Kim Steigerwald

Patience is a virtue in the development business. Patience paid off ten fold in the case of 2917 Mayfield Road, just west of Honda Motorcars. The building, vacated by Its House Furniture a few years ago, sat forlorously, watching the thousands of cars make their daily commute downtown. Its patience was rewarded when Cleveland Heights resident Yanbing Chen purchased the building in January 2008.

Chen is the president of Cleveland Violins, formerly Goronok String Instruments. The full-service violin shop specializes in the sales, rental and repair of violin family instruments and their bows. It carries a large selection of handmade instruments and bows. Cleveland Violins offers instruction space for budding and experienced musicians, and carries a wide range of cases and accessories.

Goronok String had been an anchor on Magnolia Drive in University Circle for nearly ten years. Chen's clientele includes young students as well as musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra and beyond. As his business grew, Chen searched for opportunities to purchase his own building. His was one of those thousands of cars that passed 2917 Mayfield Road daily. Chen's patience was rewarded when he acquired the building.

As well as renaming the company, Chen had to reinvent the building and turned to the city of Cleveland Heights' Department of Planning & Development for assistance. He worked with the city's design consultant, Tim Barrett, throughout the spring on various façade elevations and signage designs. It was agreed that the building needed special awnings and signage to highlight Chen's unique business. Chen was also concerned about sunlight from the large windows along Mayfield Road negatively impacting his display instruments. The design team agreed that a window film with solar control would protect his instruments and still retain the storefront glass.

Maintaining Cleveland Heights' roads is no easy task. Major road projects (such as the recent Fairmount Boulevard and Raveneille Center Road repavings) are funded by federal, state, and county governments. The program is funded in the amount of $286,778 through an agreement with the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium and runs 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. Pre-purchase counseling and maintenance training is required for participation. For more information contact Lori Sanford, housing counselor for the city of Cleveland Heights, at 216-291-4869.

Cleveland Heights City Council passed a resolution at their Sept. 15 meeting to establish an Owner-Occupant Down Payment Assistance Program for the purchase of one- or two-family homes and condominiums in the city. The program is funded by the state annually makes millions of dollars available for bid by municipalities. The bid process must include all engineering studies and is very competitive.

Another source is Community Development Block Grant funds. A citizens advisory committee reviews all requests for these funds and recommends disbursement through the approval of city council. The capital projects office often looks for funds of these funds. If obtained, these funds are restricted to streets located in low and moderate income census tracts of the city. Still another source is the State of Ohio Public Works Fund, through which the state annually makes millions of dollars available for bid by municipalities. The bid process must include all engineering studies and is very competitive.

With the new year fast approaching, Cleveland Heights leaders are once again facing the prospect of a tough financial year. The national economic crisis has wreaked havoc on local government budgets and the mortgage foreclosure challenges have further plagued many communities.

In March, Heights residents struck down Issue 29, which would have raised the city’s income tax rate from the current 2% to 2.4%.

Armed with Architectural Board of Review and Board of Zoning Appeals approvals for the sign size, construction on the exterior of the building began in August. The city provided Chen with a storefront grant and zero percent loan for the significant investment on the exterior, and he fulfilled his own equity significant improvements on the interior.

The transformation of the building this fall is impressive. The renovations add vibrancy and interest to the street. Cleveland Violins' home is a statement not only about what Yanbing Chen can offer his customers, but what he offered his community to own. He changed the image of the city along the western stretch of Mayfield Road. Cleveland Violins' hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Visit online at www.clevelandviolins.com.

Kim Steigerwald is the assistant director of planning & Development for the city of Cleveland Heights.
Highs Height's production of “West Side Story” showcases top notch talent of area youth

Michael Zapawa

I had the honor of attending the Heights High production of Leonard Bernstein’s “West Side Story” on Nov. 7 and 9. I came to the show to support my son in his first performance. My son attends Oxford Elementary School and was a member of the choir. The show provided vocals for “America” and “One Hand, One Heart.” I came expecting to see the typical high school play but what I saw was a Broadway quality production.

I work in the Military As such, my nomadic lifestyle has allowed me to live all over this great nation. I have always been fond of attending plays. I have seen Broadway and off-Broadway productions. What the high school did was nothing less than spectacular! The orchestra was superb, the vocals pitch perfect, and the acting was first rate. I was especially fond of the players who filled the roles of Tony, Maria, Bernardo, and Doc. These fine people not only acted more than as actors in their roles, they became them. In essence, their acting, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes teleported us into the 50’s. They became the very characters they were playing, singing and costumes.

Michael Zapawa is a 12-year member of the U.S. Coast Guard who moved to Cleveland Heights in July 2008. As a military member, he moves every four years. He moved to the Heights in July 2008. As a military member, he moves every four years. He moved to the Heights expecting to find a house and nothing else, but what he found here was a home and a village. “It seemed like there were hundreds, if not thousands, of parents and others dedicated to the arts on hand. These folks sacrificed their time and worked almost as tirelessly as the cast in ensuring everything was just right. The pageantry of the moment, the realistic costumes, the stage design and the meticulous nature of getting a hundred and one things to be set in place was more than an Herculean task for the director, cast and crew. It was the best $40 I have ever spent.

The director left us with a message about the next generation of Americans. We often read or hear about kids who are not doing the right things. It is an odd custom that we judge entire generations by the most mislead young men and women. However, it was self-evident that few saw some of the very best of then next generation. I am certain we are leaving the care of our future in very capable hands. It was, and will be, more than their Heights’ finest hour (or at least until next year's production).
The Wide World Web is a great source of information, entertainment and services to people of all ages. But the plethora of sites can make navigating it time consuming and confusing.

This winter the library is offering a series of programs designed to introduce you to some of the best services the web has to offer. The library’s web trends classes highlight free services you might be curious about, including blogging, Wikis, digital photos and downloadable music.

In Blogging 101 you will be introduced to the world of blogs, or web-based journals, that offer you a chance to discuss and share information on a wide range of topics and interests. Wikis are similar to blogs, but have a focus on collaboration. Wiki participants have an opportunity to add and edit the Wiki, contributing their ideas and thoughts to the community. Both tools are easy and fun to learn.

Do you want to do more than just snap a picture with your digital camera? The web offers several tools for you to enhance and manage all your digital photos. Flickr Photo Sharing will focus on free and easy to use tools you can use to edit, store and share photos. Almost everyone is familiar with Google! Did you know Google also offers free calendar and document services? Learn about all Google has to offer in Google Calendars and Google Docs. If you like listening to music, then the web is the place for you. The web has become the most popular source to explore new genres of music, download your favorite artist and listen to your favorite selections. Attenda Music Channel 101 to learn how to create your own music station, share music with your friends and learn about music websites Pandora, Deezer and Last FM.

