

**FREE TAKE ONE**

Volume 1  
Number 8  
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# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CLEVELAND HEIGHTS AND UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

## New Mural for Cedar Fairmount



DEANNA BREMER FISHER

Heights Observer Staff

October saw the completion of the "Heights Center Building Mural East" by Cleveland Heights painter Jesse Rhinehart.

Commissioned by Heights Arts to complement the "Heights Center Building Mural West" installed in 2004 by the same artist on the west-facing facade of the same building, the mural was adapted from a photo in the Cleveland Public Library archives and painted in the artist's Cleveland studio.

The Heights Center Building is designated a Cleveland Heights landmark. Designed by Richardson & Yost, it was built near the intersection of Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard in 1916 when the city was a streetcar suburb.

For more information contact Peggy Spaeth at Heights Arts 216-371-3457 or pspaeth@heightsarts.org or Jesse Rhinehart 216-408-0492.

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## Trustees elected Concern in UH Citizens Honored

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cedar Fairmount, Coventry Village, and Cedar Lee, the three Cleveland Heights commercial areas that have formed special improvement districts (SID), held their annual meetings and elected new trustees. Each special improvement district is a nonprofit organization of property owners who tax themselves to provide maintenance, landscaping, and other amenities for a business district.

Cedar Fairmount elected five new trustees at its annual meeting on Oct. 14. Sal Russo Sr. of the Cedar Grandview Company, Brendan Ring of Nighttown, Inc., Kim Lisboa of Cedar Fairmount Realty, Joanna Jakubczyk of Fifth Third Bank of Northeast Ohio, and Lee Cavender of the Heights Center Building were each elected to a three-year term.

*continued on page 5*

Sarah Wilder

Concerned about the process used to form a Charter Review Commission (CRC) and potential changes to the city's charter, a group of residents has formed the Concerned Citizens for University Heights.

Some University Heights residents did not learn about the opportunity to submit an application for a seat on the commission until after the Oct. 6 deadline had passed. Others felt that the deadlines set by UH City Council were too tight and that there was not adequate publication of the request for applications. Residents also complained that city council ignored their requests for an opportunity to provide input prior to the official formation and appointment of members to the commission.

*continued on page 5*

Heights Observer Staff

The city of University Heights announced the 2008 recipients of its annual civic awards at a ceremony on Nov. 6. Halle Barnett, president of the Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce (HHRCC), and Michael Struck, vice president of the HHRCC, were both named 2008 Citizen of the Year.

The city has been presenting the awards since 1959, when Father Henry Birkenhauer was recognized as the first Citizen of the Year. The recipients are selected by the City Beautiful Commission, a group of residents appointed by the mayor.

John Pucella, a 17-year member and foreman in the city's service department is the University Heights 2008 Employee of the Year.

Donald O'Connor, who served on the City Planning Commission for 15 years, received a posthumous award for Public Servant of the Year.

Ray Lancaster is the city's Unsung Hero. Lancaster has served as the assistant aquatic director for the Purvis Park pool for the last 20 years.

Rober Walton received the Dedicated Volunteer of the Year award for his work with the city's police department in its Juvenile Diversion Program. The program has successfully prevented teenage referrals back to court.

Kay Hawn received the Special Appreciation Award for her coordination of the city's swim team, the Purvis Park Piranhas.

Shannon Davis, creator of beyondmotherhood.com, a website for moms seeking part-time jobs and employers seeking their talents, received the city's Special Home Business Recognition Award.

Brandon Jackson, a sophomore at University School who raised funds to improve living conditions for boys in a Honduran orphanage, will receive the

## CH Community Improvement Awards

Mark Majewski

Pride in and consistent care of homes, businesses, and streets are long-held values of Cleveland Heights residents reflected in the annual Community Improvement Awards Program. The program recognizes and celebrates recent, significant improvements which are visible and beneficial to neighborhoods and commercial districts.

A ceremony held at Cleveland Heights City Hall on Oct. 23 honored the winners for 2008. Awards were made in the categories of Residential Improvement, Commercial and Institution Improvement, Tender Loving Care, and Street Improvement.

Winners were announced by program judge Susie Kaeser and members of city council. Photos of all winners were displayed in the Atrium of Cleveland Heights City Hall where they will remain for one year.

Nineteen homeowners received Residential Improvement Awards and 29 received Tender Loving Care Awards. Three streets, Fairfax, Shaker, and Roanoke (from Noble to Northhampton), were honored with Street Improvement Awards.

Three businesses received Commercial Improvement Awards. These included Anatolia Cafe, Brennan's Colony

*continued on page 4*



2889 Edgehill Road was one of 19 recipients.

CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

## HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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## Recycle your political signs



On Nov. 5 all political signs become unrecyclable garbage. Bring them to the FutureHeights office on Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will recycle the cardboard and mold the wires into displays for the Heights Observer. To volunteer or for more info contact 320.1423 or info@futureheights.org.



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# Cleveland Heights City Council

## Highlights of September 2008 meetings



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008  
All council members present.

### Special Recognition

**Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones**  
Mayor Ed Kelley held a moment of silence and read a proclamation to memorialize the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones. Councilmembers' tributes highlighted her remarkable impact on the region, her level of knowledge, her availability to constituents, and the difficulty the community will have filling her shoes.

### Library Director Stephen Wood

Council called the recently retired Director of the CH-UH Library, Stephen Wood, to the podium for a round of honors and congratulations on his successful 29 years with the library. Wood modestly stated that it was the Heights community that made the library special. He thanked council for pushing for a better design for the library building and the bridge across Lee Road. The end result, he said, "was a far better looking design..."

### NeuroWave Systems

The city's Commercial Revolving Loan Program (funded by Community Development Block Grants) will award a forgivable loan to help establish NeuroWave Systems, Inc., a medical technology business in Cleveland Heights. Councilmember Dennis Wilcox, who presented the agreement, said that the company would begin operation with 21 workers, but should expand to 44 employees within four years. The \$200,000 loan assistance would be paid back within five years at a zero interest rate if income tax revenue received by the city from the business equals or exceeds the loan amount. If it does not,

the difference will be owed to the city. Mayor Kelley noted that NeuroWave was a good example of high-tech companies attracted to Cleveland Heights for its proximity to University Circle institutions.

### Nuisance Properties

Council passed two resolutions declaring properties at 3190 Whitethorn Road and 3296 Winsford Road as nuisances, and authorizing abatement. Council recommended razing both homes.

### Special Improvement Districts

To finance maintenance, public relations, and other enhancements for designated districts known as Special Improvement Districts (SID) business owners agree to tax themselves through assessments. Council passed six pieces of legislation to support the Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Lee Special Improvement Districts. The legislation authorized the implementation of a public services plan, the levying of an assessment and the advancement of funds for each SID. The Cedar Fairmount SID budget would be \$50,000 for the first year with slight increases in subsequent years. The Cedar Lee SID budget would be \$125,000 for the first year with slight increases for following years.

### AT&T telecommunication boxes

Council passed an ordinance to allow AT&T to place their controversial telecommunication boxes out of sight behind the city's service garage on Superior Road instead of on public tree lawns.

### LWV observers:

Carol Gibson and Blanche Valancy

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008  
All council members present.

### 9-1-1 misuse penalty

Council passed an ordinance imposing a penalty for 9-1-1 hang-ups. Councilmember Mark Tumeo explained that dialing the number by mistake would not be penalized—only if the caller hung up before explaining that it was a mistake. Hang-ups are a serious problem, because dispatchers must send officers to the site before discovering whether the call was

either a hoax or a mistake. A warning would be issued after the first offense. After subsequent offenses occurring in the same calendar year, the caller would be charged for the cost of the response. The intent was not to discourage use of the system, but the city had about 800 hang-ups in the last year.

### Public park hours after dark

Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of public parks after sunset except for city-authorized events and the lighted tennis court facility at Cain Park. This would change the current 9:30 p.m. closing time. Councilmember Nancy Dietrich voted against the legislation because she opposes restricting the amount of time people can spend outdoors.

### Nuisance property

Council voted to declare the property at 3158 Sycamore Road to be a nuisance and authorized repairs. The cost, estimated to be almost \$11,000, would be billed to the property owner.

### Down Payment Assistance Program

Council passed a resolution to establish an Owner-Occupant Down Payment Assistance Program for purchases of one- to four-family homes and condominiums in the city. The program would be funded in the amount of \$266,778 through an agreement with the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium and would run from Oct. 1, 2008 through Sept. 30, 2010. Applicants may receive up to \$15,000 for purchase of an existing home and up to \$20,000 for a newly constructed home. The assistance includes pre-purchase counseling and maintenance training.

### LWV observers:

Katherine Solender and Kay Heylman

*Disclaimer: These reports contain member observations and selected highlights of meetings and are not official statements by the League of Women Voters. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.*

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CITIZENS HONORED continued from page 1

### Outstanding Youth Award.

Ellen Olsen, proprietor of Bialy's Bagel Bakery, received the Landmark Recognition Award because of her shop's longstanding popularity with residents.

Judge K.J. Montgomery of the Shaker Heights Municipal Court received a Tribute to an Extraordinary Judge.

The City Beautiful Commission also recognized 41 homeowners who have well-maintained homes and have contributed to the beauty of the community.

The awards program will air on Channel 22 each Saturday and Sunday afternoon in November at 12:30 p.m. and each weekday evening at 6:30 p.m.

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## CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

### NOVEMBER 2008 MEETINGS

Meetings are held at City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, unless otherwise noted.

Mon	3	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Mon	3	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Tue	4		<b>Election Day - VOTE!</b>	
Tue	4	5:30 pm	Landmark Commission	Superior Schoolhouse <sup>1</sup>
Wed	5	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review	Council Chambers
Mon	10	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole/ Planning & Development Committee	Executive Conference Room
Mon	11		<b>Veterans Day - City Hall &amp; Community Center Closed*</b>	
Wed	12	7:00 pm	Planning Commission	Council Chambers
Mon	17	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Mon	17	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Tue	18	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review	Council Chambers
Tue	18	7:30 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee	Executive Conference Room
Tue	18	7:40 pm	Recreation Advisory Board	Community Center <sup>2</sup>
Wed	19	7:30 pm	Board of Zoning Appeals	Council Chambers
Fri	21	9:00 am	Commission on Aging	Senior Activity Center <sup>3</sup>
Mon	24	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Thur	27		<b>Thanksgiving - City Hall &amp; Community Center Closed*</b>	

<sup>1</sup> The Superior Schoolhouse is located at Superior Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. <sup>2</sup> The Community Center is located at Monticello Boulevard at Mayfield Road. <sup>3</sup> The Senior Activity Center is located inside the Community Center, Monticello & Mayfield. \*Refuse & recycling collection will be delayed by one day following the holiday: Thursday's collection will be on Friday, Friday's on Saturday. Visit www.clevelandheights.com for any changes or additions. For more information on the above meetings, call 291-4444.

# University Heights City Council

## Highlights of September/October 2008 meetings



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008  
All council members present.

### Charter Review Commission-citizen comment

Eleven residents, including former councilmembers Steve Bennett, Margaret Duffy-Friedman, Susan Infeld, Win Weizer (statement read by a representative), and former Vice Mayor Jeffrey Friedman (by speaker-phone), made comments concerning the ordinance to establish a Charter Review Commission (CRC).

Duffy-Friedman had questions regarding needs assessment, data and the emergency status of the ordinance. Friedman suggested that some members of the commission be elected in order to assure a good cross-section of the community. Infeld questioned whether the process was sufficiently open. Several residents weighed in with some complaining about the openness of the process and others supporting the measure.

