For almost 100 years, Heights Hardware draws customers with location and service

Kim Sergio Inghlis

Founded in 1911, just eight years after Cleveland Heights was incorporated as a village, and ten years before it would become a city, Heights Hardware still occupies its original location, at 1752 Coventry Road.

Owner Tom Garb credit’s that consistent location with much of his store’s success, and says, “I believe it is the oldest hardware store in the Cleveland area to still be in the same location.”

In its first century, Heights Hardware had just four owners, starting with the Weiskopfs’ brothers. It has been a family business—albeit an extended one—since Garb’s second cousin, Orrin Elton, purchased the store from the Weiskopfs, after returning from World War II.

Garb and his son, Andy, cite their inventory and service, as well as location, as playing a large role in attracting and retaining customers. Andy states, “We are probably the oldest Ben Moore dealer in the Cleveland area. We repair and fabricate windows and screens, we custom cut glass and lumber, offer lamp repair service, and we still sell chain, rope, pipe and wire by the foot.”

Garb points out many of their customers walk to the store, for those continued on page 3

Remembering Officer Thomas Patton

Lito Gonzalez

For the second time in recent years, Cleveland Heights police dogged black ribbons, this time to mourn the loss of fellow officer Thomas Patton.

Just three years ago, officer Jason West died in the line of duty. On March 13, Patton responded to a call at Marc’s on Coventry Road and assisted other officers in pursuit of a suspect. At Glenmont and Mayfield roads, Patton bent over, rested his hands on his knees for a moment, and then continued running. He collapsed and was transported to Huron Hospital, where he was pronounced dead a short time later. The Cuyahoga County Coroner’s office said Patton died of a cardiac incident.

Officer Thomas Patton

Mayor Ed Kelley called officer Patton “the kind of guy you would want as your next door neighbor, your friend, your fellow officer.” Patton, then worked the night shift, had been planning to buy a home in Cleveland Heights.

Patton, 30, had served nine years as a Cleveland Heights police officer. He was the only son of State Senator Tom Patton. He is survived by his fiancée Tricia Sindler and his four-month-old daughter, Kayleigh Evelyn Patton. Police work ran in the family. His grandfather, John T. Patton, joined the Cleveland Police Department in 1946. His uncle, Tim Patton, a retired Cleveland police officer, said that when Patton was only five years old, he would talk about becoming a policeman.

The preliminary coroner’s finding shocked those who knew and worked with him. The 6-feet, 1-inch, 190-pound officer had no history of heart trouble and was a former cross-country star. He was training with a fellow officer for a 10-kilometer race, said his uncle Tim.
Make winter walking in the Heights easier

Jim Miller

As spring breaks, our town seems a friendlier place. Without any special planning, we find ourselves running into neighbors who hadn’t been more than a distant glimpse for the past three or more months. It’s worth a thought why this comes about year after year. One factor is that the sidewalks on many streets are often virtually impassable in the snow months. The chances for casual social interactions drop precipitously.

But what about those winter walkers who walk because they have no choice? The City of Cleveland Heights, unlike University Heights, maintains that the homeowners and landlords/tenants, even along major through streets, are obliged to clear the public sidewalks that run along their property.

This is a polite fiction. A drive along any major street in winter will show that it does not happen. Who would really expect it to happen? Snowplows throw up immense amounts of hardened snow; the faster the snowplows move, the farther the snow moves, the farther the snow goes.

SOLUTIONS in a time of difficult budget cutbacks:
1. The city, library, schools and business district associations should cooperate and coordinate.
2. Slow down the plows on major streets.
3. Study the city to find key sidewalk linkages between schools, libraries, and shopping areas. Build on the strips already cleared.
4. Clear the sidewalk on only one side of a major road. Walkers will figure it out.
5. Target access to key bus stops.

Times are hard, and that is the very reason we should attend to it. There is time now to prepare for next winter.

Jim Miller is a 25-year resident of Cleveland Heights, who served as its chief probation officer for two decades.
Over the past few years, our elementary schools and high school have been areas of focus and highlighted for their success. Based on the work in the high school has been so successful that the school missed the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Excellent rating by just three points. When comparing similar districts in the state, only one other district, Hamilton Schools, near Columbus, performed better. Although it is often said that middle schools get less attention than their older and younger siblings, starting in the 2010–11 schoolyear, CH-UH middle schools will be undergoing a transformation. The biggest change will be the adoption of block scheduling. Block scheduling permits double back-to-back periods of math and language arts (English). This increases math and English periods to 84 minutes each per day from 42 minutes. This school year, administrators implemented block scheduling for math at Wiley. So far, the math progress at Wiley was two to three times greater, on average, than that at Rosboro and Monticello. According to Douglas Higham, a CH-UH middle school math liaison, “There is no doubt it’s working for our math students. Block scheduling allows for deeper understanding of concepts, enriched student discourse, and the ability to eliminate mathematical misconceptions that are causing block scheduling, even though it takes a greater commitment from them because it’s more hands-on teaching rather than just lecturing.” Currently, students take French I and Spanish I electives (for high school credit) over a two-year span beginning in seventh grade. This two-year program will be consolidated into one year and will mirror the French I and Spanish I courses currently offered at CHHS. Two new pilot options will be created for eighth graders in world language. All eighth graders not enrolled in French I or Spanish I will be enrolled in introductory Spanish or French courses. Although these new pilot courses meet every other day throughout the year, and are not offered at high school, credit, they are designed to prepare students for success in world language at the high school. Changing to the block scheduling has created some concern among parents whose children are entering the eighth grade. Eighth graders enrolled in French or Spanish and a music class will not be able to take physical education unless (they enroll in a before-school option). This is currently the case at Wiley. Additional electives at sixth through eighth grades are being offered to leverage one-to-one laptop programs. All three middle schools are expanding technology offers to promote 21st-century learning skills by adding an introductory multimedia course offered to all 6th graders, and multimedia courses as options for deeper exploration to 7th- and 8th-grade students. It is the understanding of the PTA that the district’s plans are still a work in progress. The biggest unknown is the dismissal time. The board is committed to extending the school day for the elementary schools, a decision being negotiated with the unions. The PTA has been told to expect an announcement in April. Because of transportation issues, the middle school day is in limbo until the elementary school day is determined. In order to make the transportation piece fit into the proposed changes at the elementary and middle schools, middle school teachers are being asked to start the school day 15 minutes later and end 15 minutes later. Currently Roxboro’s day begins at 8 a.m. An optional intervention and extra help period begins at 2:35 and ends at 3:15. Many students leave school at 2:35—failing to take advantage of the extra help. With the block scheduling, the day will end at 3:15. The goal is to focus student achievement by integrating intervention and extra help into the core classroom time. Currently, each of three middle schools has a different daily schedule and a different plan for student intervention. Similarly, some of the elective offerings across the district have not been consistently offered at each building, or have differed in the delivery or sequence. Part of the plan is to bring some consistency to all the middle schools, increasing equity and access for all students while maintaining efficiencies. “We’re going to hold every student to a high level of rigor, the level of support and options available will differ based on need,” Superintendent Douglas Heuer said. The PTA has been assured that the district will continue to provide gifted students with access to accelerated coursework at all levels—within and across buildings. After discussion with the administration, the PTA overall is optimistic that these changes are in the best interest of all children and our community in general.