Not sure which of these services you may need or want to learn about? Join us for Best Free Stuff on the Web for a demonstration and discussion about many of the great, free, useful and fun services the web has to offer.

To register for a class, call the Heights Libraries at 216.932.3600 or register online at www.heightslibrary.org.

Don’t miss the new web trend classes at the Lee Road Library

Tonya Gibson

Life upon the stage may seem glamorous, but life behind the curtains doesn’t really look all that glitzy.

Volunteers spent the weekend of Nov. 15-16 reading Dobama Theatre’s newly completed office space in the Heights Library’s Activity Center. Grabbing paint brushes, left to right, are Library Director Nancy Levin and Dobama board members Spencer Caress and Sura Stevastopolous. They were joined by Dobama Board President Bill Newby and his wife, Barbara, and Dianne Boduszek, managing director of the theater.

The change from ‘naked’ drywall to ‘dressed’ office walls is amazing. Dobama expects to take residency in their offices by mid-December. Dobama expects to begin performances in their new space in the fall of 2009.

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

Lights, brushes, action!

Judithe Soppel

Meeting Highlights of October 20, 2008

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008
All board members present.

Dobama

A contract with Dobama has been signed. With a 61 vote (board member Kevin Orner abstained) the board approved Julia Criscione, AIA, who worked on the Main Library renovation, to be the project manager of the Dobama project. Criscione will oversee the legal requirements of the building code, insurance and the guarantees of the contractors.

Opening on library board

Board President Gerald Blake’s term expires this year. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board will appoint his replacement. Blake asked board members to encourage anyone who might be interested to apply.

Portrait of Jennie Levey

A painting of former librarian Jennie Levey has been installed next to the meeting room named in her honor.
Looking for a church-family?  
We invite you to worship with us this Sunday at 11:00 am.

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**Cleveland Heights City Council**  
**Highlights of October/November 2008 meetings**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008**
All council members present.

**Tribute to Oliver Schroeder**
Mayor Edward Kelley asked for a moment of silence for Oliver Schroeder, who passed away recently. Schroeder had served on City Council from 1951 to 1979, including one term as mayor. Kelley noted that Schroeder’s leadership helped keep the city viable when it chose to be integrated and diverse.

**Heights Youth Club**
Council granted a request to change the original zoning permit for the Heights Youth Club to allow all students enrolled in CH-UH schools to join the club. Earlier in the meeting, Joel Borwick, owner of Sitzig Hardware and Heights Youth Club board member, and Roscoe Morgan, Youth Club director, addressed Council extolling the club’s successes. Borwick pointed out that 97% of club members who regularly participated in Project Learn, an academic program at the club, completed the final grading period of the 2007-2008 school year on the honor or merit rolls. Representing the club and its board, Borwick maintained that all students attending CH-UH schools should be given the same opportunity to join the club. (Under conditions of the original zoning permit, only students residing in Cleveland Heights had been permitted to participate.)

**CDBG Funds**
Council authorized the submission of the Community Development Block Grant application for the year beginning January 1, 2009. Should the application be successful, Council would appropriate funds ($1,550,859) for 2009 among community organizations according to recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Councilman Mark Tumo advised nonprofits that block grants could be wiped out if the city’s population fell below 50,000.

**Boarded up houses**
Council passed an ordinance requiring that boards on all boarded-up houses be painted in the color of the house or trim within five days. Tumo noted that this practice made “a very big difference,” leading Councilman Ken Montlack to comment, “There are times when you can put lipstick on a pig.”

**Federal foreclosure program**
To address foreclosures and vacant housing, Congress passed the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant to distribute about $7.6 billion. To address foreclosures and vacant housing, Congress passed the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant to distribute about $7.6 billion. The city would be working on this diligently for housing rehabilitation and homeowner assistance. Councilman Montlack pointed out that the city would be working on this diligently and that Jim Steigerwald, director of planning and development for the city, had done a masterful job analyzing the criteria.

**“Green” efforts**
Councilwoman Bonnie Caplan pointed out that the city’s efforts to be “green,” by fitting diesel vehicles with pollution controls and implementing a no-idle policy for drivers, were rewarded with a $5,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Council to purchase Diesel Emission Controls.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008**
All council members present.

**Dissolution of Cable Commission**
Director of Finance/Clerk of Council Thomas Maloney reported that the Cable Television Commission had submitted a resolution to dissolve itself, subject to reconstitution by Council should the commission’s services again be required. Council later passed an ordinance dissolving this commission. Before the vote was taken, Councilman Dennis Wilcox explained that a state law now required that local cable programs be addressed at the state level. The commission delayed requesting disbandment until they were sure the State was responding well to local questions and complaints. Wilcox thanked Assistant Law Director Bill Finnabair and commission members, Jonathan Goldman, James Castello, and Stephen Titchen for their consistently excellent work.

**Yellowstone Road water main**
Council authorized contracting with Mackay Engineering & Surveying for services associated with the Yellowstone Road Water Main Project. Disbursements will be made up to a cost not to exceed $75,911. The entire cost would be paid through the city’s block grant fund.

**Looking for a church-family?**
Look for people you know who will be sure to greet you!

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**Zoning code amendments**
Ordinances amending the city’s zoning code were introduced. Public hearings on these ordinances will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8 and at the Planning Commission meeting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 10 in council chambers. Two of the proposed amendments call for specifying minimum yard requirements for free-standing air conditioning and other machinery in multiple family districts and for limiting the size of instructional signs to 10 feet. Another seeks to amend the zoning code to designate automobile sales and rentals and gasoline stations as conditional uses in C-1 Districts and to prohibit automobile rentals in C-2 Districts. Another proposes a new subsection to permit occasional garage and yard sales, a maximum of two a year, lasting no more than three consecutive calendar days, and restricted to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with only one sign advertising the sale.

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**CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS DECEMBER 2008 MEETINGS**

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT CITY HALL, 40 SEVERANCE CIRCLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>5:45 pm</th>
<th>Council Committee of the Whole</th>
<th>Executive Conference Room</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
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<td>Tue 2</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Architectural Board of Review</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
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<td>Tue 2</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Landmark Commission</td>
<td>Superior Schoolhouse 1</td>
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<td>Wed 6</td>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
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<td>Executive Conference Room</td>
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<td>Wed 6</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Public Hearing</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
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<td>Wed 10</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Administrative Services Commission</td>
<td>Executive Conference Room</td>
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<td>Wed 10</td>
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<td>Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Mon 15</td>
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<td>Mon 15</td>
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<td>Wed 17</td>
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<td>Fri 19</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Commission on Aging</td>
<td>Senior Activity Center 4</td>
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<td>Thu 25</td>
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<td>Christmas - City Hall &amp; Community Center Closed*</td>
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* The Senior Activity Center located inside the Community Center, 4005 Mayfield & Euclid.