### Council discussion of CRC proposal

Council engaged in a vigorous debate over the proposal—regarding how the members were to be selected, how the public would be informed and engaged, and why the ordinance was presented on the emergency status. Councilman Consolo, who introduced the ordinance, defended the emergency status reminding councilmembers that any CRC recommended changes would have to be placed on the ballot for a public vote and that there were time constraints for getting onto the 2009 ballot. The ordinance to establish a Charter Review Commission passed 5-2, with Bernardo and Zucker voting no and Mayor Rothschild indicating an intention to veto the ordinance. To override the mayor's veto, the ordinance would have to be placed on the Sept. 15 council agenda and passed by five members.

As amended, the Charter Review Commission would include 11 members with each of the seven councilmembers appointing one, the mayor appointing one, and the committee of the whole

appointing three. Council also passed a motion made by Consolo to immediately publicize the ordinance and invite residents interested in serving to provide resumes and letters of interest.

### Assessment, abatement, demolition

Other agenda items, all of which passed unanimously included:

- Levying special assessments for providing city services in the removal of nuisance conditions at various locations throughout the city,
- Abating special assessments for the year 2008 at certain parcels at University Square, and
- Authorizing the demolition of the house at 2099 Wynn Road.

LWV Observer: Susan D. Pardee

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

### Charter Review Commission

Most of the public comments addressed the Charter Review Commission (CRC). Some supported the initiative, some questioned the quick timeline, while others supported the timeline.

Council voted to override Mayor Rothschild's veto of the ordinance to establish the CRC, with only Vice-Mayor Zucker voting no.

### Moral claims

Council awarded the maximum allowed compensation of \$300 to two residents presenting moral claims—one for damage to a home due to a sewer main blockage and another for damage to a car from a pothole. A third claim for damage to a water meter from a recent water main break was tabled pending documentation. Councilman Murphy noted that his committee would be submitting a resolution to end moral claims payments.

### Nuisance legislation

Three ordinances reducing the number of days upon which the city can take action on hedge and shrubbery nuisances, noxious weeds, and pest nuisances were

presented on first reading.

### Library Director Maureen Weisblatt

Council postponed a resolution honoring Maureen Weisblatt, University Heights Library branch manager, on the event of her retirement, until the reception being held in her honor.

### University Parkway reconstruction

Council passed a resolution seeking financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission State Public Works Program to fund the University Parkway roadway reconstruction. If awarded the funding would enable the city to replace the entire street and drains.

### City Watch

Fire Chief Pitchler announced that the CityWatch system had been activated, providing emergency communication to all residents of the city.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008

All council members present.

### Fence permit

A fence permit granted for a John Carroll University (JCU)-owned property at 2591 Kerwick Road led to lengthy, heated and emotional discussion. Maria Alfaro-Lopez, JCU's general counsel, who rents her Kerwick Road home from the university, wished to erect the fence for her dog and privacy. Neighbor Michael Kirincic filed an appeal requesting repeal of the permit.

Kirincic's neighbor, lawyer Joe Farchione, spoke at length against the permit. He accused the university of renting through a closed system, including Ms. Lopez' property, thus negating the legality of the fence permit. He further argued that this exemplified bullying tactics JCU used to force residents to sell their property to the university. Several other neighbors also spoke against the fence and the permit process.

Lawyer Lisa Barrett, speaking on

behalf of Lopez, stated that "there is no such thing as a closed rental system... Land owners have every right to hold the space if they so choose." JCU-owned locations were rented to students, faculty, employees and others. Six out of 15 properties were rented to non-JCU individuals.

Councilman Steven Sims acknowledged the difficult conflict between neighborhood concerns and Lopez's right to "enjoy her privacy and property." He called for a larger visioning process.

Councilmembers denied the appeal, 6-0, with Councilman Peter Bernardo abstaining (as an employee of JCU).

### Committees for University Affairs and Planning and Development

Council passed a resolution establishing a Special Committee on University Affairs (concerning John Carroll University) with both Councilman Bernardo (JCU employee) and Vice Mayor Zucker abstaining. Another resolution establishing a Special Committee on Planning and Development passed, 6-0, with Zucker abstaining. Zucker questioned both resolutions, stating that she did not know where either had come from. Councilman Consolo read a statement asserting that the University Affairs committee originated from his concern that Mayor Rothschild was not objective regarding city relations with JCU. After discussion with Councilman Bernardo, he contacted each councilmember individually except Councilwoman Zucker, and did not include her on either committee (councilmembers were named to the committees in the resolutions) because of her "close association with the mayor." Mayor Rothschild chided the "lack of courtesy from council colleagues not communicating with the vice mayor." She also objected to councilmembers working "on the sly," stating that "after nine and one-half months in office, you have become a rogue council."

LWV observer: Susan D. Pardee.

See disclaimer on page 2.

# University Heights welcomes Pink Ribbon Tour

Ashley Bauer

The Pink Ribbon Tour made a stop at the UH Fire Department to support breast cancer awareness and research efforts in the local community.

Through the 36-city journey across the country, Pink Ribbon Tour founder Dave Graybill, an Arizona firefighter, is bringing thousands of people together to join the fight against breast cancer. He formed the Guardians of the Ribbon, a group of Arizona-based firefighters, police officers and community leaders who travel the country in a pink fire truck, wearing pink turnout gear and firefighting helmets.

"The Pink Ribbon Tour is for the women of this country and for their fight against breast cancer. The pink fire truck and our pink firefighting gear represent hope and love. The tour shows our commitment to this cause and that we care

enough to wear pink," said Graybill. "We are a male-dominated profession supporting a female-dominated disease. It is in our nature to fight for those who have lost the ability to fight for themselves."

The UH Fire Department had 19 firefighters, both on-duty and off-duty, in attendance, wearing pink T-shirts.

The department had t-shirts made that they wore and sold to benefit local charities, such as the Gathering Place and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The Pink Ribbon Tour also made a stop later in the day at John Carroll University during the Homecoming weekend festivities.

"The goal was not to bring attention to the city but to bring awareness to the people and the local cancer-related charities. People could either help out financially or with their time," said Lieutenant Keith Kanner.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness

Month in October, the Fire Department wore their shirts on Oct. 25-27. T-shirts are still available for sale at the University Heights station for \$20.

Graybill added, "It is a short time here on this planet, and we need to touch

as many lives as possible, so that when it is over, we will have touched lives of people that we have never met."

John Carroll University sophomore Ashley Bauer is an intern with Patton Public Relations in University Heights.



The University Heights community came out to support the Pink Ribbon Tour on Sept. 27.

## Featured Heights Libraries Programs

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road 321.3400  
 Sci-Fi Book Club:  
 Thursday, November 6, 6:30 p.m.  
 Super Secret Surprise Program:  
 Monday, November 10, 7 p.m.  
 Step out of Time:  
 Thursday, November 13, 7 p.m.  
 NIA Coffeehouse:  
 Tuesday, November 18, 6 p.m.  
 Deaf Gatherings:  
 Mondays, November 17 & 24, 6:30 p.m.

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road 932.3600  
 Paws @ the Library:  
 Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m.  
 Operation Anime:  
 Monday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.  
 Teen Poetry Slam:  
 Thursday, November 13, 6:30 p.m.  
 Sentimental Journey Music Series:  
 Sundays, November 2 - 30, 2 p.m.  
 Twilight Tales:  
 Thursday, November 13, 7:15 p.m.

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road 291.5665  
 Evening Stay and Play:  
 Mondays, November 3 & 17, 7 p.m.  
 Reading Rumpus:  
 Fridays, November 7 - 28, 10:30 a.m.  
 Library Players:  
 Monday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.  
 Mystery Evening:  
 Thursday, November 13, 7 p.m.

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road 321.4700  
 Youth Production Inc:  
 Tuesdays, November 4 & 18, 7 p.m.  
 Story Stop:  
 Wednesdays, November 5 - 26, 10:30 a.m.  
 Rock, Paper, Scissors:  
 Sunday, November 16, 2:30 p.m.  
 Library Board Meeting:  
 Monday, November 17, 7 p.m.

For more information visit  
[www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) or call 216.932.3600.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT continued on page 4

Pub, and Quintana's Barber Shop and Spa.

According to Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans, the awards were initiated by Coventry Neighbors in 1975 to recognize significant home improvements in the Coventry area. By 1977, the program had been adopted by Heights Community Congress and the city of Cleveland Heights. It was expanded to recognize improvements throughout the community.

In past years, a committee was appointed to search for nominees. This year, the city asked residents to make nominations. The opportunity to nominate was advertised in the city's Focus Magazine, on the city website, and in the Heights Observer. According to Evans, residents eagerly responded with nominations.

Patti Collins and Janet Hoffman, staff of the city's community relations division, assembled information on nomination received. Judges Susie Kaeser and Mark Majewski spent several dizzying hours on a weekend morning examining the nominations from the street and debating their merits. Occasionally, the judges noticed other recently improved homes and made on-the-spot nominations.

It became apparent to the judges that the Community Improvement Awards are especially important in these tough economic times. Amidst the beautiful improvements, there were signs of other property owners and structures in distress. These conditions make the work of those willing and able to reinvest in their homes and businesses all the more important to sustain the value and character of the community.

Judge Susie Kaeser commented that "Reviewing the nominations was fun and inspiring. Our residents add so much to the community by maintaining their homes and yards. We all benefit".

The award program will air on Channel 20, Nov. 3 through 16, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Cleveland Heights residents are encouraged to start looking for potential nominees for 2009. Neighbors should consider organizing neighborhood projects to compete for street awards. Watch the city website ([www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com)) for details.

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

## CH-UH Public Library Board: Highlights of September 15, 2008 meeting



All board members present.

### Maureen Weisblatt retires

In honor of Weisblatt's retirement as branch manager of the University Heights Library, library board president Gerald Blake read a resolution honoring her 30 years of service. Weisblatt commented that when she and her spouse moved from New Jersey upon his taking a new job in the Cleveland area, she accepted the position at University Heights intending to stay only a short time. Thirty years later it was time to retire.

### Financial report

Library business manager James Teknipp reported that the library's money market account at StarOhio had climbed to 2.33%. He reminded the board that the Public Library Fund, replacing the Local Government Fund [state support], is new. Prior year distribution was \$233,000 for this period, and this year's was \$217,000. Earlier distributions were higher than those under the old fund.

### Dobama Theater

A Dobama representative attending the meeting said that Dobama expected its 50th season to begin in the library space in September 2009. Board member Glenn Billington had been working with Dobama on an operating agreement. The board voted to accept the operating agreement, with board member Eric Silverman abstaining without comment.

### Children's Services

In addressing the Implementation Report for the Balanced Scorecard, Acting Director Hakala-Ausperk called on Children's Services Coordinator Amy Switzer to talk about her department's activities. Switzer mentioned a collaborative wiki called Wet Paint and an internal blog. Both of these projects aid communication with Children's Services staff across shifts and buildings.

### Meeting room usage

Programming Coordinator Tonya Gibson gave an overview of the first year with the new policy extending facility usage to social groups in addition to 501(c)(3) nonprofit groups. Nonprofits can meet once monthly at no charge, and social groups pay \$20 an hour for residents and \$30 an hour for non-residents. Through August, 854 groups have used meeting rooms with fees totaling \$7,135.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland  
 See disclaimer on page 2.