Jim Pusch is co-president of the CH-UH PTA Council, which has been briefed regularly on proposed schedule changes throughout the district.

Lita Gonzalez is a community volunteer.

Lita Gonzalez is a community volunteer.
Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY 16, 2010
Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans excused

House purchased
City Manager Robert Downey reported that 850 Hampstead Road had been purchased for $10,000 plus closing costs.

City manager granted authority for bidding and contracts
Council passed three pieces of legislation, authorizing the city manager to:
- Advertise for bids for catch basin cleaning and the televising of sewers,
- Contract with CT Consultants, Inc. for work on the city's 2010 street resurfacing program,
- Contract with Nell & Associates for help in preparing a grant under the Surface Water Improvement Fund Grants Program (Ohio ERA) for the transformation of the Cambridge Park parking lot.

Public transportation resolution
Council approved a resolution in support of the Save Transit Now, Move Ohio Forward campaign to reverse the decline of public transportation in Ohio.

Nonresident employees recreation benefits
Cleveland Heights employees were reminded to mention to their non-Cleveland Heights employees that they may become members of the Cleveland Heights recreation center.

Winter roadwork praised
Council Member Mark Tumeo expressed his appreciation for the great condition of the Cleveland Heights streets this winter. After thanking city workers, Mayor Edward Kelley noted that he had not had any complaints about road conditions this season.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Alan Rapoport joins race for county council

Former Mayor Alan Rapoport joins race for county council

Former Mayor Alan Rapoport is running for a seat on the new Cuyahoga County Council. He is running for a seat on the council to represent the Heights portion of the 10th district.

Rapoport graduated from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1978 and served as a member of the county Democratic organization, and as the founder of the Heights Arts.

Rapoport also expressed concern with the Best Interest at the expense of the public good. He said that he believes that professional ethics and compassion are not consistent with honesty and transparency.

Rapoport's community involvement began as president of Coventry Neighborhoods, one of Cleveland Heights' oldest neighborhood organizations, and as the founder of the original Coventry Street Fair in the mid-1970s. His political involvement began as a Democratic precinct committee member, as a member of the county Democratic Executive Committee, as president of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club, and as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1976.

Rapoport was first elected to city council in 1979 and served three terms as mayor. He left office in 1987 to devote more time preparing to pay for his daughter's education. "Now that Allison is on her own, that goal has been met and I look forward to resuming public service," said Rapoport.

Rapoport graduated from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law and is an honors graduate of Kenyon College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He has been in the private practice of law for 35 years, with focus on probate, real property and representing small businesses. His peers honored him with the highest possible "AV" rating in the Martindale-Hubbell legal directory to signify his recognition of his legal ability and professional ethics.

He is a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association, and has taught at seminars for both. He has also provided free legal services for people having problems with foreclosures, lack of health insurance, juvenile and family issues, and care of elderly relatives. He is a trustee of Heights Arts.

Rapoport will run in District 10, which consists of Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Wards 10 and 11 in Cleveland, and Bratenahl. The term of office is two years.

Bruce Hennes

Former Cleveland Heights Mayor Alan Rapoport is running for a seat on the new Cuyahoga County Council in the Democratic primary, to be held Tuesday, Sept. 7. "This is an exciting opportunity for a new government for the county and I want to make a positive difference in it," he said.

Rapoport has identified his three goals for the new county government: maintenance of a social safety net for those in need; expansion of employment opportunities to form a new government for the county and I want to make a positive difference in it," he said.

Rapoport has identified his three goals for the new county government: maintenance of a social safety net for those in need; expansion of employment opportunities so fewer people have to use that safety net; and good financial management so taxpayer money is spent on the best possible public benefits at the lowest reasonable cost.

Rapoport also expressed concern about restoring faith in county government by demonstrating that professionalism and compassion are not consistent with honesty and transparency.

Rapoport's community involvement began as president of Coventry Neighborhoods, one of Cleveland Heights' oldest neighborhood organizations, and as the founder of the original Coventry Street Fair in the mid-1970s. His political involvement began as a Democratic precinct committee member, as a member of the county Democratic Executive Committee, as president of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club, and as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1976.

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Bruce Hennes
How UH handles the ‘yours’ and ‘ours’

Anita Kazarian

What price is the nation paying for government? According to the nonprofit Tax Foundation, Ohio is about midway between the most expensive states (#1 Connecticut and #2 New Jersey) and the least expensive states (#49 Louisiana and #50 Alaska). Based on government data, the foundation reports “Americans will pay more in taxes than they will spend on food, clothing and housing combined.”

We have a social agreement that some of our individual income will be “yours,” some “mine” and some “ours.”

What about University Heights? Who decides how the “yours” and “ours” are spent?

Contrary to popular belief, only 13 cents of each real-estate tax dollar pays for government. The other 87 cents goes to education (79 percent to CH-UH schools, 64 cents), libraries (13 cents of each real-estate tax dollar), and metroparks (8 cents of each real-estate tax dollar).

The representatives said that by holding the event on the quad, the community would be shielded from noise and excessive light because university buildings surround it.

Mayor Ifeld said that this is a national event and impacts “us all.” She added that past Relays for Life of the university and the high school were not local events. Council unanimously approved Mayor Ifeld’s motion to allow the event to get forward, and to give John Carroll permission to organize subsequent Relay for Life events by simply notifying council, instead of appearing at a meeting, unless there were major changes.

East/West high school football game

John Carroll University will host the East/West high school football game on June 11 at the Don Shula Stadium from 7 to 10 p.m. With most parking on campus and no band playing, police overtime would not be required. Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg said that this event could be an economic generator for the city. Council unanimously approved the event and allowed John Carroll to contact the UH police directly in the future to organize the game.