**Tribute to Marjorie Wright**
Mayor Edward Kelley asked for a moment of silence in honor of Marjorie Wright, who died Oct. 13. A member of City Council from 1966 to 1981, Wright served as mayor from 1976 to 1979 during which time Cleveland Heights won an All-American City award.

**Barriers installed by businesses**
A city official commented on the concern with the various types of barriers installed by businesses for protection. She claimed that they suggested criminal activity and did not send a good message.

**Natural gas supplier**
City Manager Bob Downey urged all residents to consider the options in choosing a natural gas supplier. Because the city had to commit to a supplier during the summer months when rates were higher, the city’s aggregation program may not provide the least expensive option.

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**Cleveland Heights Y outh Club**
Councilman Wilcox praised Deb Delisle, Ohio’s superintendent of schools and School District, for her appointment as superintendent of the CH-UH City School District, for her appointment as superintendent of the CH-UH City School District.

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**City of Cleveland Heights**
**December 2008**

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**LWV® Observer: Kay Heylman**
See disclaimer on page 3.
University Heights City Council
Highlights of October/November 2008 meetings

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008
Council members Peter R. Bernardo, Frankie Goldberg, and Kevin Patrick Murphy excused.

Quorum
Law Director Ken Fisher noted that four members of council were sufficient to do business and could vote on items that required a simple majority.

Appeal to deny fence permit
The bulk of the meeting involved an appeal of a fence permit, granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals on Oct. 8 for a John Carroll University (JCU)-owned property at 2850 South Belvoir Boulevard.
Mike Kirincic, of Carroll Blvd., filed the appeal claiming that erection of a fence by JCU across the backs of properties would have an adverse effect on his property. He asked that the council take action for the good of the neighborhood.
Several other residents attended the neighborhood openness. Behind the homes, property lines were not closed in creating an open space where children played and moved freely from yard to yard.
Both Mayor Beth Rotherchild and Councilman Steven Sims expressed sympathy for the residents who were appealing the fence with the mayor suggesting that a moratorium on fences may be a good idea.

Sheila Hubman of Ashurst Road felt that the denial of a backyard fence elsewhere in University Heights could interfere with her right to erect a fence. Lisa Barrett, representing JCU, said that the university was looking forward to working with Council on the task force. However, she noted that the fence in question was code compliant and consistent with other fences. Denial of the fence solely because it was JCU that asked for it would constitute an "arbitrary and capricious" ruling.

Councilman Sims made a motion to postpone the decision in order to study further the situation and JCU’s actions. The motion failed with both Councilman Bullock and Councilman Road resident, applauded City Council for forming a committee to talk with JCU but implored Council not to "for- get the residents." O’Shaughnessy said that putting a moratorium on fence building would send a message to the university.

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City Watch
Fire Chief John Pflichter described City Watch as a reverse 911 service. The City Watch will inform residents of emergencies, evacuations, and non-emergency information by telephone (both land line and cell), fax or email. Residents can sign up on the University Heights website.

University Heights CERT
The CERT concept was developed nationally by FEMA. The uniform protocol as a drill to ensure its team is prepared. University Heights Emergency Response Organization, under Fire Chief John Pflichter, performed flawlessly. Peter Bernardo, president of the CERT team, calls periodic meeting for ongoing training.

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Alumni return to their roots
Graduates go away to great things, but many come back

Lito Gonzalez

Steven Haynie ‘91 always had fond memories of Cleveland Heights even when his family moved to Cincinnati after he finished fourth grade. Indeed, after eighth grade he asked to move back to attend Heights High. “It was almost as if I had never left,” says Haynie. “I walked through the doors and so many people came over to say hello.” He went on to study mass communication at the University of Cincinnati (“Dick Goddard was my idol”) but his career path took a major turn when he took part in the summer re-shelving program at the university’s library. “Library Science became my new love,” he says.

He obtained a Masters in Library Science at SUNY Buffalo, did an internship for the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda Maryland, and then landed back in Cleveland. “It was a twist of fate,” he says. “I was coming back to Cleveland for a job but had to stop in Cleveland to attend a funeral and ended up getting a volunteer job doing our reach with elementary to high school age youngsters. I guess I always knew this was home —where I wanted to grow old and raise my kids.” Today he is the young adult services coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

The CH-UH Public Library has welcomed teens by designating a space called the Spot (open from 2 to 5:30 p.m.), hosting the annual Poetry Slam, and ended up getting a volunteer job doing our reach with elementary to high school age youngsters. I guess I always knew this was home —where I wanted to grow old and raise my kids.” Today he is the young adult services coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

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Allison Byrd ’95 went through the CH-UH system—Belvoir, Wiley, and Heights. In her sophomore and junior years at Heights she worked as a junior instructor for the IMOTEP program (Instructional Mathematics Helping Our Teens Excel Program), the brainchild of Heights’ math teacher Mark Wessels. It was this experience that inspired her to become a math teacher. She graduated from Florida A & M with a BS in mathematics.

Like many alumni who leave for college, she was sure she would only come back for visits. She was teaching in Tallahassee when she received a call from Wessels. “Was she interested in teaching for the expanding IMOTEP programs? In 2000 the onetime National Merit and Presidential Scholar found herself back at her alma mater.” IMOTEP had been such an important part of her life that it just felt natural to come back to Cleveland, to work with the program and teach math,” Byrd says. She became involved in the recent transformation to five Small Schools and attended the First Ring Leadership Academy at Cleveland State where aspiring administrators could earn a Masters in Education Administration in nontraditional situations.

Today she is the assistant principal at Rusboro Middle School. She admits to missing teaching at times. “Teaching is special. You can see the moment when your students get it, the instant when you know you have made a difference.” Alison credits her appreciation of education to the support and motivation of her family and Wessels. “They never expected anything but the best from me and believed in me even when I didn’t.” This is the message that she now brings to her job every day, because “you never know what type of impact you will have on a child.” Like many graduates, she found that moving away led to an appreciation of what Cleveland has to offer. Reach her at A_Byrd@chlib.org.

Keep that information about our Heights graduates coming! Email me at lita@valancy.com.

Joy Henderson

Heights High has a successful American Field Service (AFS) program that offers summer, semester, and school year exchanges to over 30 countries for high school students and recent graduates. AFS is a 61 year old program with over 30,000 volunteers worldwide and has a goal of “building a more just and peaceful world through international student exchange.”

Recently, two Heights students went on AFS foreign exchanges. Senior Miles Walker went to Japan for a six-week summer program. Hannah Kohr graduated one year early to attend school in Germany.