# Edward or Jacob?

Kris Hickey

If you are a *Twilight* fan, you know what I am talking about! In August, fans enjoyed *Breaking Dawn*, the fourth and final book of Stephenie Meyer's popular vampire romance series.

Some fun facts about Stephenie Meyer: You might be surprised to know she is a Mormon housewife. She admits she is too squeamish to sit through gory vampire movies. One night, she had a vivid dream about a vampire and a human girl in a forest. They were in love, but the boy was drawn to her blood like a siren song. This scene later became chapter 13 in her first book, *Twilight*. *New Moon* and *Eclipse* followed in rapid succession, turning Meyer into a best-selling author.

The series features a beautiful, old-fashioned kind of love story, which is why it resonated with me and so many other readers, young and (cough) more mature. Edward Cullen is a man nearly 100 years old inside the body of a devastatingly handsome 17-year-old boy. He does not think like today's teenage boy—he is a gentleman who is courting Bella. It is an emotional love that goes behind the physical. On the other hand, there is Jacob, Bella's best friend who is also in love with her. Jacob has supernatural secrets of his own.

When Edward leaves for a time, Bella is left heartbroken, and Jacob helps put her back together. Bella asks the question, should Juliet have chosen Paris over Romeo? What if Paris was a really great guy, her best friend who would never hurt her? Bella does not have to change to be with Jacob; but to be with Edward, she must change the very fiber of who she is.

There is no shortage of opinions about the final installment of *Twilight*. Overall, I have to say I liked it. It was a nice happy ending. Disgruntled fans, what do you expect? It's a romance novel!

I hosted a book discussion with an all teenage-girl group at the library. The girls had some great insight. Most of



Kris Hickey, is the young adult librarian at the Lee Road Library.

them were pro-Edward. They like how he seemed to really love Bella. They thought Jacob was too obnoxious. One liked Jacob because Edward seemed too old. Interestingly, they all felt there was too much sex in the book. Even though Bella and Edward were married, they felt they could do without what little details Meyer offered. They were confused about the broken furniture. I did not elaborate for them (hee hee). One of the girls had an interesting idea for the ending. What if Edward gave up his powers and became human so he could grow old with Bella and have normal human babies?

When discussing the *Twilight* series with teens I would recommend the following: 1. Talk about the story line in *New Moon* where Bella thinks about Romeo, Juliet and Paris. What if Paris was a really great guy like Jacob, who was her best friend? Would Juliet have been better off with Paris? 2. Should a girl really have to change who she is for a boy she loves? In this case Bella did all the changing, not Edward. 3. What is it about Edward that is so appealing? He is nearly 100 years old. You can discuss how dating has changed since Edward was a real teenager.

I am so glad I read this series! It was great fun. The girls in the book group passionately discussed the book non-stop for for two hours. That alone is very exciting to me!

Stephenie Meyer, I will read whatever you care to write! Please keep it up!

*Kris Hickey is the young adult librarian at the Lee Road Library.*

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# News Express

Tonya Gibson



For information on what's going on at the Heights Libraries, check out our website, [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org), or stop in to any one of our four libraries to pick up a copy of Check Us Out! Here is a recap of all the news going on at the Heights Libraries...

- Children Services Associate Henry Drak is sharing his storytimes by blogging from the **Coventry Library**. Staff, children and parents are enjoying the chance to feel like they were in the room with the kids! Plans are in the works to have more staff blogs! Read more at <http://explorastory.wordpress.com>.
- Thanks to the efforts of Ben Gulyas, **Coventry Library** now hosts an eclectic collection of new and interesting magazines, from "Dwell" (cutting edge home design) to "Overspray" (graffiti art), "Mental Floss" (liberal politics and current events) and "Philosophy Now." The titles will change monthly, allowing you to try out the new and the unusual.
- Stop by the Children's Room in the **Lee Road Library** to see the wonderful new arrangement! We rearranged the entire west side of the Children's Room to be more open and inviting. We have also moved two comfortable chairs onto the raised area near the fish tank and purchased colorful soft blocks.
- Our "in house" mystery expert and national *Library Journal* columnist, and **Noble Library** Manager, JoAnn Vicarel, was invited by the editor of the *Cambridge Companion to American Literature* to contribute a chapter on the American Police

Procedural. The editor, in her invitation, wrote "I would really value your perspective as a librarian on the appeal of this genre to the readers of detective fiction." What an honor!

- **Noble Library** Manager JoAnn Vicarel reported that "Saturday and Sunday afternoons are becoming family time at Noble. We find children using puzzles, playing games, and doing homework throughout the room. The ages range from toddler to about 16 years of age. Parents interact with each other and spend time reading quietly while the children play. Isn't this what a modern library should be?"
- The Senior SPOT, every Wednesday at the **University Heights Library**, features a variety of topics, including "Intermediate Email," crafts, games and a book discussion led by librarian Becky Katzenmeyer. Attendees of this weekly program enjoyed bowling and boxing using the Nintendo Wii. The UH "Senior Network" program featured a docent from the Cleveland Art Museum, who shared what's new at the Art Museum.

*Tonya Gibson is an employee of the Heights Libraries who enjoys writing and photography in her free time.*

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TRUSTEES ELECTED *continued from page 1*

They join existing trustees Sal A. Russo of the Heights Medical Building, Pam Cooper of Sundaez Tanning & Nails, and Pete Axelrod of Cedar Hill Sunoco.

Cedar Lee elected two new trustees at its annual meeting held Sept. 17. Declan Sinnott, owner of the Cedar Lee Pub and Charles Stewart Parnell's (representing the Cedar Lee Theater Building's Jon Forman), and Eureka Hurd of U.S. Bank (representing building owner Norman Landau). Trustees who were reelected include John Zagara of Zagara's Marketplace, Joe Cruz of Petland of the Heights (representing property owner Phyllis Jacobson), Stan Wasacz of Interstate Development, Kevin Cooney of Realty Marketing, Ray Elshoffer of All Makes Vacuum, Beverly Singh of the Atma Center, Tom Gerson, Bill Mitchell of Mitchell's Candies, and Jimmy O'Neill of Jimmy O'Neill's Tavern.

Coventry Village elected new officers at its annual meeting held Oct. 16. Michael Peterman of Coventry Yard was elected president; Lewis Zipkin of Zipkin Properties, vice president; Gary Biller of K&L Realty, Treasurer; and Adam Waldbaum, who owns the building that houses Grums, Secretary. The officers each serve for a one-year term.

The Cleveland Heights city manager and a member of Cleveland Heights city council sit on each SID board. Every five years, each SID has to begin the renewal process with the city. The

Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Lee SIDs were renewed this fall. Coventry Village was renewed in 2007. Each SID is managed by a part-time director.

Although only property owners or their representatives can become trustees of a SID, members of the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend their meetings.

Cedar Fairmount SID meets quarterly at the Alcazar, 2450 Derbyshire Road. No more meetings are scheduled for 2008, and the meeting date and time will change in 2009. Information: [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org) or call Kaye Lowe, 216-721-2542.

Cedar Lee SID meets quarterly from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the CH-UH Main Library, 2340 Lee Road, on the third Wednesday of each quarter. The next meeting will be in January 2009; information will be posted at the CH-UH Main Library. Information: [www.cedarlee.org](http://www.cedarlee.org) or call Kelly Robinson, 216-561-3530.

Coventry Village SID meets the third Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at Tommy's. Information: [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org) or call Myra Orenstein, 216-556-0927.

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

CONCERN IN UH *continued from page 1*

Concerned Citizens for University Heights officially presented a copy of the group's formation statement to UH City Council and scheduled two open forums in October to discuss ways for residents to provide input regarding the CRC and to discuss strategies for educating residents about proposed changes to the city's charter.

Co-conveners of the new group include Sarah M. Wilder, PhD and Kate Uhler. Pat Braskin serves as secretary. Members plan to attend the biweekly meetings of the CRC, as well as the regular meetings of the UH City Council. Members will provide input at the

CRC's meetings, monitor the issues discussed, and issue reports.

Residents of University Heights are invited to attend future open forums. The mayor, council members and city employees who reside in University Heights are also encouraged to attend. The next forum will be held on Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. the University Heights Library, corner of Cedar and Fenwick roads. Visit [www.citizens4uh.com](http://www.citizens4uh.com) for more information.

*Sarah Wilder is a retired professor and 37-year resident of University Heights. She was named the UH Citizen of the Year in 1991.*

## Heights Library gives you \$1 for 1!

Judithe Soppel

From Nov. 1 through Nov. 21, you can wipe away your fines and help people in your community at the Heights Libraries. All four library locations will be participating in a food drive aiming to help those in the community in a time of need.

Here's how it will work: Customers receive \$1 off their fines for each non-perishable food item or paper good donated to the library. This offer applies only to current fines. Fines will not be removed for any lost or damaged items.

The food and other goods will be taken to the Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC), housed in Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road.

HEFC particularly needs the following: hot or cold cereal, rice, dried/canned beans, soups, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned potatoes, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruits or juices, tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, powdered/canned milk, tomato sauce, sugar, paper products, soap and cleaning supplies. However, any non-perishable items donated will be greatly appreciated.

The library believes its customers will welcome this great opportunity to return their overdue library materials, clear their fines, and help those who are hurting during this current economic crisis.

*Judithe Soppel is public relations coordinator for the CH-UH Public Library.*



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# A big role for Delisle as next Ohio school superintendent

Simone Quartell

When Cleveland Heights - University Heights School Superintendent Deborah Delisle takes on her new role as state Superintendent of Public Instruction, she'll have a big job to do: nothing less than defining Ohio's approach to public education for the next generation.

She was named to the role at the Oct. 14 meeting of the Ohio State Board of Education, and she starts the job in Columbus on Dec. 1.

Having intensely criticized outgoing Superintendent Susan Zelman, Gov. Ted Strickland said he hopes to see change under Delisle's leadership.

"I believe that it is important for the next superintendent of schools in Ohio to be a visionary leader who can work collaboratively with others. It is also very important that ... she be a strong advocate for public education

in Ohio," Strickland stated before the appointment was made final. "By a visionary leader, I mean someone who can see and express to others what the future of Ohio's education system should look like, and someone who can inspire confidence in that vision to help create schools that work for every child in Ohio."

Delisle said her immediate priorities in the job will be to evaluate the tests and other methods by which students are assessed, develop relationships with the 614 school districts in Ohio, and help the state cope with mandates and costs for the federal "No Child Left Behind" initiative.

According to Strickland, the greatest challenges facing school districts in Ohio are "how to reform our system of education to ensure that every Ohio child has an opportunity to learn and grow; and, second, how to fund a

truly reformed system of education in Ohio."

While the position is an honor and a step up for Delisle, insiders at the CH-UH School District, where she has been superintendent since 2003, said her shoes will be hard to fill. "It shows how far she has gone as the Heights superintendent," said CH-UH Board of Education President Mike Cicero. "We are all sad to see her go, but she will be great for the job. It is great for the Heights system to have a strong advocate at such a high level. However, her vision and passion for the district will be a huge loss."

Delisle first informed the CH-UH Board that she had applied for the state job about two weeks before she was named a finalist.

"I was surprised, but at the same time, I was not, because I know how well-respected she is," Cicero said.

The CH-UH Board was scheduled to convene in executive session Oct. 21 to lay out strategies for choosing a new superintendent. "We'd like the new superintendent to have vision, passion and creativity," said Cicero, "just like Delisle. Not that we want him or her to be a Delisle clone."

"It's difficult for me to leave the CH-UH schools, because the students, families and staff are all very close to my heart," said Delisle. "But I am confident that the practices I inputted at the Heights schools will be continued by the new superintendent."