Fireworks at the Continental Cup on July 1

The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission’s Meredith Scoboros reported that the fourth year for this event is expected to attract 800 athletes from around the world, along with many local athletes, and will feature games in soccer, baseball, and basketball at different venues in the area. Police Chief Gary Shelbit assured council that his department could work out parking and fireworks safety with Tenable Protective Services, who will provide armed security after the fireworks arrive. Council unanimously approved the motion to allow UH safety forces to work out parking and fireworks safety with Tenable Protective Services.

Harvest for Hunger campaign

Kelly Thomas from the Harvest for Hunger campaign heads the citywide drive in University Heights. She said giving money is the best way to support the effort. However, many nonfood items are needed, including shampoo, laundry soap and other personal items. Canned food items are also welcome. Donated items can be dropped off at City Hall, and all funds collected in the cans will be credited as donations from University Heights. Thomas said that 7,600 children have been fed through Harvest for Hunger.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Apply for membership

To become a member of the League of Women Voters of University Heights, call Kim at 216-531-3070 or email LWV@heightsobserver.org. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizens’ organization that encourages the participation of all Americans in their local, state, and national governments. For more information visit www.lwv.org.
What’s going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
Exploratory, Fridays, April 2–30, 10:30 a.m.
Step Out of Time, Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m.
Step Out of Time for Kids, Monday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
Ukulele Jam, Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

University Heights Library
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Story Stop, Wednesdays, April 7–28, 10:30 a.m.
Senior Spot, Wednesdays, April 7–28, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Great Decisions, Thursdays, April 1–29, 10:30 a.m.
3rd Annual Crossword Puzzle Tournament, Sunday, April 11, 2 p.m.
Lee Road Knitting Knight, Tuesday, April 13 & 27, 7 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Noble Knitting Circle, Thursday, April 1 & 15, 6:45 p.m.
Stay and Play, Fridays, April 2–30, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Reading Rumpus, Fridays, April 2–30, 10:30 a.m.
Great Book Discussion Group, Tuesday, April 6 & 20, 7:30 p.m.

Hot nosh at the library

The new kosher “Hot Nosh” machine at the Lee Road Library.

Cathy Hakala-Auspark
Amid the mysteries, romances and DVDs you might find at the Lee Road Library, you can now also find kosher pizza, onion rings, potato knishes and mozzarella sticks in the library's new Hot Nosh vending machine. Located in the café area on the second floor, the new machine prepares the food by moving it from a freezer to a convection oven and then thawing and cooking it, all in 90 seconds. Ely Skorsky of Skorbitz Snacks, the machine’s supplier, assures the library that all the food items are kosher and prepared under the strict rabbinical supervision of the Chof-K, a nationally recognized kosher supervising agency.

So, what’s up with eating and drinking in the library? Library Director Nancy Levin explains that today’s library is a community gathering place, where some customers may spend many hours studying or doing research. “They get hungry and, as long as they clean up after themselves and help us keep the place neat, we’re happy to find another way to make everyone comfortable in the library.”

The library has offered snack and drink vending machines since 1996, and at least half of the snack items meet the standards of healthiness required of school lunches.

A portion of the profits from the machines helps to support the Friends of Heights Libraries, an organization that funds special library programs and events.

Cathy Hakala-Auspark is the deputy director for the Heights Libraries and the acting public relations coordinator.

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Great Book Discussion Group, Tuesday, April 6 & 20, 7:30 p.m.
Boulevard students raise funds for Haiti with their hearts

When I walk down the hallways in my son’s school, I always stop to examine the artwork adorning the walls. I see Japanese printmaking, Chinese jade sculptures, Egyptian watercolor resist, and Warhol-esque self-portraits. With every art project, the students not only experiment with new methods, they learn about the artist’s life or how a technique is used.

In February, art teacher Kelley Wachhaus, initiated a project with students that extends beyond the classroom. They created one-of-a-kind ceramic heart-shaped pins to sell to raise funds for the earthquake relief effort in Haiti. “The effort was dubbed Hearts For Haiti. “I felt it was important for our students to know that they are part of a bigger picture,” Wachhaus says. “I wanted to teach them that a little imagination and effort could make a big impact on Haitian lives.”

All 350 students participated in creating these art pieces. Students then sold the pins in school and at community events, including the Heights Arts gallery, Zagaris’s Mac’s Backs, Big Fun, and Whole Foods. Many students brought their own savings to donate to the cause, surpassing early goals to raise more than $2,300.

This money was presented to the American Red Cross and AmeriCares at an emotional schoolwide assembly. A representative from the Red Cross explained to the children what would be purchased with the funds they had collected. When she told them that their efforts would provide water purification systems, food, mosquito netting and personal sanitation items for 130,000 people, the children were awestruck. I watched their jaws drop. These numbers gave them a truer understanding of the impact that this money would make on the lives of people in Haiti.

The students were congratulated, and the pride in the gymnasium was palpable. I was moved by the students’ dedication to this project and the effort put forth by our art teacher that far exceeded what is required of her. She provided an experience for our students that enabled them to take pride in not just our school, but in being a part of a larger, global community.

Chrys Zoldak is a parent of a Boulevard Elementary School student.

Heights High orchestra director is Ohio’s ‘New Teacher of the Year’

Joy Henderson

Although Heights High orchestra director Dan Heim has yet to spend a full year in the district, he is already receiving accolades for his outstanding work with students. Heim received the 2009 New Teacher of the Year Award from the Ohio Association of String Teachers, presented in Cincinnati on Jan. 18. Prior to becoming an educator, Heim performed professionally in Germany and the United States. Superintendent Doug Heuer said, “Mr. Heim has been an outstanding addition to our faculty and he continues the tradition of outstanding music teachers within our district.”

Heim entered teaching because he loves music and wanted to share it with young people. “I want to help kids find and expand their creative expressions,” he said. “Music introduces people to new cultures, while giving them a place to belong and collaborate with others.”

The chamber music program, which consists of small orchestral groups formed by students, is something Heim said he especially likes. “It gives them autonomy and lets them lead the music process.”

Heim looks forward to expanding and enhancing the collaboration among grade levels. At the last concert, middle school musicians performed alongside high school students. This summer, he will direct the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp for middle school students.

Daniel Heim is Heights High orchestra director. Heim enters teaching because he loves music and wanted to share it with young people. “I want to help kids find and expand their creative expressions,” he said. “Music introduces people to new cultures, while giving them a place to belong and collaborate with others.”