Miles lived with the Nawa family just outside of Nagoya, the fourth largest city in Japan. He slept on a futon and rode his bike past nice parties to catch the train to school, which was located in a skyscraper. Miles’ host mother and father took him to several public baths—one, natural hot springs on a cliff and the other, a green tea bath. One of the most exciting moments for Miles was a ceremony where families carry a rock and place it at a mountain top shrine. Each family also placed a flag with the names of their family members. The Nawa family included Miles’ name on their family’s flag.

“My Japanese parents were very loving and kind,” Miles said. “I saw many unique things about another culture but also saw how similar people are.”

Miles plans to study electrical engineering or computer science at MIT, Boston University, or the University of Maryland.

Hannah Kohr lived with the Hannah’s family in the port city of Hamburg. When she first arrived, Hannah spoke little German. “It was so hard!” she said. While everyone was polite, it was difficult to make friends when she could not communicate well. After three months, her German was strong enough to engage and connect with other students. “I met people when would ask me what part of southern Germany I came from. They could hear a slight accent but did not think it was American.”

Hannah is currently working and plans to major in international studies at Long Island University in the future.

The AFS program doesn’t just send students to other countries. The program also allows students from other countries to experience American culture at Heights High. Six exchange students from Ghana, Japan, Hong Kong, Italy, Sweden, and Turkey participated in the program this year.

For more information about AFS, visit afs.org or call Krista Hawthorne at 216-932-4081.

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

Heights students rake leaves for senior citizens

Joy Henderson

Thirty three Heights High students spent the morning of Saturday November 1 raking leaves for Cleveland Heights senior citizens.

The city of Cleveland Heights identified 15 senior citizens who needed their leaves raked and the six groups of Heights students, takes in hand, rang doorbells ready to help.

Lillian Kotch was delighted to have five strong swim team members clearing leaves from her yard. “The kids were so fast,” she said. “I thought I should bake cookies for them to show how much I appreciated it.” However, the students were not working for pay or cookies. Swimmer Torria Bowling said that it was a good feeling just to be able to help someone else.

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

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.
Five-year forecast
Scott Gainer, district treasurer, present-
ed the five-year forecast. The 7.2% mill operating levy that passed in November 2007 will not bring in the anticipated amount. Real estate property tax collection rates dropped from a typical 97% to 93%. In addition, a 5% decrease in state funding was assumed for the purposes of this forecast.

Coventry School building
Director of Business Services, Stephen Shergalis, reported on the following letters of interest for the Coventry property: Day Cares R Us, Little Italy Preservation Partners, The Cleveland Music School Settlement, and The Inter- generational School. None of the groups supplied all the necessary information. Shergalis will inform the respondents that the rest of the financial information must be submitted by Nov. 17. The Lay Finance Committee will then meet to examine all of the information and present their findings to the school board at the Dec. 16 meeting.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

Merit scholarship awards
The National Merit and Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists were honored. Also, Commended Students of these Semifinalists were honored.

Cisco Academy
The Computer Networking Technology (Cisco Academy) course of study was approved.

One to One computer instruction
Joseph Micheller, director of education services, gave an update on the One to One (computer) teaching and learning at Monticello. There has been great support from Apple® for professional development. The teachers are using the technology in more ways than planned.

Deferred compensation
The government made changes in how school districts handle deferred compensation. Consequently, the board approved a resolution adopting a plan for Coventry.

Coventry School building
The Lay Finance Committee will meet on Nov. 25 to go over the proposals for Coventry.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.
See disclaimer on page 3.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008

Meeting Highlights of October/November 2008

Ch-UH Board of Education
Board President Michael Cicero stated that the board would decide on an interim superintendent by the end of November; that person would not be a candidate for superintendent. When it is time to choose a permanent replacement the community would be involved.

Student field trips
The board approved the following trips:
- The High School Varsity Basketball Team to Dayton,
- The Monticello seventh/eighth graders’ African American Experience Tour to Atlanta, Georgia,
- The High School Spanish Students to Spain, and
- Sixth-grade Wiley Middle School Outdoor Education to Mohican Farm and Mohican State Park.

Coventry
The board approved the following field trips:
- Sixth-grade Wiley Middle School Outdoor Education to Malabar Farm and Mohican State Park.
- The High School Spanish Students to Spain, and
- The High School Varsity Basketball Team to Dayton.

Deferred compensation
The government made changes in how school districts handle deferred compensation. Consequently, the board approved a resolution adopting a plan for Coventry.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.
See disclaimer on page 3.
A dog’s best friend

The little shi-tzu was only supposed to stay with Cindy Jahn for a weekend. But that was two years ago. Now “Missy” is very much a part of Jahn’s life.

A visit to Jahn’s salon, Abstract on Fairmount Boulevard, shows just how the dog has affected Jahn. In addition to shampoo and products for humans, the salon now features a grooming line for dogs and cats along with pet apparel and fashion accessories like jewelry. Jahn has bad displays at the Bark in the Park, Wooshstock at Holden Arboretum, and held a cut-a-thon to raise funds for the Geauga County Humane Society.

One might say fate joined the two. Missy was wandering around in Shaker Heights, when she was almost hit by a bus. One of Jahn’s friends saw the frightened dog and rescued her. The friend called the authorities, who told her to take the dog to a shelter or the APL. Instead, she brought the dog to Jahn.

Missy needed a bath; she reeked of urine and her fur was badly matted. Instead, she brought the dog to Jahn. Jahn felt the greeter dogs add a lot of pleasure and comfort to that environment—to the staff and families, as well as the patients. She also has plans to train Missy to become a certified therapy dog.

With Jahn, Missy has gone from an owner neglected the dog, and finally confined in filthy quarters. Jahn thinks the second owner neglected the dog, and finally dumped her.

Missy ended up with another owner who fed her, but kept her confined in small quarters. Jahn thinks the second owner neglected the dog, and finally dumped her.

With Jahn, Missy has gone from an abandoned pet to an adored companion who brings joy to others. Every Monday, Missy volunteers as a greeter dog at the Cleveland Clinic. Jahn feels the greeter dogs add a lot of pleasure and comfort in that environment—to the staff and families, as well as the patients. She also has plans to train Missy to become a certified therapy dog.

People light up when they see Missy,” Jahn said, adding folks often stop to talk. “Everyone has a story.”

Fran Mantich is a resident of the Severance neighborhood.

Gravity is her best friend

Helene Morse met broken hearts in her studio.

Helene Morse once found a box on her Ormond Road front porch. Taped to the top was the note, “I hear you mend broken hearts.” Inside was a porcelain figure, in pieces.

“Every broken thing, whether it’s a turkey platter, a grandmother’s vase, a souvenir of a honeymoon—it has a story attached,” says Morse, founder of H.S. Morse Conservation Services. “I listen to a lot of wonderful reminiscing.”