*Simone Quartell is a senior at Cleveland Heights High School. She has been a member of The Black and Gold student newspaper since her freshman year, where she is an editor and has covered school district issues in depth. She plans to study journalism in college.*

## It's The Instructional Core All the world's a stage

OPINION

Susie Kaeser

Remember when Bill Clinton tacked up the Post-it® note that reminded him, "it's the economy, stupid?" This clear focus helped him win the presidency.

For the Heights schools the focus is "the instructional core." And the goal is a high level of student achievement across the board.

In September Richard Elmore, the guru of the instructional core, was featured at a school district-sponsored retreat for more than 100 administrators, principals, teacher leaders, parent and community leaders, State Department of Education administrators, education advocates, and teacher educators.

Elmore is one of the thinker/practitioners who is helping to shape the transformation of the CH-UH schools. His message made real sense: if you want lots of children to excel and every classroom to be a place where students are engaged in activities that push them forward to high levels of learning, you must affect the instructional core.

The instructional core has three inter-related parts: the expectations for what children learn, the subject knowledge and teaching skills of their teachers, and classroom work that makes students active participants in their learning. Common sense? Yes. Easy? Not quite.

But by focusing on the instructional core the school district is counting on increasing the effectiveness of its primary existing resource: its teachers. This is not about new programs that "fix" kids, nor is it about blaming teachers. It's about recalibrating expectations for students to fit the needs of a changing world and overcoming outmoded biases. It's about a systematic approach to ensuring that teachers have the best educational materials and classroom strategies to effectively engage children in a demanding curriculum. And, it's about monitoring progress and constantly seeking success.

Creating the optimum conditions for student learning throughout a school district is not achieved through simple declarations. It takes vision, a huge amount of

effort, determination, and focus while challenging old assumptions, sharing leadership, and building new structures. The CH-UH City School District has been working on this for six years. You can see changes in the school culture as teachers and principals have assumed new roles and responsibilities, and in what transpires in classrooms.

Another important word in the district's change lexicon is "coherence." If the district is to successfully strengthen the instructional core, then that objective must be the centerpiece of every decision. Educators must resist being pulled off track, which can mean some activities must be dropped to make room for the activities that will produce the greatest benefits for students.

The retreat's key message: If we actually want different results, everyone has to show restraint in the distracting demands we place on the people who are doing the work with kids. We need to value the priority that is being given to improving the instructional core, and find ways to support this emphasis. We can also help keep the district on track by looking for the right things: curriculum, classroom activities, and attitudes that demand more of students; teachers assuming new roles and collaborating more to ensure best practices in the classroom; and more resources devoted to increasing teacher knowledge and effectiveness.

Thankfully, Superintendent Delisle put the district on this course and has built a team that is committed to its success. Given her impending departure, it is more important than ever that our community understands and embraces these core ideas, and expects that sustaining this work is the top priority for new leadership.

The district is on the road to a major transformation, but it will take steadfast commitment to fully reap the benefits of this work. Post this note: it's the instructional core!

*Susie Kaeser is an advocate for public education. She founded Reaching Heights, a citizen advocacy organization for the CH-UH schools, in 1989 and retired as executive director last December. She is a resident of Cleveland Heights and her two adult children are graduates of the Heights schools.*

Stephanie Applegate

William Shakespeare is a phrase that sends chills (or yawns) through the hearts of students everywhere. In the age of YouTube and MySpace, can the Bard really compete? (He's no Jonas Brother, you know.)

Allison Bencar and Nathan Miller are resident actors and teachers who, as a traveling troupe of two, make Shakespeare come alive for Cleveland-area students courtesy of the Great Lakes Theater Festival's education initiative. They assert that Shakespeare is for everyone. "Through the GLTF, students are afforded the opportunity to explore the universal themes inherent in classical dramatic literature, and we hope to illuminate those themes for them."

Shakespeare did, in fact, come alive for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes at Saint Ann School recently as they immersed themselves in a week-long workshop of Romeo & Juliet. According to sixth-grader Brady Furlich, the Bard is still relevant, especially when you get the opportunity to immerse yourself in his world. "When you act, you get a different point of view than just reading the play in the classroom."

In fact, Allison and Nathan encourage complete immersion in the process. Students don't simply read their lines; they are given motivation for their actions. They learn about the lifestyles, clothing, social mores and class structure, daily diet, and, the Renaissance "dis." (Maybe biting one's thumb will make a comeback.)

The partnership between Saint Ann School and the GLTF has lasted for 15 years now, and the enthusiasm before the annual visit extends to parents as well.



St. Ann students learn Shakespeare.

Kelly Foerg, mother of seventh-grader Jeffrey, is astounded by what her son learns from this activity. "Jeffrey can't wait to get to school to participate in the GLTF visit. What 11 year-old boy reads Shakespeare for fun?"

He may not be a Jonas Brother, but Will Shakespeare is still relevant.

*Stephanie Applegate is a life-long resident of Cleveland Heights and the mother of two boys. She also currently serves on the board of Heights Community Congress.*

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# CH-UH Board of Education

## Highlights of September/October meetings



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2008  
All board members present.

### Teachers' contract

Tom Schmida, President of the CH-UH Teachers Union and high school teacher at Mosaic School, speaking from the audience, noted that the teachers had requested a resumption of mediation on a contract settlement. Superintendent Deborah Delisle responded that the mediator had just set a date for the next Wednesday.

### Bus service to Fuchs Mizrahi

Deborah Hoffman, asked the board to resume bus service, cut a few weeks prior, to Fuchs Mizrahi preschool. Michael Cicero, board president, responded that the district had discovered in August that the preschool does not have a valid IRN# [Internal Retrieval Number – "unique identifiers of various types of school-related entities within Ohio"]. The Hebrew Academy Sapirostein Campus was in same situation and both schools have been notified. Upon obtaining an IRN# they would qualify for resumption of bus service. The district would be exposed to liability issues if it resumed bus service without the IRN#.

### Father's Walk 2008

Superintendent Delisle reported that several elementary and middle schools would participate in Father's Walk 2008, to walk students to school on Sept. 10. The activity was organized to strengthen bonds between fathers and their children's schools. CH-UH would be among 300 entities participating.

### State evaluation results

The district was just shy of an Effective rating on the Ohio School Report Card. Greater detail of the data would be shared at the October work session, but

the superintendent made a few points:

- After several years of consecutive growth it is common to see a plateau, as has happened this year.
- There were several new scores to meet.
- The high school met standards for Effective, but was ranked as Continuous Improvement because of the way the students were evaluated by the state.
- No school was lower than Continuous Improvement.
- The district has outlined plans to continue monitoring student achievement according to the Growth Model, with clear expectations for principals, teachers, and parents.

### Tax Advance

The board approved making a request for a tax advance from the county so that the district would be advanced the funds as soon as taxes were collected. Without this request, the county would most likely hold onto the funds until after the year closes out and it can verify the collections.

LWV Observer: Rachel DeGolia

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008  
All board members present.

### Teacher contract negotiations

Board President Michael Cicero read a statement on negotiations with the teachers union. He said that the offer to the teachers was the same as to the other four unions, which had already been settled with the board:

- 2% pay increase each of the three years of the contract.
- Hospitalization premium increase from \$20 to \$40 for an individual and from \$50 to \$100 for a family.

Tom Schmida, the teachers' union president, had met with the superintendent four times during the summer. Cicero

asked each board member if they were supportive and aware of the administration's positions on negotiations and each answered "yes."

### FY 2008-09 budget

District Treasurer Scott Gainer presented The Permanent Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Factors affecting the budget include:

- Residential foreclosures and declining property values,
  - A 92% collection rate for school taxes,
  - State funding reductions,
  - Declining interest rates,
  - Tangible personal property tax phase-out, and
  - Increasing utility and materials costs.
- Gainer explained the budget process for non-salary items. Budget managers prepare a zero-base budget, which is reviewed by supervisors, the superintendent, and the chief financial officer before the final budget is submitted to the school board for approval. The board approves the five-year forecast in October.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008  
All board members present.

### Jim Rokakis addresses foreclosures

Jim Rokakis, Cuyahoga County treasurer, discussed the impact of foreclosures on school district income. He had no good news on losses due to decreases in house values and did not know the direction of the 2009 audit. Cuyahoga County has been studying the Flint, Michigan model for a land bank concept.

### Student field trips

The board approved the Minority Student Achievement Network, National

Student Conference field trip to Madison Wisconsin, Sept. 24-27; the Heights High Symphony/Symphony Winds/Jazz Field trip to Los Angeles and San Diego, California, February 18-22, 2009; and the Middle School student field trip to Quebec City and Montreal, Canada, April 25-29, 2009.

### Grants

The board approved the submission of the State Action for Education Leadership Project (SAELP) grant, requesting \$50,000 from the Ohio Department of Education and \$75,000 from the Wallace Foundation for a total of \$125,000.

The board approved the appropriation of funds for two awarded grants: the Jennings Social Studies/Science Grant of \$34,400 and Child Outcomes Support grant for preschool, \$3,000.

### Laptops at Monticello School

The superintendent commented on laptop distribution to eighth graders at Monticello Middle School. Parents were going through orientations to get complete guidelines.

### John Carroll University discussions

Michael Cicero, board president, reported on discussions with John Carroll University about using and improving board-owned fields for the college and community. Talks would continue.

### Delisle on short list

President Cicero expressed his support of Superintendent Deborah Delisle in her possible role as State Superintendent, although the district would be sorry to see her leave.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser

See disclaimer on page 2.

# Four easy ways to support your local school

Mazie Adams

Strong public schools are the keystone for a strong community. Even if you don't have children in the school system, there are simple ways you can support your CH-UH schools. You can make a difference for your school every time you shop through the Box Tops For Education, Heinen's and Target programs!

Just clip the **Box Tops For Education** coupons from hundreds of products, including General Mills,<sup>®</sup> Ziploc,<sup>®</sup> Betty Crocker,<sup>®</sup> Bisquick,<sup>®</sup> Pillsbury,<sup>®</sup> Cottonelle,<sup>®</sup> Huggies,<sup>®</sup> Kleenex,<sup>®</sup> Scott,<sup>®</sup> Viva,<sup>®</sup> Yoplait,<sup>®</sup> Green Giant,<sup>®</sup> and much, much more. Check with your local school for more informa-

tion on the programs listed below. Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for more information on this program.

**Heinen's new "Tasteful Rewards"** program allows regular Heinen's customers with a preferred shopping card to select a school to benefit from 1% of their eligible purchases.

**Target** also supports local schools. You can designate your local school for 1% of your shopping purchases at Target if you use a Target RedCard (Visa, debit or Target credit). Some CH-UH schools have received over \$500 from this program in the last few years.

Go green and help the schools! Put your regular paper recycling in the yel-

low and green Abitibi dumpsters located throughout the district. Participating schools receive payment for each ton of paper recycled. No boxboard or cardboard, please.

Mazie Adams is a Noble Elementary School parent.

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# Making music



Matt Urminski taught drumming at the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp.

Lita Gonzalez

Heights High, long known for its visual and performing arts, has produced six graduates who are taking their musical talents to new heights.

**Matt Urminski '05** is a member of Ohio University's African Ensemble and the private African drumming and dance company Azaguno. He is a student of Paschal Yao Younge, a world percussion expert, the hand-drumming accompanist for OU's School of Dance African Dance classes, and teaches two other accompanists in training. He will graduate this year with a master's in specialized studies and minors in cultural arts and psychology.

