.

"It is the goal of the project team to engage the stakeholders and community at every step to ensure the goals of the project are in line with the many people that live, work in and use the district on a regular basis," said Volpe.

The meeting will air on Channel 23 for one week beginning July 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, contact the city of Cleveland Heights at 291-4845.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and a Cedar-Fairmount resident.

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School's out play time and summer reading are in!

Ellen Barrett

Longer daylight hours and no home-work signal the perfect time for families to enjoy some leisure time together. Whether your child is already in early elementary school, entering Kindergarten this fall or is still in preschool, summer is the perfect time to brush up on school readiness skills. Go out with your child and explore. Take walks, run errands, or lie in the grass in the sun! All of these are the perfect way to spend quality time together and learn through play at the same time. Questions and answers, guessing games and observing your surroundings give you, the parent, all of the materials you need to help your children grow into stronger readers, competent mathematicians and good classmates as they head into their “careers” as students.

Here are some examples of simple ways to build literacy skills in your child every day:

• The Power of Observation: Ask your child questions about the landscape as you walk around the block: How many houses on the street are white?

• Sharpen sentence structure and listening skills: Have your child complete your sentence about your journey in the car. That green truck is... (very noisy, going slow, the color of broccoli).

• Sorting and Matching/Comparing. Contrasting: Involve them in tasks around the house. While doing laundry, match all of the pairs of socks or ask who’s shirts are bigger - yours or mine?

• Details and description: Use the grocery store as the backdrop for a good game of eye spy. “I spy something red, round, juicy and tastes good in pie!”

Be sure to visit our free Family Literacy Playroom “Little Heights” located at the CH-UH Main Library with your kids ages 2 - 5 over the summer to help build on all of the school readiness skills that will set your child up for success.

Mondays: 9 a.m. - noon
Thursdays: 3:30 - 8 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information call 311-0079 or go to heightsparentcenter.org.

Ellen Barrett is the program director at Heights Parent Center. She has been with the center for 12 years and is a life long resident of Cleveland Heights. She has two sons Ryan and Peter who are in college.

Heights parents, should you worry less about your children?

Suphie Wesner

On one of my recent drives, my ears perked at the topic on BBC’s “World Have Your Say” hosted by Ros Atkins. The globally conscious segment of the British Broadcasting Corporation gives guest speakers all across the world the opportunity to express viewpoints that range from politically correct to radical (by the standards of mainstream media). The subject of the show was child-rearing. Pundits were discussing the problem of today’s parents officiously criticizing each other’s child-disciplinary measures. Mr. Atkins introduced one mother and editor of the New York Sun who was in hot water after she revealed in a recent column that she had allowed her nine-year-old son to ride the New York City subway alone.

As a current pre-school teacher, I listened as the flustered mother expounded that she had been reprimanded for lax parenting by permitting her son to take a short ride by himself. In her defense, she emphasized that the route was one with which her son was already familiar. The issue, however, was not negligence on her part, but overreaction to the previously ordinary occurrence of children roaming cities independently, an experience which she felt was unjust to deny a child. The mother argued that such paranoia over children’s whereabouts stems from fear caused by child abduction cases being overplayed in the media.

I began to speculate on whether liberal Heights parents might let their children have the same freedom this woman afforded her son by allowing them to take the rapid transit, for example, to Tower City mall. The editor and mom made the valid point that New York City’s criminal statistics are equal to where they were in 1963. This means that, technically, it is logical to allow modern children old-fashioned liberties. Another British commentator opined that overall, societies today are more physically restricted than ever. Heights parents might ask themselves whether repetitious media coverage of child abduction scenarios might mislead them into holding their children back too much. Heights parents should relax and consider that they may be providing enough protection for their children simply by providing them with common sense through education and structured activities. It is much riskier to underestimate children’s street smarts. Assuming that they cannot manage simple tasks alone in the world prevents them from learning what they can do.

Suphie Wesner is a linguistics and French language graduate of Cleveland State University and a Shaker Heights High School alumna. She plans to pursue graduate school in journalism in the future and currently enjoys her position as an assistant teacher at True Sisters Day Care Center.