Morse grew up in Shaker and Cleveland Heights, and began learning restoration while still in high school—not that this was her idea. She comes from a long line of eccentric artists and entrepreneurs, and was only helping out with the family business, Senders Gallery.

After receiving her B.F.A. in sculpture from the Tyler School of Art, a division of Temple University, in Philadelphia, she returned to Cleveland. During the ’80s, while raising two daughters, she began doing some restoration work on her own. As her reputation spread among antique dealers and private collectors, she soon found herself with as much work as she could handle. It wasn’t long before she received her first really big commission: repairing the china and personal effects of President Garfield for the National Historic site at Lawfield.

“I told my friends, ‘guess what I’ve got down my basement? President Garfield’s toothbrush holder!’”

She’s got stories, all right. On assignment from the Cleveland Play House, in conjunction with the Cleveland Police Museum, she restored the death mask of a victim of the infamous Torsio Murders. Another job was a pair of Tang Dynasty burial horses that fell off the back of a get-away truck during a robbery. A five foot tall Chinese vase once lay in her bathtub for safe keeping.

All the objects she repairs, Morse says, are very valuable, either monetarily or sentimentally. The holidays are an especially busy time, as people want to use or give family keepsakes and heirlooms that have been damaged. Working with a two part resin that is moldable but hardens like porcelain, she’s able to fill cracks and create missing pieces. She applies a combination of oil paint and lacquer, and over nearly 30 years has learned to finesse the look of any glaze, antique or new. Morse uses only professional, conservation grade materials. A common challenge of her job is restoring things that people have repaired with hardware store glue, which can actually absorb clay. Often she has to re-break something in order to fix it.

“Sometimes people bring me china that is still being manufactured, and could easily be replaced,” says Morse, who works out of her home studio. “But if I suggest that, they look at me. ‘It just wouldn’t be the same,‘ they say.”

Morse is a fixer, but also a creator. She makes unique clay sculptures of musical yet detailed and unique portraits, catching happy moments forever.

Helene Morse mends broken hearts in her studio.

By the way, she mended that broken keepsake she found on her front porch. And, she hopes, the heart, as well.

To reach H.S. Morse Conservation Services call 216-371-4758 or e-mail helenemorse@yahoo.com.

Tricia Springstubb is a librarian and writer. Her book reviews appear regularly in the Plain Dealer.

Fran Mantich

A dog’s best friend

Helene Morse mends broken hearts in her studio.

Tricia Springstubb

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2008 Holiday Gift Guide

Deonna Bremer Fisher

The holiday shopping season is upon us, and I asked some of our local merchants to share their ideas for my extensive gift list.

FOODIE

Gift certificates to any of your favorite local restaur-ants. The city of Cleveland Heights just came out with an updated restaurant guide in October. Find copies at City Hall or visit http://www.clevelandheights.com/publications.asp.

ECO-CONSCIOUS

Arbonne certified vegan herbal foot and hand creams (Salon DM, $14). Earth Elements eco yoga mat by Hugger Mugger (Atma Center, $41.95 - $44.95). Local zinc Green Light (Mac’s Backs, $2).

Emiranios shopping totes (Simply Charming, $8). Recycled banner totes (Simply Charming, $40).

Gift certificate to eco-conscious auto repair, the Lucky Wrench (any denomination or to cover a particular service, such as an oil change).

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST

Yoga gift certificate (Atma Center).

Classic Brown: The 50 Greatest Games in Cleveland Browns History by Jonathan Knight (Mac’s Backs, $16.95).

Football Guys. Used by coaches for training, the set’s 30 plus pieces include two football teams, neat goalposts and felt playing field in an easy carry storage box. (Sunbeam Shop, $22.00).

PET LOVERS


Donmarrae Brown’s homemade dog biscuits. Snap for vegetarian and meat recipes and gift wrap, then buy the ingredients at Zagara’s and box them up for a unique gift ($3-$4 per box to make).

Biodegradable pet waste bags available with holders in many styles and colors that attach to your leash so they’re ready when you need them. (Abstract Ears Salon).

ART LOVER

Check out the Heights Arts Holiday Store, 2173 Lee Road next to the Cedar Lee Theater for many one-of-a-kind items by local artists.

Beautiful Peace Dove vase, Tapiro Winkel, Rosen-holm, 1070’s (BOOM Modern).

COWORKER/NEIGHBORS

Sarva Soaps handmade botanicals made in the Heights (Atma Center, $5 - $9).

Fun Luggage Tag (Simply Charming, $6-$10).

Luxuriosa vegan bath bars. Choose from two special holiday scents, Black Orchid Cassis or Star Jasmine (Atma Center, $2.00). Luxurious vegan foot creams (Salon DM, $16).

OM stickers, Hindu comic books, or OM coin purses under $10.

TEEN

With clay bracelet, unisex bracelets & necklaces. Charm It bracelets with charms (Simply Charming, $7.50 - $48).

Logo style IPOD speaker. Plug any style IPOD into this lego style brick and share your music with your friends. (Sunbeam Shop, $24).

Shiny, sparkly lip glosses in six sheer shades (Salon DM, $10 each).

Sugar scrubs in four scents to match your personal-ity. Vivacious, Mysterious, Ambitious and flirtatious (Salon DM).

SENIOR CITIZEN

Yoga gift certificate (Atma Center, senior discount).

Frame kid art, family photos, memorabilia, and more. A 5” x 7” piece can be framed into a finished size of 8” x 10” for under $75, including a rag mat and ultra violet (non-fading) glass, which includes a wide range of frame choices. (Wood Trader).

Make a Plate, a family classic since 1969, comes with special art paper and felt markers for your child to create artwork that is returned to the manufacturer and made into a sturdy, dishwasher safe plate. (Sunbeam Shop, $16.50).

UNDER $25


Floral print EMB sling bag from India (Revive Fair Trade, $22).

Tin Jack-o-lantern box, just like the one you had when you were a kid (Big Fun, $25).

UNDER $10

OM stickers, Hindu comic books, or OM coin purses (Atma Center).

Bunnies Fat Keychain (Simply Charming, $10) ($4 for a roll) Hand-blown glass ornaments from India (Revive Fair Trade, $9).

Paddle ball, Jocks (made in Vienna, OH), Fish Line Sticks, and Duncan Yo-yo’s (Big Fun, $2.50-$5).

Silly Christmas hats; get in the spirit! (Big Fun, $7.50 and under).

PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

“Smokes” series vessels by niece Cullen Glass, LLC. Each one-of-a-kind object begins with a plate of fused glass that is rolled up and sealed to make a bubble which is then twisted to give a smokey effect. (Heights Arts Holiday Store, $60-$625).