In 2007, Matt traveled to Ghana to learn about African culture and take workshops with master drum makers. "If I didn't drum, I'd be frantic or bored," he said. "It puts life into perspective. You get into a trance; you create order out of chaos. It's definitely a good way to get away from stress."

Matt shared his love of drumming as a counselor at the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp. This past summer he received the Future Educator's Award.

Matt is a member of the band Majesty. Readers can listen to the band's latest CD, *The Sun and The Sea*, at [www.myspace.com/hailyourmajesty](http://www.myspace.com/hailyourmajesty). Majesty describes itself as a band that "once started out as an acoustic folk-duo, [but] has now evolved into a multi-instrumental gaggle of harmonies and melodies, all of which deem beauty and understanding within its lyrics and music."

Readers can contact Matt by email at [m\\_urminski@hotmail.com](mailto:m_urminski@hotmail.com) or [YourMajestyMusic@gmail.com](mailto:YourMajestyMusic@gmail.com).

**Benjamin Bloom '07, Jacob Bergson '06, James Muschler '07, and Nathan Davis '05** had played together at Heights High since 2005—Jacob on piano, James on drums, Nathan on saxophone, and Ben on bass. After graduation, the four continued getting together to play gigs around town. In the Summer of 2008, the group decided to rerecord a CD of all original music, on which Jacob and Nathan wrote all of the tracks. The CD, *Experiment #1*, was released at a party at Night Town.

"Our jazz is hard to describe," Ben



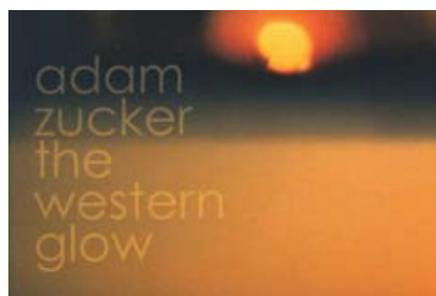
Left to right: Jacob Bergson '06, James Muschler '07, Nathan Davis '05, Ben Bloom '07.

said, "because it is built on top of a foundation made of a myriad of so many different influences that it sounds like nothing I've really ever heard." The group's main influences include John Coltrane, Pharoah Sanders, and Vijay Iyer among others. The CD, which was recorded, mixed, and mastered at Audio Recording in Bentleyville, OH, sports a cover design by Cleveland Heights artist Cathie Bleck.

Readers can listen to the CD at [www.myspace.com/clevelandjazzproject](http://www.myspace.com/clevelandjazzproject), or contact Ben at [benjamin.bloom@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:benjamin.bloom@mail.mcgill.ca).

**Adam Zucker '06** has been into music for as long as he can remember. He was in a few bands in high school but none of them ever attained the level of success he was aiming for. He decided to branch out and try doing something on his own. "I started writing again, and when I realized I had some good material to work with, I decided to put it to tape," Adam explained when describing his motivation for producing his CD entitled *The Western Glow*.

Adam describes his music as a calm



The cover of Adam Zucker's new CD.

guitar and vocal-based variation on the folk-rock genre. "I tend to think of my work as contemplative and textured, and as relying heavily on the delicate interplay between instruments and sonic layers." He spends a lot of time writing thoughtful lyrics and feels strongly that interesting lyrics are an essential part of a great song.

All the songs were written and performed by Adam. Jacob Bergson plays the organ on three of the tracks.

Adam hopes to put out another CD soon. Hard copies of his album are available from [www.cdbaby.com/cd/adamzucker](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/adamzucker). Digital downloads of the album can be purchased from [www.digstation.com/AdamZucker](http://www.digstation.com/AdamZucker) and soon on iTunes.

Keep that information about our Heights graduates coming! Email me at [lita@valancy.com](mailto:lita@valancy.com).

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

## Heights High Seniors Win JFSA Scholarships

Toby Bresky

Congratulations to Heights High seniors Elizabeth Root, Hannah Tatar, Maya Lugasy and Isaac Miller! Each student was recently awarded a college scholarship through Jewish Family Service Association's Joint Educational Loan Committee (JELC) college financial aid program. This year, 48 students were nominated by guidance counseling departments from local area schools.

Root and Tatar are two of four recipients of the 2008 Jack W. and Shirley J. Berger Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to area high school seniors who excel academically, have volunteered for worthy causes and exhibit a genuine passion for making a difference in the world. Root graduated with a 4.5 GPA and now attends Brown University. Tatar graduated with a 4.6 GPA and now attends Vassar. Both students received SAT scores in the 2100 range.

Lugasy and Miller are two of nine recipients of the 2008 Meisel Family

Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to promising students who are active, volunteer, and demonstrate a strong work ethic. Lugasy graduated with a 4.3 GPA and now attends Ohio State University. Miller graduated with a 4.3 GPA and now attends Case Western Reserve University.

The JELC program is operated under the auspices of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. Students wishing to learn more about these scholarships and other college financial aid offered through the JFSA should contact Mrs. Blockson at Heights High School 216-320-3065 or Toby Bresky at JFSA ([tbresky@jfsa-cleveland.org](mailto:tbresky@jfsa-cleveland.org)).

*Toby Bresky lives in the University Heights and is the manager of college financial aid & scholarships for the Jewish Family Service Association.*

*Editor's note: the grade point average scale GPA is on a weighted 4.0 scale. A photo of Isaac Miller was not available.*



Elizabeth Root



Maya Lugasy



Hannah Tatar

## Whither the weather?

Stephanie Applegate

"Do you think it will rain?" the mother asks her daughter, eyes scanning the sky.

"No, Mom. Those are cirrus clouds; they're not heavy enough to produce rain. Plus, a high-pressure system's making its way in from the west. And frankly, Mom, the warm and cold fronts coming through would make rain virtually impossible."

"Oh," the mother replies sheepishly. "Well. Okay, then."

Beware Heights residents: amateur meteorologists are loose in the city, thanks to a recent visit to Saint Ann School from COSI on Wheels, a traveling science show that dares students to have fun with science. Every October, the Center for Science and Industry (COSI) visits Saint Ann, and true to its motto, urges students to "Explore Science. Discover Fun!"

On a recent morning, students learned about extreme weather. Well, to be totally honest, they lived extreme weather. With hands-on participation encouraged, students determined that air pressure is mighty enough to crush a steel drum. That a cloud starts off as a dust particle. That air actually weighs something. And above all, the students had fun—dare we say it?—learning.

Third-grader Madison Miluk triumphantly pumped her fist in the air and screamed, "Whoo-hoo!" as she used variations in air pressure to create wind. Another third-grade fan of COSI, Claire Peyrebrune, succinctly sums up why this annual visit is so meaningful to her: "You can actually do stuff, and not just study, and study, and study."

Matt Welsh, outreach demonstrator for COSI has been getting kids to learn about science in a fun way since 2002. "This program," he notes, "gets kids learning for the fun of it, for something other than a test."

The program certainly is popular. This year alone, COSI on Wheels has 700 reservations for its services in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Wisconsin.

"COSI Day is one of the students' favorite days of the school year," observes Saint Ann School parent and COSI Day coordinator Katie Loughheed. "And we're lucky this year that COSI chose us to premiere this new program on the weather. And we're also lucky that we have so many helpful parents who act as volunteers!"

Indeed, hosting COSI on Wheels is a collaborative effort, but the end result is wondrous. "If the kids aren't taking anything away from this experience," asks Welsh, "then what's the point?"

To showcase COSI on Wheels at your school, log on to [www.cosi.org](http://www.cosi.org) and click on the "educator's" tab.

*Stephanie Applegate is a life-long resident of Cleveland Heights and the mother of two boys. She also currently serves on the board of Heights Community Congress.*

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# Holley-Starling lives to capture the light

Tracey Cooley

The whole idea behind creating images for your family is to hold on to memories, to preserve relationships. Everyday pictures can do this, and it is that one photograph that captures the essence of the person, relationship or family that becomes precious. Creating precious images is a passion for Chris Holley-Starling. She believes that “every human being is beautiful” and when she can “find what makes them smile and light up, and capture that on film” then she’s in a special place. Capturing that light is what she enjoys most about photography. She considers the opportunity a special privilege.

Holley-Starling got started in photography when her husband brought a camera into their marriage and she tried unsuccessfully to use it. Since he was on the faculty of Tri-C, she was able to take photography classes for free. With encouragement from her professor, she continued with photography, and this journey includes 13 years of retail photography in her own studio and, for the last 25 years, teaching photography at Tri-C.

When we first spoke, the difference between her and the big box stores was glaringly apparent. Before she ever gets behind the camera, Holley-Starling spends time talking with clients about themselves or playing with the children, until everyone is comfortable. Her appointments are not your typical 15 minutes, in and out like in a cookie mill, but fluid according to need. And, it shows. The finished product is proof that the difference is the person behind the camera.

Holley-Starling believes that pictures capture a snap shot of time and hold in them precious memories. “Some

people are just gorgeous in their age.” She recognizes that there are a lot of people who are not really comfortable in front of a camera, especially as they age. But she also knows that in 10 to 20 years when they look back at that photo they’ll say to themselves, “I looked pretty good.”

She has a message for those reluctant to get their pictures taken and for those who don’t get pictures taken enough. “We all want pictures of our children and grandchildren and not so many of ourselves. But the way we treasure those pictures of the people we love, they will also treasure the pictures of us.”

She has developed strong relationships with many people in the community. She has been touched when clients bring her gifts from their honeymoons after she has photographed their weddings. She says it just blows her away when people do this. She’s had clients remember her on her birthdays and the holidays. She’s been in clients’ homes, been invited to birthday parties and baptisms.

“It’s more than treating everybody the way you want to be treated. It’s about going beyond that and finding a relationship. We all want to be treated well, but we don’t always want to have a relationship with the people we meet. But in my business, I do,” she says.

Chris Holley-Starling is truly a compassionate and caring person. Stop in her Cleveland Heights studio and feel what a true sense of community is all about.

*Tracey Cooley is the father of three and a lover of independently owned businesses. He promotes and supports the Future-Heights gift certificate program and the IBuyNEO card.*

Relationship

- Seniors
- Weddings
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# Annie Chui’s Sun Luck Garden reopens



Sun Luck Garden’s exterior is non-descript, but the menu is packed with personality

Christina Klenotic

When it comes to cravings for Chinese cuisine, I admit Hunan Coventry has been my go-to stop in the Heights. But, this summer I heard lots of buzz about Sun Luck Garden’s beloved owner, Annie Chiu, when a Who’s Who list of Cleveland chefs hosted a benefit in her honor since she had to close the restaurant for a few months after emergency open-heart surgery.

When the restaurant recently reopened, I made my first visit to sample Chui’s warm disposition and contemporary Chinese cuisine, which features Szechuan, Cantonese and Mandarin dishes.

Calling a strip plaza home, both the restaurant’s exterior and interior are unassuming and petite. But, the menu and staff are packed with personality.

Like a butterfly, Chui floated to greet guests and knew some diners by name. In contrast, our server didn’t have the best social skills. For example, when we asked for appetizer suggestions, he said he hated when people asked for recommendations and trailed off without further explanation. We did just fine with the potstickers (\$5.50), which were delightfully doughy and plump with pork.

Equally amusing was the suggested wine list, which included a cabernet sauvignon (\$6/\$24) that was described as “smells exactly like blueberry pie.” Of course, we had to try it, and it did present a whiff of blueberry.