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Expires August 5th
Tashay Roberts received the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship at Cleveland Heights High School's Senior Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 28th. Tashay is the first graduating senior to receive the scholarship, which was created this year as a way of honoring Officer West's memory and keeping his name and legacy alive. Officer West, a member of the Cleveland Heights Police Department, lost his life in the line of duty on May 26, 2007.

The selection committee chose Tashay because of the academic changes and progress she made during her junior and senior years at Heights. Her teachers and work supervisor describe Tashay as having many of the same qualities that Officer West demonstrated in his life: she is dedicated, reliable, always prepared, loyal, always willing to help others and a role model to young adults.

Tashay enrolled in the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement course at Heights because she hopes to become an attorney and will attend Wright State University in the fall.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship will be awarded yearly to a graduating senior from the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Program at Heights High School. Each recipient will receive $500 when they graduate and an additional $500 when they successfully complete their freshman year of college. The scholarship selection committee hopes to raise $5,000 this coming year from donations and small fundraising events in order to secure the scholarship for at least the next five years.

Contributions can be mailed to:
The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o The Treasurer's Office, The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, 2457 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, OH, 44118.

Checks can be made payable to “Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District,” be sure to include “Jason D. West Scholarship” on the memo line.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Students at Fairfax and Canterbury Elementary Schools have new, sturdy handmade picnic tables and benches thanks to the generosity of Heights High graduate Mackenzie Brubaker. Mackenzie, who graduated on June 2, attended R.E.A.L. School (Relevant Experiential Active Learning), one of the five small schools at Heights High, and plans to go into the U.S. Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp). He will be a second lieutenant when he completes training.

Mackenzie has been in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts since first grade, and built the picnic benches and tables as a project towards his Eagle Scout rank. He reported the specs of the project, the materials used, and how the project benefits the community to the Boy Scout Council. If his project is accepted, he will receive his Eagle Scout rank at the Court of Honor Ceremony this summer.

Mackenzie learned his carpentry skills from his father and based the design for the tables and benches on one his father had built before he was born. Using his math and science skills he modified the design, lengthened the tables and benches, and made the pieces extra sturdy so they would withstand lots of use by the elementary students.

“R.E.A.L. School was a perfect fit for me because I enjoy hands on learning,” Mackenzie explained. Marc Aden, principal of R.E.A.L. School, agreed. The small school combines experiential learning in the community with meaningful, relevant learning experiences in the classroom.

“R.E.A.L. incorporates service learning projects and collaboration with adults to solve real world challenges and concerns,” Mr. Aden explained. He gave an example of one student who wanted to go into crime scene investigation and made a connection with the county coroner for a service project.

“Service learning projects allow students to connect what they are learning in class to real career experiences,” he said. Mackenzie’s project combined what he was learning in math and science with his carpentry and design skills. “Many of our students have entrepreneurial minds combined with strong reading and writing skills as well as parents that have their own business,” said Mr. Aden.

Mr. Aden described Mackenzie as an outstanding, conscientious student in thought and action who is always willing to help others. “He will definitely leave a positive mark on the community.”

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Tashay Roberts
Roxboro Elementary School - Children's Ink

Diane Ferri

If you ask the teachers and staff at Roxboro Elementary School in Cleveland Heights what their favorite yearly event is, almost everyone will say Children's Ink. On May 30, 2008 the eleventh annual school-wide assembly took place. It is the brainchild of kindergarten teacher Lynne Maragali and emceed by fifth grade teacher Melissa Garcar. The writing and musical talents of the kindergarten through fifth grade students are featured. Each year students submit writing they have done throughout the year, but only 10 to 15 entries are chosen. Several other students add their musical talents with instrumental solos. Local authors and celebrities volunteer their time to be readers at this special event. This year the guest readers were Plain Dealer columnist Regina Beert, former Laranim Community College professor and poet Lou Suarez, actress and Nighttown manager Derdria Ring, children's book authors Beatrice Katz and Nancy McArthur, former Plain Dealer columnist Art Odelia Scruggs, Cayahoga Community College Metro Campus President Michael Schoop and Roxboro's own Linda Steffanci, Lynne Maragali and John Foreman.