Punk Rock and Trailer Parks by Derf (Mac’s Backs, $16.95).

Students for a Democratic Society by Harvey Pekar (Mac’s Backs, $22).

Awake at the End: A Heights Post Laurence Anthology (Mac’s Backs, $14.00).

With all of these wonderful gift ideas, maybe you still can’t find what you’re looking for? Give FutureHeights gift certificates this season. They are available in $5 to $50 denominations and can be used at over 100 local merchants. Purchase at Zagara’s, Mac’s Backs, Heights Arts Holiday Store, the FutureHeights office, 2161 Lee Road, 216-320-1423.

Shown right, top to bottom:

1. Glass blown ornament from Revive
2. Wellar copertone vase from BOOM Modern
3. EMB Sling Bag from Revive
4. Cullen Mosaic vases at Heights Arts
5. Lip gloss by Salon DM
6. Handmade sweaters from Abrash
7. German bar cart from BOOM Modern

Give the gift that keeps Cleveland Heights strong.

Building local independent businesses give back to the community.

Give and spend FutureHeights Gift Certificates at 90+ merchants.


HEIGHTS SHOPS
The donut man, Tom Sperl

Every year, Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra and Scarborough Road resident, invites several hundred of his closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on his front lawn. Orchestra folks, church friends, Oberlin bass students, neighborhood pals and an occasional politician turn up to enjoy hot, fresh donuts with delicious toppings, hot cider and coffee. Sperl’s donut machine makes approximately 400 donuts per hour. Photographer Jay Levan took these photos of the Sperl family’s annual gift to the community. More photos at photoso.com.

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Whole Foods offers free events throughout holiday season

Jared Earley

Whole Foods Market, proud winner of the 2008 Best of the Heights Award for “Favorite University Heights Business,” has announced a calendar of community events for December at its Cedar Center location. All of the events are free.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, from 1-4 p.m., Whole Foods will host “Festive Flavors: Wintertime Edition.” It’s a storewide sampling of seasonal products, from hot cocoa and holiday hors d’oeuvres to traditional dishes and freshly baked desserts. Live cooking demonstrations and holiday entertainment will also be provided. No registration is required.

“Quest for Cooking” will be held every Tuesday throughout December from 7-8 p.m. This weekly cooking class is a way to freshen up old traditional dishes. With entertaining instruction and free samples, each class offers a different menu. On Dec. 2, Guest Chef Eric Colby, from the Osteria, will lead “Holiday Entertaining 101.” On Dec. 9, actress Elizabeth Ann Townsend, from the Cleveland Play House production of “A Christmas Story,” will join Whole Foods “Demo Dave” for “Christmas Feasts.” “Hanukkah Feasts” will be featured on Dec. 16, and “Kwanzaa Feasts” is the menu for Dec. 23. Reservations are recommended.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 7-8:30 p.m., budget-conscious quality-minded shoppers can attend the “Holiday Value Tour.” This event offers tips for bargain hunting and discovering high-quality specials, store brands, and seasonal savings at Whole Foods Market. Attendees receive complimentary samples and a free goodie bag. Reservations are recommended.

To make reservations, visit the store’s customer service desk, or call 216-932-3918. For more information visit www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/cleveland/storecalendar.php.

Jared Earley is a marketing specialist at Whole Foods Market, located at 19908 Cedar Road in University Heights.

Journey to Bethlehem

Ronald Werman

On Sunday, Dec. 14, continuously from 2 p.m. to 7 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 or call 216-382-5344.

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

Rare holiday film screening to benefit families in need

David Huffman

Certain films have become true holiday traditions and are associated with Christmas almost as much as Santa TV stations hold marathons featuring beloved classics such as “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “A Christmas Story” while other holiday films from the past have faded from memory.

The Cedar Lee Theatre will be re-releasing the all-but-forgotten 1967 holiday film FITZWILLY starring Dick Van Dyke and Barbara Feldon with two special screenings on Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

A charming film, Van Dyke stars as Fitzwilly, the dedicated butler of a philanthropic widow. His employer’s generosity is causing Fitzwilly tremendous grief, however, as she doesn’t realize that she has no more money. Each time she writes a check to a charity, it’s up to Fitzwilly and the house staff to pull off a scheme to get the cash to cover the expense. Fitzwilly coordinates one final heist to rob a department store on Christmas Eve before he turns over a new leaf.

“This is a truly rare chance to see this film since it’s not available on DVD,” says Ken Young, Cleveland Cinemas director of operations. “Not only will people get to see a classic film but they’ll also be helping out families in need this holiday season.”

Admission will be $5 or the donation of a new winter hat, scarf or pair of gloves. All donated clothing will benefit the Center for Families and Children’s Adopt-a-Family program. Donated items must be new with tags.

The Cedar Lee Theatre is located at 2163 Lee Road. Tickets and more information are available at www.cleve- landcinemas.com. Donated clothing items can be exchanged at the Cedar Lee Theatre box office for tickets to either showing now.

David Huffman is a director of marketing for the Cleveland Cinemas.
Ringing in the holidays

Mazie Adams

Ring in the holidays with the River Valley Ringers! River Valley Ringers is an auditioned community handbell choir of ten accomplished musicians with long histories of performing throughout the area. Founded in 2006 by Artistic Director Elizabeth Lucas, the River Valley Ringers have performed at Severance Hall, CircleFest, the Jennings Center, the Cleveland Clinic and a variety of churches in the Heights area. Ringing three octaves of handbells and hand-chimes, the ensemble creates wonderful music throughout the year.

Join the River Valley Ringers during their 2008 Holiday Concert series. The group will be ringing holiday favorites familiar to all and beautiful pieces new to many. You have three opportunities to catch the holiday spirit. RVR will be "Ringing In the Holidays" on Saturday, Dec. 7 during CircleFest at Judson Manor at 1 p.m. and again at 3:15 p.m.; on Friday, Dec. 12 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (3740 Mayfield Road, at Crest) at 7:30 p.m. (please bring a canned goodly, or again on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Lee Road Library at 2:30 p.m.

For more information or additional concert dates, contact Elizabeth Lucas at 216-321-2528 or rivervalleyringers@sbcglobal.net.

Mazie Adams is a member of the River Valley Ringers and a Cleveland Heights resident.

Celebrate the holidays at CityMusic, Cleveland’s free concert

Beverly Simmons

With a mission to build community through the arts, CityMusic Cleveland offers music to please everyone, whether you’re new to classical music or a seasoned concertgoer. That’s why CityMusic’s annual wintertime production is called “Not-Your-Usual-Holiday Concert.”