For our entrees, we enjoyed *mu shu* chicken (\$11.95), shredded chicken sautéed with vegetables and served in four Mandarin thin pancakes with a sweet Hoisin sauce (Chinese-style fajitas), and vegetarian *hawphen* (\$12.95), soft wide rice noodles tossed with a Szechwan chili sauce. This latter dish was tasty.

Sun Luck Garden includes a honey walnut chicken entrée (\$13.95), which is my favorite dish from Hunan Coventry, so I was excited to conduct a honey walnut chicken challenge. When I ordered takeout to sample Sun Luck Garden’s rendition, I also added wonton soup (\$1.75), spring rolls (\$1.75) and pork lo

Sun Luck Garden

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www.SunLuckGarden.com  
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Saturday: 4 – 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 4 – 8:30 p.m.

mein (\$11.95) to my order.

However, Chiu’s presentation of Honey Walnut Chicken is very different than Hunan Coventry’s Chicken with Honey Walnuts, and I prefer Hunan’s simplistic version. Chiu’s version is more of a stir fry.

The spring roll was the best I’ve had – a perfect flaky crust and very fresh veggies. The wonton soup’s full-bodied broth also was good, but it was a little sweet for my taste, a trend I noticed with other dishes. Unfortunately, the pork lo mein was unmemorable, possibly because I ordered it mild.

I regret that Chiu’s famed spicy mussels that are served just a few times a year were not on the menu. But, I did add my e-mail address to the contact list for future notification. I also have heard her homemade sorbet is delicious, so I plan to sample some on my next visit.

For the next few months, Sun Luck Garden is only serving dinner, Tuesday through Sunday. Lunch will be added at a later date.

*Per her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a “good eater.” She enjoys sampling our area’s eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods.*

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# Coventry stores celebrate milestone anniversaries

Heights Observer Staff

Three coventry stores are celebrating anniversaries this month. Mac's Backs is turning 30, Vidstar Video 25, and Big Fun 18.

Mac's Backs Founder Jim McSherry opened the book store 30 years ago when he was a graduate student at Kent State University. He then moved it to his hometown of Chagrin Falls and, in 1982 opened the second location in Cleveland Heights. Both stores operated simultaneously for several years and now the Coventry store is his only location.

Suzanne DeGaetano signed on as McSherry's business partner in 1989. "Coventry's diversity appealed to us," says DeGaetano, "We like that it is a walking neighborhood with a vibrant street culture, where you can meet friends, neighbors and strangers and have conversations on the sidewalk. Even in this era of the internet, people here still understand the value of neighborhood institutions and are willing to support small shopkeepers. I can't think of a better place to have a business."

Mac's features three floors of new and used books with a large selection of fiction, mysteries, classics, science fiction, biography, poetry and non-fiction. The store also stocks more than 100 magazines and journals. The store runs as a book exchange, where customers can exchange their own books for store credit.

Mac's hosts readings, book signings, author events, storytelling, book clubs, and writing groups. Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the store's poetry

reading series, held the second Wednesday each month. Mac's also hosts a book club that is in its 10th year of reading contemporary classics.

Vidstar Video is an independent video store with one of the best selections of movies in the Cleveland area. In addition to popular films and new releases, Vidstar maintains a leading selection of foreign, classic and cult films. Vidstar has been voted the number one video store by *Scene Magazine* for the past two years.

Big Fun grew from a small storefront in 1990 to a 3,400 sq. ft., award-winning toy store and gift shop. Recently elected the Best Children's Toy Store in Cleveland, and featured on national television, magazines and newspapers, it has become a must-stop for rock-and-roll stars, Hollywood Who's Who, famous artists and tourists. The store offers Ohio's largest selection of collectible toys, custom iron on t-shirts, classic candy, jokes and novelties.

All three stores will offer special promotions to celebrate their anniversaries. Mac's and Vidstar will host in-store events during business hours on November 15 and 16. Visit their websites and drop by.

**Big Fun** 1814 Coventry Rd.  
216371-4386, www.bigfunbigfun.com

**Mac's Backs** 1820 Coventry Rd.  
216-321-2665, www.macsbacks.com

**Vidstar Video** 1836 1/2 Coventry Rd.  
216-932-287, www.vidstarvideo.com

# ALL ABOUT U FITNESS

a unique approach to fitness, opens its doors.



All About U Fitness is located in the Rockefeller Pointe Building, 2490 Lee Boulevard, lower level.

Pamela Price

All About U Fitness (AAUF) is a new personal training facility located in the Rockefeller Pointe building at the corner of Mayfield Road and Lee Boulevard. Owner and certified personal fitness trainer Eric Price is fulfilling his lifelong dream of operating his own training center in the city he loves.

Price grew up in the Heights and graduated from Heights High. After jobs in Dayton and Atlanta, he has returned. He has been in the fitness industry for over 20 years, including participating in bodybuilding competitions.

AAUF offers clients a unique fitness experience. During a first visit, Price performs a client assessment to determine individual needs and goals. He says, "Every person's body and goals are different, which is why we customize each client's workout to help them attain their own personal goals."

Price has designed AAUF as an alternative to larger, impersonal health clubs which don't tailor to each person as an individual with unique needs. "Many people want to get in shape but are intimidated by the larger clubs so

they talk themselves out of going at all or stop going shortly after they start. AAUF offers an inviting, non-threatening atmosphere that allows you to feel comfortable yet motivated which keeps you coming back."

Personal training sessions combine cardio blast and strength training. Price maximizes each workout to get the best workout in the least amount of time. AAUF also helps clients to formulate healthier diet plans and to improve overall wellness.

AAUF offers yoga, tai-chi, and ZUMBA classes to improve cardiovascular endurance, core strength, flexibility and stress relief. ZUMBA, the latest craze in the fitness industry, offers hypnotic rhythms and tantalizing moves in a dynamic workout designed to be fun and easy to do. AAUF also offers massage therapy and chiropractic services.

All About U Fitness is open seven days a week. Contact AAUF at 216-321-FITT (3488), www.allaboutufitness.org, or allaboutufitness@att.net.

*Pamela Price is a Cleveland Heights resident and co-owner of All About U Fitness.*

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# Heights Arts Holiday Store opens

Peggy Spaeth

Six years ago there was an empty storefront in the historic Cedar Lee building, and the fledgling Heights Arts asked landlord Jonathan Forman if it could be used for a temporary holiday sale of work by local artists. The positive response to the sale led to the launching of Heights Arts Gallery, which has presented six annual exhibits of regional art ever since. But every year the gallery returns to its roots, and gathers prints, paintings, photographs, ceramics, glass, jewelry, fiber, books, ornaments, CDs, and more for the sole purpose of selling quality hand-crafted work by regional artists for the holidays.

This year, familiar artists return with new work, and new artists have been added to the show. Glass by Brent Kee Young, Mark Sudduth, and Todd Anderson joins the work of new addition Uri Davillier, who produces goblets and over-sized glass marbles. Bonnie Dolan returns with urban and suburban landscape pastels in a clear glowing palette. Ceramics new this year include the delicate and organic work of Yumiko Goto and Barbara Humpage's



Bonnie Dolan's pastels are back again this year.

witty domestic depictions of the 1950's on functional pieces.

There is no clearer message to artists that they are vital to our community than purchasing their work. It is easy to find affordable original gifts for just about anyone at the Holiday Store. Remember, if you cannot find the right gift, the gallery also sells and accepts FutureHeights gift certificates.

Heights Arts Gallery is located at 2173 Lee Rd., a few steps from the Cedar Lee Theater. The store is open Nov. 8 - Dec. 30, Tues. - Sat. noon - 9 p.m., Mon. 6 - 9 p.m., closed Sunday.

Find more information at [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org) or call 216.371.3457.

*Peggy Spaeth is executive director of Heights Arts.*



Lynne Lofton's ceramics are among the many locally made items available at the Heights Arts Gallery.

# Sitting-Room Symphony: an intimate look into Cleveland's world-class musical landscape

Brenda Gray

One is tempted to reach over and turn the sheet music pages for Cleveland Orchestra violinist Isabel Trautwein as her fingers flutter over the neck of her violin during Schubert's String Quintet in C major.

That kind of intimacy distinguishes the Heights Arts House Concert series, brainchild of Heights Arts Executive Director Peggy Spaeth. The \$35 to \$40 concerts offer a sharp contrast to formal concert halls, an alternative greatly appreciated by the audience, says Spaeth. "One person said that in the past, this kind of concert was for royalty. So she is tickled to be royalty at such a reasonable price!" Proceeds from the concerts benefit the non profit Heights Arts.

In its third season and sponsored by David Lavelle, the concerts unite world-class musicians in low-key settings. Last season's concerts included a Claude Debussy flute, harp, and viola trio and a string quartet presented in a converted barn in the Herrick Mews neighborhood, as well as a double-concert during which the audience swapped between a historic tudor and a modern straw-bale house. Finding intriguing "host homes" turned out to be easier than Spaeth thought. "I just boldly call strangers up and ask. No one has declined yet!"

Cleveland Heights resident and Cleveland Orchestra violinist Isabel Trautwein is artistic director for the series and performs in just about every concert. "A pianist friend and I really wanted to play a concert for a good cause," and she serendipitously learned of Spaeth's interest, recalls Trautwein. The series was born.

Sitting only a few feet away, the audience can hear every note and breath, and the musicians love the intimacy. "Seeing people right there, feeling their intent focus and their friendliness as we speak afterwards, it actually makes us feel like we have shared something. [The opportunity] to connect with the audiences on a much more personal and intimate level is really important to us," Trautwein says, adding "the experience of a private person sharing their really gorgeous home with us is just magnificent."

This season, Trautwein is thrilled to work with such heavyweights as William Preucil, concertmaster for the Cleveland Orchestra, and renowned guitarist Jason Vieaux. But perhaps most exciting for Trautwein is her own Nov. 23 "Bach and Forth" concert. "Bach is my favorite composer, so spending time with this piece for the past few months has really been a privilege, kind of like getting to know a good friend much better," she says. To experience this season's series, Trautwein advises prompt action: "The concerts all sell out, we have many repeat customers, and they all leave with a bounce in their step!"

*Brenda Gray is a freelance writer, Cleveland Heights resident, and part-time Heights Arts House Concert audience member.*



Isabel Trautwein is a violinist for the Cleveland Orchestra and artistic director for the Heights Arts House Concert Series.

### Heights Arts Concert Schedule:

**November 23, 2008 at 3 p.m.**, "Bach and Forth": Featuring Peter Bennett, baroque harpsichord, Rachel Cama-Lexx, baroque cello, Miho Hashizume, baroque violin, Debra Nagy, baroque oboe, and Isabel Trautwein, violin; an outstanding ensemble of period musicians play a baroque concert on historic instruments, contrasting with a performance of Bach on a modern violin, performed at the TAP studio in the Loftworks Building in downtown Cleveland.

**January 25, 2009 at 7 p.m.**, "January in Bloom": Featuring William Preucil, violin, concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra, Kirsten Docter, viola, Cavani String Quartet, Tanya Ell, cello, The Cleveland Orchestra, Miho Hashizume, violin, The Cleveland Orchestra, Jessica Oudin, viola, City Music, Daniel Pereira, cello, City Music, Mari Sato, violin, Cavani String Quartet, and Isabel Trautwein, violin, The Cleveland Orchestra; a performance of Mendelssohn Octet, Vivaldi 3 Seasons, and Piazzolla at the Barrie House in Herrick Mews.

**April 26, 2009 at 7 p.m.**, "A Flutious Evening": Featuring Marisela Sager and guitarist Jason Vieaux performing Schubert, Piazzolla, and a Latin duet; location to be announced.