Roxboro students sharing their writing talents at Children's Ink were Linnea Covault, Michael Landon, Adrianna Murray, Darion Hamilton, Liza Namy, Isabel Culver, Alex DeStefano, Khalia Lane, Shauna Villanueva, Lewis Caldwell, Lily Lenington, Aubrey Nelson, Quinton Ndyagumwisha, Silvia Lammarino, and Kaila Mathis. Displaying musical talents were Khalil Witt, Joey Houser, Ian Bartz, Trenton Buhuca and Alice Janjigo. This year's event was bitserweet as the children also said goodbye to their beloved principal, Kelli Cogan. Mrs. Cogan's parents were surprise guest readers at the event. Mrs. Cogan will use her leadership abilities at Wiley Middle School next year. Under the direction of Betsy Neylon, the entire student body sang two songs to Mrs. Cogan and each child gave her a flower at the end of the program amidst smiles and tears.

Children's Ink is a morning when teachers and parents are inspired by the creativity and gifts of the students, and have the opportunity to see all of their time, patience, concern and hard work has paid off. Even though weary teachers welcome the end of the school year, Children's Ink makes them want to come back and do it all over again in the fall.

Diane Ferri is an intervention specialist at Roxboro Elementary School.

Location, Location, Location: Montessori High School faculty make Cleveland Heights home

Jean Buchanann

When a new Montessori High School (MHS) opens in University Circle this August, many of its faculty and staff will be able to coast down the hill from homes in Cleveland Heights. The first high school of its kind in Northeast Ohio, MHS has attracted faculty from Michigan, California, Washington, and Wisconsin, among other places. “I find the short commute, whether by bike, on foot or by car, to be very convenient,” says French teacher Sebastien Thiry.

James Moudry, director of operations and humanities teacher, was one of the first newcomers to call the Heights home. He, his wife Sarah, and their two young sons moved from Seattle last fall. “Cleveland Heights attracted us immediately because of the wonderful mix of homes and natural settings,” Moudry said. “The quality of life extends from the unique neighborhoods to the retail pockets like Coventry Village. Our move from Seattle was made easier by the overall reception we received from neighbors, the city itself and even the businesses.” He adds, “we are not so old that we cannot enjoy the spirit of Coventry Village. And our sons’ enthusiasm that we cannot enjoy the spirit of C.""n""nMansions now school and dormitory

For the playground at Peace Park is only entry Village. And our sons’ enthusiasm that we cannot enjoy the spirit of Cov businesses.” He adds, “we are not so old that we cannot enjoy the spirit of Coventry Village. And our sons’ enthusiasm that we cannot enjoy the spirit of C. This fall to remodel the building. “When I see a renovated carriage house is the stone bridges along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The team has constructed a green house on the property and forged relationships with the cultural institutions in University Circle. “We have had an office in the Cleveland Botanical Gardens since last September,” said Moudry. “I’ve had a chance to meet employees, guests, and visitors, providing me with a window on how the Botanical Gardens functions.”

A renovated carriage house is the science laboratory. Christopher Kjær, director of research and curriculum design, moved to Cleveland Heights from Grand Rapids. Kjær worked closely with a team of scientists and architects to remodel the building. “When I see our new high school, I see the vibrancy of this incredible, culturally rich area. In designing curriculum, how many people have the depth of choices that we have?” says Kjær. “Look around us: a world class setting that the New York Times called singular in depth and diversity. It’s akin to the perfect education opportunity!”

Passionate about teaching: excited about location

Julie Rayers and her husband Dan closed on their new Cleveland Heights home over Memorial Day weekend. “We looked at several homes in the Heights,” says Rayers. “We wanted a neighborhood where our daughters had access to the parks, swimming, and of course, we like the idea of walking.” The new Montessori English teacher was excited when realtor Kevin Cahill was able to show them a home that met all their criteria, and was close to the girls’ new school, Holy Rosary Montessori School. “To think that we have this kind of community so close to Montessori High School, and that it fits what we were looking for is really a gift for all of us.”