Join the high-energy musicians of CityMusic’s professional chamber orchestra to enjoy delightful music and meet your neighbors on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m., at Fairmount Presbyterian Church (5977 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights). Prize-winning maestro James Gaffigan, who, according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer, “mixes uncommon sensitivity with spontaneous combustion energy,” conducts music by a wide range of composers, including Lully, Gounod, Corelli, Rossini, Beethoven, Schubert and Sibelius.

Bring children, family and neighbors. Everyone is welcome; no tickets are required. And during the intermission reception, enjoy the exquisite photography of Diane Schwartz. To arrange for free childcare, call the church at 216-321-8100. For more information, visit citymusiccleveland.org.

Beverly Simmons is marketing director (and one of the founders) of CityMusic Cleveland. She is half of the cabaret duo Rent-a-Yenta, sings with Quire Cleveland, Apollo’s Fire, Beethoven, Schubert and Sibelius. Ringing in the holidays with the River Valley Ringers at the 2007 CircleFest.

New book reveals one woman’s journey through pain, abuse and suffering

Kathleen Larue Dorsev

Cleveland Heights resident and national recording artist Kelly Chapman began her journey as a young teenager “hookin’ up” in a Detroit hotel room, followed by single motherhood interspersed with terminated pregnancies, irresponsible use of drugs and alcohol, poor judgment and abusive men. Now Chapman is a beautiful, highly successful business executive who follows her faith, not her heart, in choosing the path to healthy relationships. Her recently released book “Real, The Truth about Being Single with Kelly Chapman” and companion debut CD, have captured the hearts of singles across the US with its personal recounting of her painful experiences with sex and relationships resulting in a profound personal transformation. In this highly impassioned account, Kelly reveals how singles can find joy and inner peace in their lives despite longing for an intimate relationship.

Chapman shares her journey with candor, humor, and relentless faith. She does not preach abstinence, but shares the pitfalls of physical intimacy, as often it is not linked to emotional intimacy or lifetime commitment. Focus on getting right, with yourself, she urges, rather than getting right with a man.

Filled with personal examples of her challenging relationships, some readers will identify with every word. For others, it will be a source of hope and encouragement, regardless of age or situation in life. For all, it will compel us to examine the perils of our own human longings and understand that our deliverance lies in a faith greater than ourselves.

“This is not a book for those who are blessed to be able to call themselves a ‘satisfied single,’” says Chapman, “this is a book for those who are struggling with the wait.”

Chapman will sing and sign books Thursday, Dec. 4 at Borders in Cleveland Heights, 3466 Mayfield Rd., from 7 to 9 p.m. She will also be in concert Friday, Dec. 26 at Nighttown, 12387 Cedar Rd. The concert begins at 8 p.m. Please visit her web site at www.kellychapman.net.
Handel’s Messiah with Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra

David Budin

In the past 16 years, how many Cleveland orchestras have performed all over this country and have been heard regularly on four countries’ national radio networks? One. And it’s not the Cleveland Orchestra. It’s Apollo’s Fire.

Since its inception in 1992, the Cleveland Heights-based Apollo’s Fire, this region’s Early Music ensemble — specializing in music of the Renaissance, Baroque and early Classical periods — has appeared in nearly 15 major North American cities and has been heard on National Public Radio, Britain’s BBC, Canada’s CBC, and European Community Radio. (The Cleveland Orchestra, which gets around, too, performs frequently in Europe, but in this country, outside of Cleveland, it plays mostly in Miami and New York.)

Apollo’s Fire has also recorded and released 15 CDs, including a 1996 recording of Handel’s Messiah that was recorded in 1994 and 1995. Founding musical director and conductor Jeanette Sorrell will lead Apollo’s Fire in the Messiah, Parts I, II and III, again this month, in performances that will be recorded for a new CD. This year will mark the 13th time Apollo’s Fire has performed the Messiah; this year’s concert features four nationally known soloists who performed the Messiah with Apollo’s Fire in 2006: soprano Amanda Forsythe, tenor Ian Honeyman, mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Shammash and baritone Jeffrey Strauss.

Apollo’s Fire’s Messiah may be unlike any you’ve heard before because it probably approaches the original in its size, scale and timbre. Its authenticity provides a unique opportunity in this region.

“In the two-and-a-half centuries since Messiah was written,” says music director Sorrell, “it has become a monument of western civilization — a musical icon of Anglo-American culture. The aesthetic of ‘bigger is better’ has colored our impression of Messiah for nearly 200 years now. In 1839, for instance, Messiah was performed with a chorus of 2,576 and an orchestra of 460. The coldness and anonymity of the high-tech age have made their mark on our society, leaving many of us with a longing for intimacy and individual personality. The fact that Apollo’s Fire performs Messiah on period instruments is not what matters. But if we can move you to tears — if we can make you see ‘All Heaven before you, and the great God himself’ — then we will have achieved real authenticity.”

“The Pittsburgh Post Gazette” called Apollo’s Fire’s version “The Messiah we’ve been waiting for.” The Sun Press said, “This Messiah sparkled. It danced. It moved. And it brought the sold-out crowd to its feet.”

David Budin is a freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights.

Heights History: Picture This!

The Messiah schedule is:

Tuesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church 1361 West Market Street, Akron.

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. Christ Presbyterian Church 350 Sisson Avenue West, Canton. (Call 330-468-8112 for tickets for this performance.)

Thursday, December 11, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Cathedral 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13, 8:00 p.m. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church 2767 Fernwood Blvd., Cleveland Heights.

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. Rocky River United Methodist Church 19514 Detroit Road, Rocky River.

Tickets, $22-54, are available at 216-237-0012, 800-346-2537 and www.apollofire.org. Discounts are available for students, seniors and adults under 30.

Did you know that John D. Rockefeller’s summer estate, called The Homestead, stood in what is now Forest Hills Park (right at the top of the great sledding hill)? Find out more at www.ohistory.org. The Cleveland Heights Historical Society promotes the history of our community through public programs, an informative website and fact-filled newsletters. Join today!

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8th Annual Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation Holiday Cocktail Party & Winter Gala

Thursday, December 11th • 7 to 10 p.m.
The Heights Rockefeller Building • Mayfield & Lee $15 in advance • $20 at the door • Cash Bar

Join alumni, friends and partygoers at the gorgeous Rockefeller Building for this outstanding event. Enjoy delicious appetizers and amazing desserts while bidding in the silent auction or try your luck with raffle tickets to win an Apple iPod. Be a part of the effort to restore and renovate the clock tower at Heights High.

To order tickets or for more information call 216-397-3871 or visit www.heightsalumni.org

Proud to be supported by:
The city of Cleveland Heights has chosen a troubled section of East Derbyshire Road, one block between Lee Road and Cottage Grove Road, as the focus of a housing initiative that will convert existing two-family homes into renovated condominiums. The innovative concept converts sturdy, well-built 1920s duplexes of approximately 2,500 square feet on each side and transforms them to modern condominiums without losing their historic charm.