**July 5, 2009** Save the summer date. (details TBA)

If you would like to attend a concert or become a sponsor, please contact Heights Arts at 216-371-3457 or by email at [heightsarts@heightsarts.org](mailto:heightsarts@heightsarts.org).

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**Stan Soble**

# Richard Stewart receives Emmy

Mike Fitzpatrick

When the ill winds of the foreclosure crisis rendered Northeast Ohio ground zero in the massive economic game changer, Richard Stewart was on the story. A 1984 Heights High graduate, Stewart recently won an Emmy from the Great Lakes Chapter of the National



Richard Stewart basks in the glow of an Emmy win.

Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for outstanding achievement in the category of Public/Current/Community Affairs. Stewart is executive producer of the documentary *Don't Borrow Trouble* for production company Broadcast Media Ideas. The 30-minute video examines how the foreclosure crisis impacted Northeast Ohio and how Cuyahoga County government fought to combat the problem. The show, produced for the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, aired on public access TV in the Cleveland area.

Sitting in a banquet room for the awards ceremony with his colleagues and his wife, Virginia, Stewart heard his name announced and slowly began to absorb the exciting news that he had won the Emmy. "I had resigned myself to being content with simply being nominated," he said. "But when U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich [who was presenting the award] said the first word in the title of our program, a wave of euphoria swept over me. It was what I could only describe as suspended animation for about five minutes."

Writing and producing the award-winning documentary, Stewart spent a good deal of time poring over data and interviewing those affected by the foreclosure crisis. He interviewed local and national government officials, leaders of nonprofit organizations, attorneys and victims of foreclosure. "This project was

a bit different for us in that it was probably the most in-depth piece Broadcast Media Ideas has ever produced," Stewart said. "It wouldn't have been possible without the help from creative director Brandon Kroeger and owner Michael Settonni."

The recognition validates a 15-year career in TV journalism and video production. Stewart fell in love with video work while studying broadcast journalism at Kent State University, where he graduated with a degree in journalism with a focus in broadcast. He worked as a reporter at several TV stations in the south, including stops in Wilmington, NC; Fort Myers, FL; and Portsmouth, VA. He eventually returned to the Cleveland area. In 2002, he reunited with Settonni, a former Cleveland TV newsman and old friend who founded Broadcast Media Ideas, a full-service video-production and -marketing company in 1999.

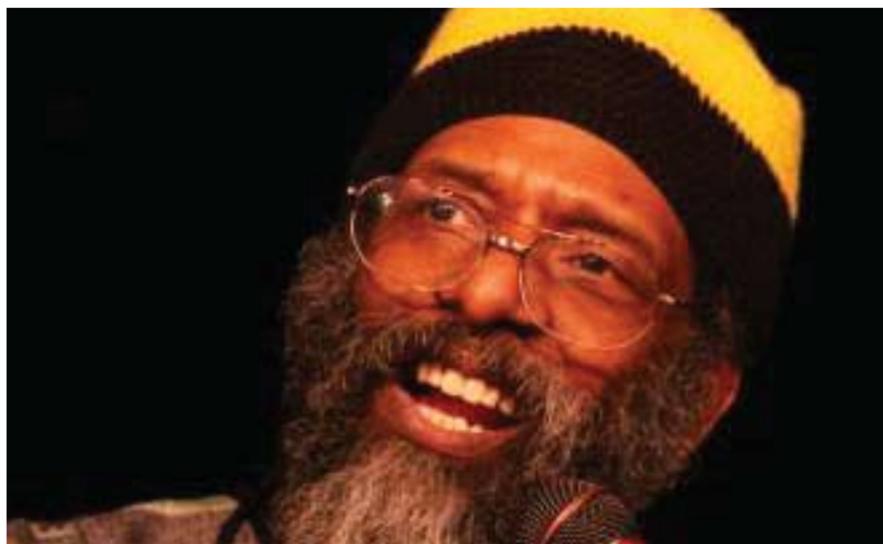
Stewart shares a Cleveland Heights home on a tree-lined street with his wife Virginia and two cats, not far from where he grew up. He intends to help grow BMI into a major player in the Cleveland video production scene to help local businesses expand in Northeast Ohio.

*Mike Fitzpatrick is a journalist living in Avon Lake. He is a 1983 graduate of Heights High.*



TINA SU

# CityMusic Cleveland Rocks



COURTESY OF CITYMUSIC CLEVELAND

Top: "Classical Rock Star" Joshua Roman performs the Schumann Cello Concerto in a free concert with CityMusic Cleveland on November 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Mwatabu Okantah, poet in residence at Kent State University, narrates "Peter and the Wolf" at CityMusic Cleveland's free concert on November 8 at 3 p.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Beverly Simmons

Called "a marvel" by the *Plain Dealer*, the professional chamber orchestra CityMusic Cleveland has two exciting free concerts in November for music-lovers of all ages.

Both concerts are at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd. For more information, call 216-321-8273, write to info@citymusiccleveland.org, or visit www.CityMusicCleveland.org.

*Beverly Simmons is marketing director and a founder of CityMusic Cleveland. She is half of the cabaret duo Rent-a-Yenta, sings with Quire Cleveland, Apollo's Fire, and Bethaynu Synagogue, and is a free-lance graphic designer.*



JAY LEVAN

Kathleen Cerveny - the winner!

### 2008 Haiku Death Match Winner

Congratulations to Kathleen Cerveny, winner of the 2008 Haiku Death Match, part of the Joy of Text Festival presented by Heights Arts.

To see more photos from the event, visit the Jay Levan photo gallery on our website [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

Rain pelts the campfire.

Ashes rise and fall again;  
early autumn snow.

Winter harbinger  
more accurate than the frost;  
nose runs constantly.

Kathleen Cerveny



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# Journey to Bethlehem

Ronald Werman

Disciples Christian Church will present its own Christmas gift to the community. On Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008, continuously from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Disciples Christian Church will present Journey to Bethlehem, a walk-through drama that recreates the sights and sounds of Bethlehem's marketplace at the time of Christ's birth.

Before you enter Bethlehem, have an audience with King Herod and then be counted in the census. Once in Bethlehem, interact with street merchants as well as view some animals. Watch craftsmen at their work and be prodded along by Roman guards. Listen while townspeople, shepherds and other biblical characters set the stage for the

discovery of the newborn baby in the stable. As you wait your turn to enter Bethlehem, you could be entertained by the No Strings Attached puppets. You could also listen to performances by the church's Chancel Choir or soloists and participate in a Christmas carol sing-along.

Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone across from Severance Town Center), has offered this free gift to the community since 1981. For more information, visit [www.discipleschristian.org](http://www.discipleschristian.org) or call 216-382-5344.

*Ron Werman is a Cleveland Heights resident and member, elder, choir member and communications chairperson of Disciples Christian Church.*

# "Bringin' it back to the playground"

Open Doors Academy 2008 Kickball/ Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser



Team Anatomy celebrates their win in the dodge-ball championship round off.

Annemarie Grassi

"Victory... Honor...Pride: All these mean nothing if you don't have balls!" - Patches O'Houlihan

Remember your middle school years in the 80s? Converse shoes, friendship bracelets, french cuffed jeans, and overalls with one strap left hanging free! The middle school dance where you showed off your moves to Poison, Naughty by Nature, and slow danced to Boys II Men (that is if you were brave enough to cross the gym line). Do you remember all the words to "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air"? Were you the king/queen of kickball in your school? The infamous dodge-ball champion? Or did you dodge the balls in fear of getting hit? Would you relive it all in a "Bringin' it Back to the Playground" Kickball/ Dodge-ball Tournament?

On Oct. 17, 80 community members, students, teachers, and parents came out to Monticello Middle School to determine who rules the field in dodge-ball and kickball: an event to benefit Open Doors Academy. Open Doors is a structured developmental enrichment program for middle school youth that occurs during out-of-school hours. The program's mission is to nurture, protect, inspire, and challenge adolescents to reach their full potential. Open Doors offers programming in the Roxboro neighborhood, but will serve any child who is able to get to either of the two programming sites located at the corner of Coventry Road and Fairmount Boulevard.

Eight teams took to the field for a double elimination kickball tournament and a single elimination dodgeball tournament. Teams were made up

of teachers and parents, two middle school student teams, two high school student teams, and three adult community teams. Old school tunes rocked the fields as DJ Jeff Harrell and student DJ Tre' Grady spun records to our favorite 80's and 90's hits! Chipotle, Popeyes, and Pizza Bogo provided lunch and celebrity referees Harry Boomer of WOIO 19 News, Sam Sylk of radio's Z 107.9, and Richard Zoom Scott of Urban Flix, took on the heat of refereeing the final two championship games.

So who won the title? Well, let's start by saying that whoever thought that middle school students couldn't take the heat of the adult teams, never met the students of Open Doors Academy! As one adult said, after being eliminated from the tournament, "Those kids are tough; I didn't know they could be so hard core!"

Unfortunately, the Open Doors student team was eliminated in the second round of kickball. However, they held their own and made it to the championship round of dodge-ball. Although they put up a good fight, they lost out to Team Anatomy in the final round. The Open Doors Parent/Teacher Team dominated the kickball field, taking home the 2008 championship!

All proceeds from the event benefited Open Doors. So, if you hesitated to put on your tennis shoes and dust the field this year, get out there and start practicing for next year!

For more information on the Open Doors Academy Program, please visit [www.opendoorsacademy.org](http://www.opendoorsacademy.org) or contact us at 216-229-1900.

*Annemarie Grassi is executive director of Open Door Academy.*

# Music at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., will hold free November concerts:

**Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008 3:30 p.m.**  
Karel Paukert, harpsichord and organ  
Diane Mather, cello (former Cleveland Orchestra member) works by: J.S. Bach and Antonio Vivaldi

**Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008 3:30 p.m.**  
Karel Paukert, organ works by: Olivier Messaien, Cesar Franck and Jehan Alain

Contact [carolyn@wipper.com](mailto:carolyn@wipper.com) for more information.

# Rainbow Peace Ministry prays for East Cleveland

Heights Observer Staff

Sister Marietta Rohr, a Sister of Charity of St. Augustine and a Cleveland Heights resident, was inspired to found the Rainbow Peace Ministry, united hearts in prayer for the city of East Cleveland. Sr. Marietta ministered for nine years in East Cleveland and wanted to continue loving and blessing the city in a powerful way.

Strangers and friends, who also held a special love for the people and city of East Cleveland, listened to Sister Marietta's vision and strongly encouraged her to follow through in developing this movement. Her own religious community leadership believed in her dream and offered financial support to promote it. Within a brief time an advisory committee was established to provide insights and energy.

"Already there are hundreds of individuals and small groups of people who have promised their dedication to pray daily or regularly for God's blessings of light, love, and healing upon this entire city," says Sr. Marietta.

She says that this is a ministry that takes only as much time as one wishes to give. The choice of prayer, its length, the place and time are completely up to the one who is willing to embrace this cause in his or her heart. For each member or family, a unique card is available as a permanent reminder of one's desire and commitment to pray for the city of East Cleveland. Some have chosen to place the card on the dining table or in the car. Sister suggests just a simple heartfelt prayer, such as, 'God bless East Cleveland,' or 'Loving God, bless East Cleveland with your light, love, and healing.' "These are powerful prayers," she adds.



Sr. Marietta Rohr uses the power of prayer to promote peace and send positive messages.