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Joy Henderson is a member of Reaching Heights, a Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Schools Foundation.
Heights High singers excel at area competition

Angee Shaker

Heights High’s A Cappella Choir and Barbershoppers competed in a large group competition sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association on March 12, and did the community proud. The choir performed “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” by Johannes Brahms, “Sanctus” by Jan Sandstrom and “Ezekiel’s Thy Dwelling Place” by Johannes Brahms, and the Barbershoppers received their first better-ratings from all three judges; and the Barbershoppers received their first better-ratings from all three judges. The choir performed “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” by Johannes Brahms, “Sanctus” by Jan Sandstrom and “Ezekiel’s Thy Dwelling Place” by Johannes Brahms, as I wrote it on the board, the class knew that was what they wanted to do.”

Joy Henderson

Critical thinking, self-discovery and college credits are on the menu for many students at Heights High. The move to small schools add challenging options for students who want to accept more responsibility.

At Heights, more than 350 students are enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which offer college credit; 44 are enrolled in college classes. Here are three of their stories.

Future pharmacist: Dominique McKee, CHHS ‘10, REAL School, Pharmacy Tech Program, part time at Tri-C. “When I pass the pharmacy certification test, I can work in a pharmacy part time while going to college to be a pharmacist,” she said. She takes morning pharmacy and physics classes at Heights High. Four afternoons a week, she heads to Tri-C’s Eastern Campus in Highland Hills for classes in English and govern- ment. On Saturday morning, she attends a statistics class. Many days after class, she returns to Heights for student council meetings and Gospel Choir rehearsals.

“The chemistry of drug interactions fasci- nates me,” she said. When Dominique starts college in fall 2010 (she’s applied to four schools with pharmacy programs), she’ll take a significant number of credits with her, and the knowledge of what it takes to succeed in college.

Aspiring artist: Eric Brock, CHHS ‘10, Mosaic, School, artist, full time at Heights High. “Art teacher Mrs. Hood-Cogan has been great—giving me artistic freedom but helping me to develop skills.” He describes his artis- tic style as technical realism and loves experimenting with color. Next year, he will attend art school to study graphic design or illustration. He has applied to three art institutes. He is enrolled in AP art, literature, composition, statistics, and government. He also takes guitar, forensic science, and political phi- losophy. All that, and baseball and swim teams, make for a demanding schedule.

“But I’ve learned to be organized,” he said. “I love the amazing diversity at Heights, because there are so many groups of people to know.” he said. “I have friends from music, art, sports and my neighborhood.”

Emerging educator: Erin Jackson, CHHS ‘10, Mosaic, Senior to Sophomore student, full time at Tri-C. “The Senior to Sophomore program is great,” said Erin. “I’ll leave Heights High with a high school diploma and enter college as a sophomore.” This semester she is taking politics, psychology, sign language and English at Tri-C. Her politics class includes older students. “I’ve learned so much from them,” she said, “especially about health care.” Erin has found that starting college while in high school has its advantages. She is expected to be responsible and self-motivated, but still has a group of adults at Heights High looking out for her. She feels she has the best of both worlds. She also plays on the Heights basketball team. Erin will attend Bowling Green State University and will study early childhood education.

Supporting high achievement

Jacqueline Harris, Heights High co-ordinator of advanced studies, and the guidance staff provide support for AP students and those taking college courses. For more information about the advanced programs at Heights High, contact Jacqueline Harris, j Hag@ chhs.org or 216-520-3123.

Joy Henderson is the parent community liai- son at Heights High and the assistant director at Reaching Heights.
Roxboro team wins trip to state Science Olympiad

Jim Posch

On March 6, at the University of Akron, 15 students from Roxboro Middle School demonstrated that, when it comes to science education, the CH-UH City School District really rocks!

It was Roxboro’s second appearance in the regional Science Olympiad, and the school’s teams earned a fifth place finish out of 25 schools, and a trip to the statewide competition on April 17 at Ohio State University.

This year, Roxboro sent two teams to compete against 24 other schools. Going into the competition, participants believed it would be a long shot to place in the tournament. Roxboro’s advisors, teachers Janet Lechleitner and Kathy Papys, built their teams based on student interest, resulting in equal numbers of sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Team A consisted of Steve Bell, Garth Bennett, Miriam Bennett, Isaac Brown, Victoria Cikanek, Casandra Expenschied, Nathan Friel, Amy Janssen, Charlotte Jones, James Johnson, Phoebe Lammert, Tommy Pharis, Grace Phillips (Disease Detectives), Victoria Cikanek and Ellen Posch (Science Crime Busters); second place, Max Janssen and Miriam Bennett (Osmatology); Grace Peppler and Graham Ball (Wright Stuff), Chawakorn Chaichanawirote and Michelle Posch (Shock Value); fourth place, Tommy Pharis and Steve Bell (Trajectory); fifth place, Victoria Cikanek and Ellen Posch (Science Crime Busters); sixth place, Arianna Murray and Terry Wheeler (Can’t Judge a Powder), Garth Bennett and Grace Phillips (Disease Detectives), Victoria Cikanek, Tommy Pharis and Miriam Bennett (Experimental Design).

Showing team spirit, the Roxboro students huddled together, held hands and sang “We will, we will Rox you!”

Jim Posch, whose daughters participated in the Science Olympiad, is copresident of the CH-UH PTA Council. Jacoby Eliffin also contributed to this story.

Among the Roxboro winners were:
- First place, Victoria Cikanek and Ellen Posch (Can't Judge a Powder); second place, Nathan Friel and Ellen Posch (Elevated Bridge); third place, Max Janssen and Miriam Bennett (Osmatology); Grace Peppler and Graham Ball (Wright Stuff), Chawakorn Chaichanawirote and Michelle Posch (Shock Value); fourth place, Tommy Pharis and Steve Bell (Trajectory); fifth place, Victoria Cikanek and Ellen Posch (Science Crime Busters); sixth place, Arianna Murray and Terry Wheeler (Can’t Judge a Powder), Garth Bennett and Grace Phillips (Disease Detectives), Victoria Cikanek, Tommy Pharis and Miriam Bennett (Experimental Design).

The workshop was one of several community service projects developed by the Parent/Community Organization of the Mosaic Experience. Mosaic student Taylor Smith helps Cecilia Vidmar solve her cell phone problems.

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Parenting Q&A

Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Heights Parent Center for the last 12 years, fields questions about the daily ups and downs of parenting. These issues affect many parents. If you have questions for Ellen, e-mail her at charrett@heightsparentcenter.org.

Q. No matter how much quality time I spend with my 3-year-old, the minute I am on the phone or computer my daughter seems to have an immediate need. How can I help her understand that sometimes she has to wait?