Kjær and Mouldry say that they are passionate about their vibrant surroundings. “University Circle is obviously an incredible location for a school,” says Kjær, “and Cleveland Heights is an incredible home to many of our staff!”

Jean Buchanann is director of institutional advancement at the Montessori High School at University Circle and lives in Cleveland Heights.

Montessori High School's classroom building at 11025 Magnolia Drive. Designed by Charles F. Schweinfurth, the structure houses classrooms, music practice rooms, an art and design studio, and kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms. Each year students submit writing they have done throughout the year, but only 10 to 15 entries are chosen. Several other students add their musical talents with instrumental solos. Local authors and celebrities volunteer their time to be readers at this special event. This year the guest readers were Plain Dealer columnist Regina Beert, former Laranim Community College professor and poet Lou Suarez, actress and Nighttown manager Derdria Ring, children's book authors Beatrice Katz and Nancy McArthur, former Plain Dealer columnist Art Odelia Scruggs, Cayahoga Community College Metro Campus President Michael Schoop and Roxboro's own Linda Steffanci, Lynne Maragali and John Foreman.

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Diane Ferri is an intervention specialist at Roxboro Elementary School.
Hidden Heights High Tour Reveals Gems

Mark Majewski and Lita Gonzalez

If you think you know Heights High, guess again.

During a two-hour tour of the sprawling Heights High complex on a recent Saturday morning, a dozen “tourists” learned little known facts about its design, construction, and current condition.

The tour was one in a series of National Historic Preservation Month events sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, Cleveland Heights Historical Society, and Future Heights. Lita Gonzalez, coordinator for PATH (Parent Ambassadors To Heights), helped to organize the event. Torian Slaughter, an assistant custodian, wielded his bundle of keys to give the tourists access to spaces rarely seen.

The tour guide was Steven Shergalis, business manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. While part of his job is to know and care for district facilities, his walking lecture revealed a personal interest in school history and architecture. His comments reflected a balance of respect and care for district facilities, his walking lecture revealed a personal interest in school history and architecture. His comments reflected a balance of respect for historic values with hands-on understanding of the challenges of operating and maintaining an aging structure in a fiscally demanding times.

The original Heights High was constructed in 1923. Describing the development of a school system in what is now an inner-ring suburb, Shergalis said, “Cleveland Heights was in competition with Cleveland schools and wanted to make a statement about highly valuing education. That is why they built such a grand structure.”

The tour guide was Steven Shergalis. He points to the recently reopened skylight in the former library of Heights Evans Theater exemplify that intent. Four antique chandeliers are suspended from an immense open span ceiling. They are serviced via hatches in the floor above. The chandeliers complement stunning woodwork on the ceiling, walls, and doors. “No new schools are being built anywhere with auditoriums this grand,” said Shergalis.

The auditorium ceiling and the “floating” third floor above are a design marvel. With no visible means of support on the interior, they are suspended from a hidden, riveted roof truss system which the tourists viewed in a locked equipment room. The district has recently installed new air conditioning equipment among the ancient trusses.

After the original construction in 1923, the district continued to build additions – in 1930, 1949, 1960, 1961, and 1973 - to accommodate a growing student body. One tourist, who “graduated from Heights High a long time ago,” amused the group by recalling that during years of very high enrollment, certain stairwells were designated for only “up” or “down” student traffic to ease class change movement in the crowded building.

Admiring the original 1923 structure and its clock tower, one tourist dubbed the style “collegiate gothic.” The street view of that original façade is blocked by one of the more controversial additions – the “science wing.” The wing was built in 1959 and occupies the entire Cedar Road frontage of the building. “What were they thinking when they built that?” asked one tourist. Shergalis explained that the addition was “not the kind of architectural statement we would like to present to the main street.” He suggested that the location may have been chosen to prevent disruption of the athletic fields and parking lot and that the added hallways improved east-west movement.