The goal is to create a broader mix of incomes and a higher concentration of owner-occupied homes on the street. Currently, only 12 of the 46 homes on the block are owner-occupied.

Offering $20,000 in down payment assistance to qualified buyers, and 100% tax abatement, the city is also offering $5,000 for landscaping improvements in the target area.

"Since 1998 with the introduction of Section 8 (the federal housing program now known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program), this section of East Derbyshire became primarily low-income rental housing," explained Rick Wagner, housing manager for the city of Cleveland Heights during an October FutureHeights tour of its first completed unit. "We saw a marked increase in drugs, violence and police reports."

Decreased housing prices due to the current economic downturn has enabled the city, with a budget of $750,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds, to purchase three of the two-family properties and begin renovation and remodeling to owner-occupants. The condominium agreement worked out when the First Suburbs Consortium converted an up and down double into side by side condos on Beachwood Avenue a couple of years ago gave the city a legal model for condo conversion of its duplexes.

When the city sells its first renovated unit, the proceeds will be recycled into the program enabling the purchase of additional homes on the block.

Cleveland Heights has 15,000 single family homes within its boundaries, 1,260 doubles and 386 apartment buildings.

According to Wagner, currently 150 housing units are in active foreclosure, 200 or more have no recorded deed and 373 are bank owned.

The city hopes that concentrated programs like the East Derbyshire initiative will turn the street around. If it is successful, there are other areas the city would like to target.

"We’ve already seen improvements," said Wagner. “Police calls are down by half.”

For more information about this and the city’s other housing programs, call Lori Sanford, housing counselor for the city of Cleveland Heights, at 216-391-4869.

CH Housing Director Rick Wagner leads a tour of city-owned condos conversions on East Derbyshire.
Loren Sonkin

Reds, whites and rosés
Finding quality wines at affordable prices

Good wine doesn’t have to be expensive, and you don’t have to go far to find it. In this tough economy, who doesn’t want to indulge in an inexpensive luxury. Recently I found the following at my neighborhood grocer:

2007 RUFFINO ORVIETO CLASSICO
Orvieto is the name of a style of wine from the Italian province of Umbria. It is also the name of a medieval hilltop town between Florence and Rome. Wine has been made here for thousands of years. At one time, this was one of the most famous wines in all of Italy. Ruffino is one of the largest and oldest producers in Italy having celebrated their 190th anniversary in 2007. They have been making their Orvieto Classicos since the 1950’s. It is a blend of the following grapes: Grechetto 50%, Procanico 30%, Verdello 10%, and Canaiolo Bianco 10%.

Ruffino’s Orvieto is light green/gold in color, clear and bright. It has clean crisp scents. This is easy to drink. It has a refreshing lime essence and a slightly acidic character that makes it light and dry. While it is nice to drink on its own, don’t be afraid to match it with food too. This would be good with pasta primavera or risotto con calamari.

2007 BODEGAS ATECA GARNACHA DE FUERGO
This slickly packaged wine comes from Cataluyn in the region of Aragon in north central Spain. It is the project of leading Spanish importers Jorge Ordonez and the Gil family of Spain, famous for great values. The wine is made from garnatly Garnacha grape vines that are between 60 and 80 years old. This is a grape that is indigenous to Spain. It has spread around the world where it is called Grenache.

Garnacha de Fuego is an inky purple color in the glass turning magenta at the rim. It has scents of raspberries with a dusting of cocoa powder. This is smooth and easy to drink. The wine is produced without oak and is made to be drunk young. Yet, because these grapes came from older vines, the wine has a layered complexity that makes its low price surprising. It has flavors of raspberries with some tart cherries especially on the finish. An almost, but not quite, candied aspect to this wine makes it great for sipping alone. This is not a heavy wine and would pair well with chicken or perhaps vegetable lasagna. It is another example of the incredible quality value priced wines that has made Spain the hottest wine producing region on the planet!

Both of these wines were purchased at Zagara’s on Lee Road and each cost $8.99.

Loren Sonkin is an attorney in private practice and dreams of traveling the world visiting wineries. He lives and works in Cleveland Heights and is a regular contributor to www.IntoWine.com.

Offerings from Home Repair Resource Center

Rebecca Stager

Home Repair Resource Center offers free home repair workshops, with “hands-on” practice using tools and techniques. Most classes will be held at HRRC’s Teaching Center, 2520 Noble Road (two blocks north of Monticello, at the corner of Oxford). The workshops are limited to Cleveland Heights residents and reservations are requested; call 381-9560 to save your spot.

Intro to Electricity: What electricity is, how it comes to your home and is distributed to your appliances, how to compute the load on your circuits and how to work safely with electricity (this lecture class must be taken before other electrical workshops). MON, JAN, 5, 7-9 P.M.

Basic Electrical Repairs: How to replace single pole switches and outlets (including GFCIs) and install simple fixtures. MON, JAN, 12, 7-9 P.M.

Intermediate Electrical Repairs (2-part class): How to run wires through finished walls, add or change circuits, install more complex fixtures and three-way switches, and correct overloaded circuits. TUES. JAN. 20 AND MON., JAN. 26, 7-9 P.M.

Advanced Electrical Repairs: How to update your service panel (and replace your old fuse boxes with circuit breakers) and install 220-volt lines and outlets for appliances. MON., FEB. 7, 7-9 P.M.

Doorbells & Other Low-Voltage Systems: How to install and repair low-voltage systems (like doorbells, telephone wiring and landscape lighting), and install telephone and outlets for appliances. MON., FEB. 7, 7-9 P.M.

Wet Basements: How water can enter a basement, and how you may be able to keep it out—without an expensive dig-down around the foundation or channels through your basement walls. MON., FEB. 22, 7-9 P.M.

During January and February, HRRC will hold two of its interactive financial fitness classes through the city schools. Residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights who are interested in attending Power of a Personal Budget or Improving Your Credit are invited to call 216-381-6100 for dates and locations.

HRRC’s House Mender University Series is open to residents of all communities. RSVP to 216-381-9160:
Reparing Special Features in Older Houses: How to find products and specialized craftspersons who can help preserve the unique details of an older home. Jamie Phillips-Bertram, Cleveland Restoration Society. THURS., JAN., 29, 7-9 P.M.

Tips from a Handyman: Suggestions from a handyman with decades of experience. Speaker, Jack Kleineman. THURS., FEB. 26, 7-9 P.M.

Becky Stager has been the Home Repair Education Coordinator at HRRC since 1989. Visit Home Repair Resource Center’s website at www.hrrc.org or call 381-6100 for more information on programs and services.

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