A. It is likely that your daughter really has no idea that she is doing anything wrong. Three-year-olds are egocentric. Because they tend to be loud and persistent, parents are often guilty of reinforcing that behavior. In other words, probably in the past when your child has loudly waited for you and then given her the attention she’s been waiting for. Of course, there are times when your daughter really needs you right away (someone is hurt or she has to go to the bathroom). Assess the situation to see if it can wait. Gradually, with time and maturity, she will learn to distinguish between what is urgent and what feels urgent and how to pay attention to other people’s needs as well as her own.

• Help her notice when you are engaged frustrating, developmental stage.

• Teach her to use touch as a way of communicating. Show her how to touch your hand or arm instead of shouting. In response, you return the touch, letting her know you “heard” her and are aware she needs you.

• Use “reverse waiting” as a strategy for modeling. For example, if you need her attention, but she is in the middle of a puzzle, “I can see you’re busy with that puzzle, please look at me as soon as you finish.”

• Give warning when possible. If you know you’ll be on the phone for a while, prepare your child by telling her you will be busy for the next few minutes. Ask her if there is anything she might need and have something ready for her to do.

• Be sure to praise her when she has waited for you and then give her the attention she’s been waiting for.

Of course, there are times when your daughter really needs you right away (someone is hurt or she has to go to the bathroom). Assess the situation to see if it can wait. Gradually, with time and maturity, she will learn to distinguish between what is urgent and what feels urgent and how to pay attention to other people’s needs as well as her own.

A UNIQUELY AMERICAN EVENING WITH MARK O’CONNOR

April 17, 2010 in Kulas Hall

JAZZ

Violinist Mark O’Connor brings his eclectic talents to the Kulas Hall stage in a solo recital featuring foot-stomping fiddle tunes, ragtime, free improvisation, jazz, blues, electrifying caprices and a warm homage to his violin fiddle heroes.

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Cleveland Heights Observer April 6, 2010

Soccer camp reflects community spirit

Gay Eyerman

While parents look for quality programs at the right price, kids care more about fun and friends. Cleveland Heights teacher and soccer coach Sean Sullivan covers all those bases.

After running the city’s Community Services Camp for 12 years, Sullivan created Blue Grass Youth Soccer Academy in 2005. Camp sessions are held at Oxford Elementary School for boys and girls ages 4–7. The camp has grown from 12 campers the first year to more than 250 in 2009. “Even at the beginning stages, kids can see instant success in soccer,” says Sullivan. “You don’t have to be the strongest or the fastest. Everybody works together in soccer.”

Sullivan also teaches the camp’s varsity team at Heights High and serves as director of coaching for the City of Cleveland Heights and the Eastside Kickers travel club soccer. In 2009, Cleveland Scene named him Best Soccer Coach.

At Heights United Soccer Academy Summer Camp the play is intense, with high-end training from some of the best players in Northeast Ohio. The camp focuses on individualized foot skills and tactics, speed and agility drills, and daily tournament games, plus weekly contests, theme days, arts and crafts; and, on rainy days, drama and indoor games.

The biggest draw is the all-ages Super League. Kids choose World Cup soccer teams and make their own strategy decisions. Sullivan encourages his counselors to make the top three draft picks, and then he places the rest of the staff on teams, with the kids playing alongside teen counselors and Sullivan himself. The rules allow older players to score a goal only after a younger player has scored. “The older ones become more aware of when to apply pressure and when to back off, while the younger players step up their game and gain confidence,” observes Sullivan.

Sullivan also has a passion for community service, expecting campers to give back as well, with yard services to provide for Cleveland Heights and the Eastside Kids. Three of her five children play on Eastside Kickers teams.

Gesu varsity boys basketball wins one for Emily

On Sunday March 7, in front of a capacity crowd at John Carroll University, the Gesu School varsity boys basketball team defeated St. Gabriel (Canford Township), 34–19, to win the 2010 CYO Diocesan Championship.

Gesu averaged its only loss of the season, a 30–22 defeat at the hands of the Grizzlies in early December. The Bulldogs fed off the energy from the “Gesu Gold Rush” crowd and took a 20–8 lead at halftime behind the long-range shooting of Johnny Gannon. St. Gabriel’s defense and rebounding held St. Gabriel to only one point in the fourth quarter.

So what was it that made this team a force all season, Julian Alston led six Gesu scorers with nine points. Ethan Barham was a force on the glass with eight rebounds and some timely putbacks. John Cirillo’s interior presence (and three blocked shots) and Jacob Turay’s lockdown defense of Grizzlies’ star point guard, Trevor Boslett, were also big factors in the win. The team finished the season with a 25–1 record, including three additional tournament championships. St. Gregory, Holy Family (Stow), and the Gesu Morrissey Classic.

This is the fourth city title for coach Chris Salata and Brian McLaughlin, who started coaching at the school in 2000. It is the school’s 10th boys’ basketball championship.

The win was even more special as the team had dedicated its season to Emily Lippert. Emily a 15-year-old freshman at Beaumont School for Girls and a Gesu basketball alum, died unexpectedly in January of this year. In Lippert’s honor, the team wore black wristbands featuring her nickname, “Lippiz”.

"I will listen to you next." Don’t make her think, “Mommy is talking to Mrs. Smith.” Instead, say something like, “Mommy is talking to Mrs. Smith. I’ll listen to you next.”
East Side Kickers are a Heights institution

Carol Boyd

See a soccer field full of kids in the Heights and chances are you’re watching an East Side Kickers team in action. The gold and black jerseys have been a staple on local fields for nearly 30 years.

Currently, the East Side Kickers travel soccer club is 11 teams and 150 players strong. Part of the statewide soccer organization, Ohio Youth Soccer Association North, or OYSAN, the Kickers have been a Heights institution since 1983.

“Some of our coaches played with the East Side Kickers as kids and they are excited to give back that experience to a new generation of players,” said Sean Sullivan, ESK boys director of coaching.

Sullivan, recently named by Cleveland Scene as Cleveland’s “Soccer Sensei,” is the varsity soccer coach of Heights High and has been committed to ESK for over a decade. His protégé, Robbie Helfgott, an ESK alum, was named ESK girls director of coaching in December.

“My goal is to continue ESK’s tradition of high-level soccer training and also to expose more and more kids to our club,” said Helfgott. The Heights High girls varsity soccer coach has been with ESK three years and has taken the current U14 boys team to two league championships, and ESK’s first State Cup entry this spring.

“Player development is paramount in our club, but our mission is also about making competitive soccer accessible to all kids in our community,” said Lisa Manzari, ESK board president.

Last year alone ESK awarded nearly $5,000 in player scholarships. “We are very proud of our scholarship program and couldn’t do it without the support of our families, local businesses and community members,” Manzari said.