The tour also revealed some of the building’s quirks – among them, the “corridor to nowhere,” the abandoned 1929 stairwell, and the 2nd floor pool.

Shergalis explained that no one is sure why the pool was built on the 2nd floor, but one story suggests that it was built above the original steam boiler as a fire protection device in case of explosion!

Another piece of history imbedded in this stately high school is the original Otis elevator, which recently gave up its ghost after 83 years of operation.

Recent improvements to the building were also highlighted. Energy-efficient replacement windows were selected to blend into the architecture of the building. The library has been moved from the third floor to a new and more accessible area on the first. Renovation of the old library space for new classrooms uncovered original columns, curved ceilings and beautiful corbels. Skylights were reopened and indoor glass block windows help make use of natural lighting. The tourists suggested that the blend of old architectural features and newer construction was “reminiscent of art deco style.”

Moving beyond architectural questions, the tourists asked about current students and programs. Lita Gonzalez explained how each of the five small schools, Legacy, The Mosaic Experience, PR.I.D.E., R.E.A.L., and Renaissance, occupies a different wing and floor of the school building whose foot print looks like an “H.” Shergalis shared ideas for future building improvements which may support the individual styles of the small schools.

Mark Majewski is a 20-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a community planning consultant.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

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Michael Dougherty

The Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inducted ten new members on May 8 at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven. The Hall of Fame was created as a way for Heights to honor the accomplishments of its alumni while giving current students solid examples of what they can accomplish in life, hearing from adults who sat in the same seats and walked the same halls as they do.

From over 50,000 graduates, a student committee selects inductees from nominations made by the general public. Students do not know the names of the nominees, only their accomplishments.

“Each year I am impressed by the applications of the nominees, but it is not until you actually meet the inductees and hear from them that you understand why the students selected them for induction,” states Eric Silverman, Heights High Class of 1982 and president of the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation. “We have only scratched the surface on those who should be in the Hall of Fame and encourage people to nominate Heights alumni they feel should be honored.”

Nomination forms, biographies of past inductees and a complete list of inductees can be found at www.heightsalumni.org/hof.

Alexis Abramson, PhD ’91
Dr. Alexis Abramson is a leader in the field of mechanical engineering through her various awards, years of teaching, many publications and innovations in research and development. An assistant professor in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, she has published and presented on the topic of micro/nanoscale thermal transport and nanotechnology.

Kathy Simkoff Blackman ’86
Kathy Simkoff Blackman created the Grog Shop, a nationally known music club which promotes up and coming artists. She expanded the club in 2003 and opened the B-Side Liquor Lounge, which hosts DJs from around the country. She has been honored by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for achievement in music and was recognized as one of the Top 10 Women Business Owners in 2006 by the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Manuel Freeman, DMD ’54
Manuel Freeman is the co-founder and current participant of a Dayton-based overseas medical team whose goal is to provide health care to indigent children in Latin America, most affiliated with cleft lip or palate. The organization obtains equipment and encourages other professionals to help. He also has a part-time practice in oral surgery and was in the US Naval Reserve for 20 years.

Judye Robbins Groner, MSW ’60
Judye Robbins Groner is the co-founder of Kar-Ben Copies in 1975, and since 2001 a division of Lerner Publishing Group in Minneapolis. She has been the publisher of over 200 books on Jewish themes for children and families.

Co-author of My Very Own Haggadah: Thank you, God, the All About and Fun for Little Hands! Jewish holiday series, and 32 editions of My Very Own Jewish Calendar, she received the Women’s National Book Association Bookie Award in 1987 and the Association of Jewish Libraries Sydney Taylor Book-Of-Work Award in 2005.

Ellen Newman Heyman, RN ’60
Ellen Newman Heyman is the co-founder and program director of The Gathering Place, a community-based cancer support center offering education and psychosocial support. She has been a psychiatric-mental health clinical nurse specialist at University Hospitals of Cleveland for 17 years, providing oncology care and coping strategies to patients, families and staff. She is also a clinical instructor in the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University.