Sr. Marietta believes that goodness has an ever expanding effect in our universe. This ministry, she feels, is a way of sending positive messages that promote the power of peace mutually, for ourselves as well as for others. "So as you bless the city of East Cleveland with heartfelt prayer, you and your city will also be blessed," says Sr. Marietta.

She believes that as the movement of prayer is taken seriously by more and more people, it will grow as a powerful means of blessings for the four Catholic parishes in East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights that have been clustered as part of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's consolidation plan, along with supporting the ministries of the East Cleveland Concerned Pastors and their congregations. "Their ministries of similar focuses will be strengthened. Everyone in East Cleveland will be blessed," she says.

Sr. Marietta hopes to someday have a very special Spirit Day event in which all Rainbow Peace Ministry members will be invited to come together to appreciate one another, pray together, and learn more about the city of East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights' neighbor.

To become a member or obtain information, contact Sr. Marietta at 216-321-4502.

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## Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

*A gem of the Anglican choral tradition, this service leads us into the season of light and expectation, featuring readings for Advent and anthems by the Senior, Youth and Handbell Choirs of St. Paul's Church.*

Sunday, December 7, 2008  
4:30 p.m. Handbell Prelude  
5:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols

The Rev. Alan M. Gates, Rector  
Karel Paukert, Organist-Choirmaster  
Dr. Steven Plank, Associate Organist-Choirmaster  
Drs. Richard and Beth Nelson, Directors, Children's & Youth Choirs

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# Heights High Soccer Wrap-up

## Girls Rebound, Boys Rebuild

Keith Gisser

The Heights High soccer teams ended their seasons in eerily familiar heart-breaking fashion this year. The ninth-seeded girls lost 2-1 in first round State Tournament play at fifth-seeded Willoughby South in a penalty kick shootout after 80 minutes of regular time and 30 minutes of overtime could not determine a winner. The boys, seeded 12th, appeared headed for overtime as well, tied 1-1 with the Rebels in their tourney match, but a controversial penalty kick with 47 seconds left in regulation gave Willoughby South the 2-1 win.

The boys' team, rebuilding after their District Final appearance in 2007, finished the season 2-13-2. They were led by senior goalkeeper Steve Buchholz, who was named the Lake Erie League Player of the Year. Seniors Hamza Dodo and Michael Carlisle served with Buchholz as tri-captains of head coach Sean Sullivan's squad. Sullivan was assisted by coaches Robbie Helfgott, John Tuggey, Justin Yarham and Mike Kenny.

In 2009, the young Tigers will be without any seniors, but should receive on-field leadership from current sophomores Jared Alcorn and Ciaran Cohen. Freshman Jonah Meesig will have big



The Lady Tigers received strength training from Womens's World Boxing champ Vonda Ward at summer team camp.

gloves to fill while replacing Buchholz in goal, but he has shown flashes of brilliance this year. Freshmen Jake Stern and Gabe Brown will anchor an exciting attack, while the Wildey twins, Eli and Bennett, will also see significant time.

The Lady Tigers posted a 6-9-2 record, their best in five years. They gave up just nine goals in their final seven games and just five in their last five matches, scoring 49 on the season, a 50% increase from last year. A well-played 2-0 loss at Mentor kept the team from sharing the Lake Erie League title for the first time in at least eight years.

In 2009, the Lady Tigers will lose just four seniors, captains Christina Holland, Jennessa Gaffney and Emma Chupp, and goalkeeper Aubree Lieberman. Lieberman, a converted forward, took over the goalkeeping chores when the team found itself without a net minder at the start of the season. She ended up as runner-up for Lake Erie League Player of the Year and was named to the All-conference team with Holland and junior Leslie Smith, who was the team's leading scorer with 11 goals, eight assists and 30 points.

Varsity assistant coach Suzi Siwin-

ski and junior varsity head coach Kyle Gisser, both new to the coaching staff, share much credit for the team's turnaround.

"We will miss our seniors," says Siwinski, "especially Aubree. But we return 80% of our goals and we are upgrading our schedule for next year. The squad has a chance to do some very special things in 2009."

*Keith Gisser is an award winning sports journalist and former standup comic who also serves as head coach of the Heights High Lady Tiger Soccer team.*

## Kids find Heights Youth Club

Debby Elliott

What is the best kept secret in Cleveland Heights? Some say that the Heights Youth Club is indeed that secret.

The Heights Youth Club is located at 2065 Lee Road, across the street from Heights High School. The club was founded by people who shared a strong belief that kids in the Heights community needed a safe and enjoyable place to go after school and during the summer. Extensive research and analysis revealed the need for community based programming for kids. Led by Reverend Louise Westfall of Fairmount Presbyterian Church, the nonprofit Heights Youth Club, Inc. (HYC) was founded in 2004. Its mission is to provide high quality programming that allows the children of Cleveland Heights to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring adults.

The board undertook rigorous investigations to determine how best to fulfill this mission and selected the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland (BGCC) to operate the club. The BGCC has over 50 years experience with youth clubs in Cleveland. On January 3, 2007, HYC opened for membership. Membership is currently available to any resident of Cleveland Heights or anyone who attends the CH-UH City School District and is between the ages of 6 and 18. Membership for an entire year of activities is only \$10.

Led by Director Roscoe Morgan, club members have experienced outstanding growth and recognition. Dur-

ing January through June 2007, eight kids earned Merit and Honor Roll achievements at their schools. One year later, 77 kids received that recognition. There's a secret worth sharing!

Not only is HYC focused on education, there are other core programs instituted in its daily programming. They are character and leadership development, sports and fitness, career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, and recreation. Below are a few of the many programs offered at HYC: computers and keyboarding, Project Learn, Science Club, public speaking, arts and crafts, theater, KRUMP and Capoeira dance, Badminton League, Passport to Manhood, Money Matters, etiquette, martial arts, Smart Girls, quilting, and Family Plus.

To date over 400 members have used the club's services. During this past June, the daily average attendance was 130 kids, an impressive growth over the 2007 June average of 71.

HYC is funded by the community. Volunteers aid in all programming. HYC encourages community involvement and welcomes your visit and interest. To learn more about HYC visit [www.heightsyouthclub.org](http://www.heightsyouthclub.org), or phone 216-321-CLUB.

Look for future articles from HYC members on programming and activities.

See you at the Club.

*Debby Elliott is the secretary for HYC and submits this article on behalf of the HYC Board.*

## Domestic Violence Center on "Purple Light Nights"

Linda Dooley Johaneck

Wondering why your neighbor was hanging purple lights so far in advance of Halloween? They were part of the Domestic Violence Center's Purple Light Nights campaign in October, coinciding with Domestic Violence Awareness month. Domestic violence is often associated with silence and shame. The purple lights were meant to raise awareness of the issue, build support for victims and encourage open discussion. Cleveland Heights showed its support by declaring October 2008 "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," encouraging residents to participate in Purple Light Nights, including information about the campaign on the Cleveland Heights website and agreeing to hang strings of purple lights at the Recreation Center. Cleveland Heights' participation sends a strong message, raising awareness that it is a community issue requiring community response and support. For help in a situation involving domestic violence, visit the agency's website [www.domesticviolencecenter.org](http://www.domesticviolencecenter.org).

*Linda Dooley Johaneck is executive director of the Domestic Violence Center.*

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# Taking back our community: foreclosure assistance

Kimberly Dominique

No one will deny that the foreclosure crisis is affecting the community in its entirety. Still, the reality of a foreclosure is hard to face. If you find you cannot make your mortgage payment on time, becoming proactive may prevent the loss of your home.

Take two steps: contact your lender and contact a HUD-approved counseling agency. The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) is a HUD-certified counseling agency that provides foreclosure intervention and prevention counseling. The center also offers financial literacy classes on budgeting and credit education. All services are free.

When a first-time homebuyer, who was raising two children on a disability check, defaulted on three consecutive mortgage payments she contacted HRRC. Her home was in danger of be-

ing sold at a sheriff's sale.

HRRC's foreclosure specialist took several steps. First, the specialist analyzed the client's documents and discussed all possible options. Next, came suggestions on changing monthly spending. The specialist contacted the lender on the client's behalf and negotiated an affordable mortgage payment that allowed the client to keep her home.

There is not one standard solution for a household in foreclosure prevention. The options available depend on the household's circumstances and the type of mortgage.

HRRC is here to help prevent foreclosures and intervene if the process is underway. To make an appointment, call 216-381-6100, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F.

*Kimberly Dominique is a foreclosure specialist who joined the HRRC in May 2008.*



A flock of 100 pink flamingos took up temporary residence at Linda Margolin's East Overlook home last weekend. Linda's mother, Peggy, celebrated her centennial year Sunday. Happy Birthday, Peggy!



18-month-old Vivian Partner of Kingston Road explores her Cleveland Heights neighborhood on a sunny fall day with her grammy's dog Niçoise.

# Prepare your yard for winter



Cleaning up leaves and sticks before winter is the first step to good yard maintenance.

Douglas Freer

Soon, a wintery blanket of snow and ice will cover our yards. Now is the time to run through the check-list of fall yard maintenance items before it's too late.

- Remove leaves and sticks from garden beds, lawns and other areas.
- Remove annuals and other seasonal plants.

- Cut down perennials after several killing frosts.
- Divide perennials and remove unwanted plants from the garden.
- Mulch around the base of tender perennials and plants that need extra insulation during the winter. Mulch beds with compost, leaf humus or Sweet Peet.
- Dig and store tender perennials, tubers and summer bulbs.

- Cut the lawn until the air temperatures are consistently below 50° F. Don't leave the lawn tall going into winter.
- Apply the last round of lawn fertilizer when temperatures are below 50°F; this will help root development and prepare the grass for spring growth
- Plant spring flowering bulbs before the ground freezes.
- Turn off in-ground irrigation systems, drain and blow out the system.
- Drain and winterize water features.
- Empty, clean and store bird baths.
- Empty clay pots; store them in a covered, dry location for winter.
- Stop feeding the fish in the water features.
- Clean out catch basins, drains and window wells. (Better now than when they're backed up!)
- Re-edge garden beds; this will make it easier in the spring to reestablish the edges.
- Water plants one last time before coiling up the hoses, particularly evergreen plants (rhododendron, holly, azaleas, conifers, etc.).
- Spray anti-desiccant on plants, particularly broadleaved evergreens that are exposed to winter winds.
- Inspect outdoor lighting, replace bulbs as needed. Adjust timer as necessary.
- Stack fire wood up off the ground, cover with a tarp to keep dry.
- Prune plants now only for clearance along driveways, walks and buildings or to remove any damaged or diseased plant parts. Holdoff on major pruning until late winter and early spring.

Good sanitation is important to maintaining a healthy landscape. By cleaning up leaves and dead plant parts you will minimize the potential for recurring disease. A clean landscape also minimizes places that rodents and other pests can hide.

For a comprehensive season-by-season check list of lawn and garden to-do's, email [info@lawnlad.com](mailto:info@lawnlad.com) or visit [www.lawnlad.com/learningcenter/aftercare.asp](http://www.lawnlad.com/learningcenter/aftercare.asp).

*Douglas Freer is a Cleveland Heights native and is the owner of Lawn Lad, Inc., which provides residential landscape services in the Heights, [www.lawnlad.com](http://www.lawnlad.com) or 216-371-1935.*

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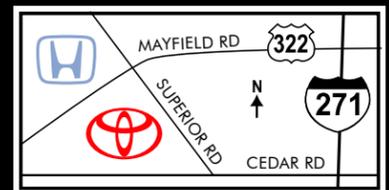
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