On Saturday, May 1, ESK will hold its Fifth Annual Soccer Festival and Fundraiser at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Carnival games, food, dancing, raffles, a silent auction and, of course, soccer, will fill the gym from 6-9 p.m. All proceeds support player scholarships.

“It’s an exciting time in our club’s history with Sean and Robbie as our directors of coaching. We’re also very fortunate to have extremely talented and dedicated coaches,” Manzari said.

In the winter the Kickers play at the newly renovated Force Indoor Sports complexes at both Richmond and Bedford Heights. “Most of our teams won their division this winter and we’ve been able to add new teams and players,” said Helfgott.

ESK wants to expand its reach in the community to add even more players and families.

“We’re grooming great soccer players, but we’re also building strong communities,” added Manzari. “We have families who leave the program and then return after joining other clubs. One parent told me that it was a breath of fresh air to return to ESK!”

With spring just beginning, ESK is already gearing up for the fall season. Tryouts are scheduled in May at Forest Hill Park. Boys will try out on Monday, May 17, and girls’ tryouts are Wednesday, May 19.

For more information on the ESK Soccer Fest, player tryouts or to support ESK, visit: www.eastsidexc.com or e-mail lmanzari@eastsidexc.com

Carol Boyd plays soccer with Heights’ Mom Soccer. She has a daughter who plays for the East Side Kickers and another who plays varsity soccer on the Heights High team.

Charity lacrosse event to raise money for families of the war wounded

Gregory Calleri

Burning River Lacrosse and Fisher House Foundation team up to bring you their Third Annual Lacrosse Showcase to benefit the Fisher House Foundation, serving our military families. This year’s event will be held on April 24 at Hawken School’s Walton Stadium, 12467 County Line Road, Chesterland. The showcase is an all-day series of college, high school and middle school lacrosse games held to raise money and awareness for the Fisher House Foundation. Local area schools include Hawken High and Middle Schools, Solon High School, Strongsville, Rocky River and Chagrin Falls middle schools.

The event features one college game, three high school varsity lacrosse games and three middle school games. Teams are paired up on the field to show their talents, have some fun and learn what it’s like to give back to their community. Players are given the opportunity to show their appreciation to our military families and participate in an event to benefit others.

The success of this event is made possible by local and national sponsors, many parent and coaching volunteers and of course the main attraction—the players. In the past two years the event raised approximately $30,000 to benefit the foundation.

The Fisher House program is a private-public partnership that supports America’s military in their time of need. Fisher House Foundation donates “comfort homes,” built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times—during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

There is at least one Fisher House at every major military medical center (43 total) to assist families in need and to ensure that they are provided with the comforts of home in a supportive environment. Since its inception in 1990, the program has offered approximately 3 million days of lodging to more than 120,000 families at a savings of more than $100 million in lodging costs, plus savings on subsistence and transportation costs.

Tickets are available the day of the event or in advance by calling Burning River at 216-373-5684. Donations can be made at www.active.com/donate/fisherhouse. For more event information is available at the Burning River Lacrosse Website at www.brlax.net. Burning River Lacrosse provides year round lacrosse programs for players throughout Northeast Ohio.

Gregory Woody Calleri, founder and director of Burning River Lacrosse, provides developmental lacrosse opportunities at all levels to the Cleveland lacrosse community.

The Lake View Cemetery

Mayfield and Kenilworth Roads

DAFFODIL SUNDAY

Sunday, April 18, 2010

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

~ New This Year ~

Hour-long walking tours that include Daffodil Hill

Departing from Garfield Monument

At 11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

You can also follow the red arrows for a drive-it-yourself tour of spring flowers!

ARBOR DAY

Friday, April 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the beauty and importance of trees while attending the planting of a white oak in Section 32 by 5th grade students from Mary M. Bethune School and Holy Rosary Montessori.

For more information call 216-421-2665 or www.lakeviewcemetery.com
Heights Observer April 6, 2010

Smart home buying, thanks to HRCC

Gail Jackson

In a letter to the Home Repair Resource Center, one client writes:

When I made my decision to buy a home I got encouragement from my lender and my Realtor to get the home of my dreams, at the top of my affordability range. I wanted to keep my payment around what I was paying for rent (about $800), but the house I was about to buy would cost me $1,700 per month. Fortunately, a friend told me about the Home Buyer Education program at Home Repair Resource Center. I spoke with the housing counselor, enrolled in the home buyer workshops and took advantage of the individual counseling.

I ended up buying a more modest house with a lower mortgage payment than what I was paying for rent. I have a monthly budget and tools to help me stay on course, a relationship with the Home Repair Resource Center that will help me maintain my home in good repair, and peace of mind with a little extra cash at the end of the month.

I am writing this because I really appreciate all they have done to help me understand the home buying process. And I want everyone else to realize that these services cannot be found in other communities in northeast Ohio.

—L. Williams

Gail Jackson is a housing counselor at the Home Repair Resource Center.

Heights High grad opens Verve

Myra Orenstein

It’s been a long time since Brian Okin was a busboy at Nighttown, or since his graduation from Heights High. The chef/owner of Verve restaurant recalls those days fondly, believing they were instrumental in his decision to open a restaurant in Cleveland. “I love Cleveland Heights and the Nighttown experience definitely made an impact.”

Following his graduation from Heights High, Okin attended Butler University, but left before graduation. “I worked at a local northern Italian restaurant and became their sous chef. By the time I was 21, I was their executive chef,” he said.

In 1991, Okin returned to Cleveland as the sous chef at Massimo de Milano, leaving that position to become executive chef at its East Side location on Larchmere.

Prior to opening Verve, Okin worked at Georgeo’s in Lakewood, the Gates Mills Grille and as general manager of Mosaic. Most recently, he was the chef/owner of Benvenuti in Broadview Heights.

“My philosophy about food is simple—it has to be good. You don’t have to over-complicate recipes to make food good. It’s important to use the highest quality ingredients and not create anything that is over the top.”

Verve’s menu combines comfort food with an Okin twist. He uses fresh ingredients to transform Old World recipes into new dishes.

“When it comes to wines, Okin “doesn’t want mainstream offerings. I look for small production wines, those that aren’t typically found in a grocery store.” French, Argentinian, Spanish, California and Oregonian wines are among those available at Verve.

At present, the restaurant serves only wine and beer, but Okin anticipates offering full liquor service within a few months.