Jerry Hirshberg ’57
Jerry Hirshberg is retired president and founder of Nissan Design International and is a consultant for Nissan Motor, Ltd. He founded a unique design facility, championing both product and automotive design. He was named to the board of Nissan North America and was featured in a 1-year national ad campaign. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art and has won numerous national and international design awards.

Robert H. Jackson, JD ’55
Robert Jackson is the senior partner at Kohnman, Jackson & Krantz P.L.L.C. in Cleveland. Author of Book Talk: Essays on Books and Collecting, Bookellers, and Special Collections; Speaking on Ceremonies: Traditional African Arts, with Donna Jackson, and Serial Publications: Essential Parts of the 19th Century Imagination, he has spoken extensively throughout the United States and Europe including the Library of Congress on literature, rare books, libraries and travel.

Jed K. Margolis ’69
Jed Margolis is the executive director at Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel in Philadelphia. He has worked diligently promoting sports at the Tony Awards to strengthen Jewish identity and Jewish pride as well as love for the State of Israel. Since his tenure began at Maccabi USA in 2002, they have taken record numbers of Americans to Australia, Chile, Rome, Argentina and Israel for Maccabi competitions.

Greta Rothman ’90
Greta Rothman is the director of special events in the Alumni and Development Office at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson. She was a group sales and special events intern at the Tony Award Winning McCarter Theatre, where she gained experience to be hired full-time by the theater as the house manager and volunteer coordinator. She is a member of the Heights Singers Hall of Fame and earned the Betty Palesvky Freed Music Scholarship among many other music and theatre awards.

Toni Milano Starinsky ’72
Toni Milano Starinsky is a photography teacher and chairperson of visual arts at the Cleveland School of the Arts. She was the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Educator of the Year, and was awarded the 2006 Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio Art Educator of the Year. She is the creator and founder of STEM and Mentoring Photo, which extends the effective reach of the photography department into other communities, which is slated to expand to at least three more Cleveland public schools.

Michael Dougherty is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights–University Heights City School District.

Class of 2006
SEBLY MACEWSKI just completed her BA in Community, Family, and Youth Serv. in Ohio Wesleyan where she is majoring in zoology and environmental studies. She will return soon from a 3-week tour of cloud forest reserves in the Galapagos Islands. Her summer job is at The Wilds (http://www.thewilds.org), a 10,000 acre conservation area (former strip mine) in southeast Ohio where rare and endangered species are protected by the International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals, Inc. The Wilds does conservation work and research. In previous summers, Selby has had internships at the Lake Metroparks Penitentiary Glen Wildlife Center and at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Perkins Wildlife Center.

Lisa Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

What are they doing now?

Lita Gonzalez

Thanks to everyone who sent me news about what Heights High Graduates are doing. Our graduates are definitely "taking the road less traveled, marching to the beat of their own drum and think- ing outside the box" when it comes to continuing their post graduation stud- ies! They see the world as an extended classroom. Here’s a sample of what some of our graduates have been up to. I would love to hear more from the Cleveland Heights and University Heights families about what their Heights High gradu- ates are up to now. Email me at lita@valancym.com.

Class of 2004
HALLE MAJEWSKI graduated from The Ohio State University Honors Program on June 8. Her major degree is in com- parative studies in religion and political science, with a minor in art. She hopes to go to law school, although not im- mediately. In the fall of 2006, Hallie circ- umnavigated the globe as a participant in the University of Virginia’s Semester at Sea program. She traveled to Hawaii, Japan, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Egypt, Croatia, Spain and Fort Laud- erdale! Her family received posts from her from all over the world and got emails from places like the Royal Library of Alexandria, Egypt.

BRITTANY SAARFI graduated from How- ard University. She plans on moving to Chicago to work with children and families in the Public Health. One day she hopes to work for the Center for Disease Control researching disparities in minority health care.

Class of 2005
MICHAEL MAC DONALD just fin- ished his junior year at the College of Wooster. He is studying biology with a minor in Chinese. He completed a cultural immersion program in Beijing, China last summer with the city of Xi’an International Studies University.

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Heights High Alumni Hall of Fame inducts ten
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