Myra G. Orenstein is president of CATV, Inc., the agency of record for VERVE. She lives and works in Cleveland Heights with her husband and their two children.
Brew-N-Bistro on North Park is revamped

Kim Sergio Inglis

Mark Reich, owner of Brew-N-Bistro on North Park, now offers an expanded menu in a newly renovated setting. “We’re changing the business to bring in more customers,” he explains, “and to keep them coming back.”

In 1994, Reich opened an Arabica coffeehouse in the same location, in the Fairmount Circle Shopping Center. Over the years, as he expanded beyond standard coffeehouse fare, Reich changed the name.

Now, the “bistro” designation reflects additions, such as wine and beer, and new sandwich offerings.

Reich estimates that they now offer about 60–70 menu items, including a “create-your-own-salad” option, the popular Mosh Mosh sandwich, vegetarian and southwestern chicken chilis, and breakfast B’egg’Ls (egg sandwiches), which are available all day.

“We work with the best of the local suppliers, and then it’s up to us to make it the best,” Reich states. “We’re trying to keep as much as possible within the local community. Caruso Coffee provides Brew-N-Bistro with its own custom blend, North Park Dark, roasted twice a week. “It’s the same great local coffee we’ve offered since we opened and another thing that keeps customers coming back,” says Reich.

Reich has always lived on the east side of Cleveland, and grew up in the food business, in a family that once operated all the city and state park concession stands.

“I fell in love with the atmosphere of the original, independent coffeehouses. I want to keep this a place where people feel comfortable. They can come here to get a meal, or just to relax,” says Reich. “This is still a coffeehouse at heart, but the coffee culture has changed. It’s become less gourmet, more fast and quick. We’re always fighting the national chains, trying to come up with the right combination of being a coffee place, with a great menu. Because people order at the counter, they expect the food to come out fast, and about half our business is carryout. For people who eat in, we hope they feel welcome to linger.”

Additions to the menu are just a part of the changes at Brew-N-Bistro, where Reich has replaced all of the lighting, paint, and added new photos of local scenes. Offerings will soon include a full-service deli, with meats and cheeses available by the pound, as well as a separate catering menu. With the approach of summer, Reich plans to open the patio, which seats 30. Open Mic Night will return, with local musicians playing acoustic sets, and perhaps some poets as well.

Staff consists largely of students from John Carroll University, and the school accounts for 15–20 percent of Reich’s business. The rest, Reich says, comes from the greater Heights neighborhood. On a recent afternoon, well past lunchtime, the bistro was still a third full, with customers enjoying a late lunch or afternoon snack. The diverse crowd included a man with a laptop making use of Brew-N-Bistro’s free Wi-Fi, and a grandmother with two grandchildren, who stopped in after school.

Reich says the changes have been well received so far. “I bus the tables myself whenever possible,” he says, “That way I can see how people like things. And every day, since we remodeled, people tell me how nice it is. Since we first opened, this has always been a kind of home away from home. We want to be everything to everyone, but do it with quality and efficiency.”

Loren Sonkin, a former marketing professional, recently relocated to Cleveland Heights from Brooklyn, NY.

A glass of port by a warm fire

Loren Sonkin

Winter conjures up images of relaxing in front of a roaring fire in a ski lodge and sipping a glass of port. While the winter conjures up images of relaxing by the fire in a ski lodge, port wines can’t be enjoyed for several weeks after opening the bottle. Don’t be in a hurry. If you’re between meals and want something sweet and very drinkable, Do not gulp these wines. Rather, try one of these classic matches—Stilton cheese and walnuts, dark chocolate and raisins. It is slightly sweet and very drinkable.

I also tried the Graham’s Tawny Port ($19 at Whole Foods). This is the best, according to some. It is also sweet and very drinkable.

The Graham’s Six Grapes Port ($24 at the Cedar Green) is a ruby port. The wine has pretty raspberry aromas with just a hint of dark chocolate and raisins. It is slightly sweet and very drinkable.

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Heights Writes

Meredith Holmes

These three poems by John Burroughs arise from the poet’s careful attention to meaning, the world, and to consciousness itself. They invite the reader to observe and meditate, as well.

Do Dew

Half awake thoughts
Are often the clearest
Uncloaked by day dreams
Day schemes
Day dreams
Still cool
Gently coated with dew
Soon to be evaporated into Do.

One Beautiful Moment

One beautiful moment
Outweighs by far
A lifetime of okay
Finding levy’s city’s lines.

I Ku*

I’ve spent all this time
Finding levy’s city’s lines.
When will I find mine?

John Burroughs is a Buddho-Taoist pacifist, poet, who lives in Elyria, Ohio. His works have appeared in dozens of print and online publications. Founder of the Crisis Chronicles Project, he has published numerous books, in print and online, which typically include a complex, multi-layered, avant-garde style.

“I Ku” was published online in the Deep Cleveland Junkmail Oracle.

Composers Guild celebrates 50th

Margi Griebling-Heigh

St. Petersburg, 1860: A group of five composers, including Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, and Mussorgsky, forms to hear, discuss and support one another’s music. Paris, 1920: A group of six composers often frequent the same concert halls, salons, and bars. Cleveland Heights, 2010: The Cleveland Composers Guild prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary at a benefit concert called Baguettes & Bagatelles: 50 Firsts in 50 Seconds. Many Guild composers have written 50-second celebratory pieces in honor of the anniversary.

Works include a tongue-in-cheek piece by Katharine O’Connell called “Head Banger’s Mash-up” and another by Ty Alan Emerson scored for bass, baseball bat and jingle bells. Pianist Eric Charnofsky will serve as soloist or accompanist in 10 pieces, including miniatures written by one of the Guild’s founding members, Klaus G. Roy.

The Cleveland Orchestras cellist Charles Bernard, violinist Mark Jackobs, obbligato, Jeffery Rathburn, double bassist Scott Haigh and trombonist Massimo LaRosa have each volunteered to premiere some of these miniatures at the event. The works range in style from traditional and romantic to theatrical, humorous and avant garde. Predictably, several pieces feature the musical notes C-C-G, but in quite unpredictable ways!

The Cleveland Composers Guild is one of the nation’s oldest new-music organizations. It started life under the umbrella of the former Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, but became a separate nonprofit organization a decade ago. It has counted more than 200 members during its history and currently includes 50 professional composers who write in a wide range of musical styles.

In recent years the Guild has collaborated with the School of Cleveland-San Jose Ballet, the Poets’ and Writers’ League of Greater Cleveland, the Rocky River Chamber Music Society and with numerous renowned local chamber and solo musicians to create multidisciplinary concerts that engage with the arts in new ways.

The Guild also presents a popular annual junior concert called Creativity: Learning through Experience, during which talented students premiere works written specifically for them and professional players perform works by student composers.

Friday, April 23, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights. Adults: $25, seniors (65+): $20, students with ID: $10. Hors d’oeuvres, wine, and soft drinks: 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Concert: 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.

Eric Charnofsky, Cleveland Heights Pianist and Composer

BOOKTALK WITH REGINA BRETT

At Tommy’s Restaurant
Tuesday, April 20th at 11:30 a.m.
Benefts the LIT
Benefits the LIT

Sorrell and Babayan pack Severance Hall

Anita Kazarian

Severance Hall rang with standing ovations as Jeannette Sorrell, founder and music director of Apollo’s Fire, and pianist Sergei Babayan played the piano on March 13. The Mozart celebration concert featured a wide range of his music: the overture and ballet music from Don Giovanni, complete with baroque dancing in period dress; the “Piano Concerto No. 24,” performed by Babayan; and the “Symphony No. 35.” The concert was also performed in Akron on March 12 and in Oberlin on March 14.

Apollo’s Fire, founded in 1992, is dedicated to the performance of 17th- and 18th-century music, often on period instruments. Babayan, an artist-in-residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music since 1993, was to play the piano concerto on a 17th-century German piano, a Bluthner, from the Frederick Collection of Historic Pianos. It was moved here for the occasion, but Cleveland winter weather negatively affected the piano, so Babayan played instead on a Steinway grand.

Sorrell used the weekend concert series to announce Apollo’s Fire International Debut Tour, which will take place in November 2010. The tour will begin in New York City, travel to Spain and the Netherlands and conclude in London’s Wigmore Hall with a BBC broadcast.

The Friends of Apollo’s Fire is holding a benefit event on April 24, called Festa Primavera: An Italian Spring Celebration. The group will perform music by Vivaldi, Uccellini and Castello. Italian food and wine will follow. For details about the benefit, call 216-385-0388.

For information about Apollo’s Fire and the International Debut Tour, contact Jacqueline Taylor at 216-320-0012.

Anita Kazarian, a University Heights resident, is a frequent Observer contributor who ran for city council. She may be reached at AnitaKazarian@gmail.com.
CityMusic Cleveland plans season finales

Beverly Simmons

As the finale to this season, CityMusic Cleveland presents a series of five evening concerts beginning April 14.

Heartstrings

The Hungarian-born Gregory Vajda, currently assistant conductor of the Oregon Symphony, will make his Cleveland debut with a program that includes Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 8, Eroica,” Mozart’s “Flute Concerto No. 1,” with Heidi Ruby Kushius as soloist, and Sibelius’s “Rakastava, Op. 14.” The program, called Heartstrings, consists of works by composers who stirred hearts with their music.

CityMusic Cleveland will present this concert at 7:30 p.m., April 14, at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Fairmount Boulevard and Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights. For other dates and locations visit www.citymusiccleveland.org.

Peter and the Wolf

“Peter and the Wolf,” by Degre Prokofiev, has entertained many generations of children. It is a musical fairy tale in which each character is represented by a different instrument of the orchestra.

The concert will be performed on April 17, at 11 a.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights. Led by Damon Gupton and narrated by Steve Moretti, the concert is free, though offerings are welcome.

Pilobolus gives Heights grad a chance to dance for a hometown audience

Pam Barr

Christopher Whitney’s life on stage began at age 10 with the Heights Youth Theatre. Now he’s a member of an acclaimed dance company.

In 2008, the Cleveland Heights native won a job with wildly popular Pilobolus Dance Theater. Next month Whitney will perform for friends and his mother, Kitty McWilliams, when he takes the stage at the Palace Theatre in Playhouse Square at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, in a production copresented by DANCECleveland and Cayahoga Community College.

“I knew the company and had seen their work, so when I auditioned I understood what they were looking for in a dancer,” Whitney said. He credits his success to his experience as an intern with Bill Wade and Cleveland-based Inlet Dance Theatre, where he learned partnering and improvisation skills.

“The hallmark of Pilobolus is creativity, communication and collaboration, so I was well prepared.”

A graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, class of 2001, and Ohio University, Whitney had an early interest in gymnastics, and wrestled during high school. He enrolled at Ohio University to pursue a degree in dance performance, and then decided to “learn martial arts from the source”—China. He spent four months studying and training with Shaolin monks, learning how to move with staffs, swords and nunchucks.

To win a spot with Pilobolus, he had to best a field of 75 men in an arduous four-day audition. Now, as a member of the company, Whitney continues his wanderlust ways. “We tour seven to eight months each year,” he says. “I’m very lucky. It’s a unique opportunity to see the world. Last year we spent a month in the Netherlands. This year all of our touring is in the United States, where we will visit 26 states.”

Whitney says the travel can be rough on Pilobolus spouses but he and his wife Meredith have adjusted to it. They met while Meredith was a student at John Carroll University.

When the company is at home in Washington Depot, Conn., a few miles from where Whitney now lives, they rehearse new work. “It’s a rigorous, five-day-a-week process. All of the movement comes from improvisation. When we begin a new dance, we don’t know where we’ll wind up,” Whitney explained.

At the Palace Theatre, Pilobolus will perform five dances showcasing the full troupe of athletic dancers—“known for their intricate human pile-ups that play with illusion and reality” (Washington Post). Tickets for the one-night-only performance are available at 216-241-6000 or online at www.playhousequare.com.

Pam Barr is a principal of Barr Communications in Cleveland Heights and is a public relations consultant for DANCECleveland.
plugs so, of course, the laptops hug the wall.

All are staring, expressionless, brows furrowed. It can't be good news. But the point is, there are no clues. It is so very, very private, formidably private. What is so compelling? Biochemistry or the blankie.

Then, I note that in the inner circle of the room, three women are having a meeting. Two men are reading the newspaper—older men. Here it is—the generational divide. OK, I admit I am from that talk-touch-smile-laugh world. No blog, no Web site.

My first whiff of this new culture came years ago when a son came home and plugged in at the kitchen table like it was a gas station. He sat down and assumed that rounded position. How great it was to have him home, but was he really home or connected only to the innards of that flat little box? My kitchen table had always been for another kind of connection.

I've been fascinated by people holding their precious little cell phones cradled in their palms. They stare, they fumble, they gently touch the buttons. The phone is a kind of love object or comfort object, like the blanket. What could possibly be so absorbing? You don't really know, I found, 'til you learn to text. "I can meet—can't—an hour later?—beginning--a friend?" iPhones take it to a new level, with fingers flicking, down, down, sideways, sideways. No way to break to that.

But the laptop is something else. Put a human in front of it and it becomes an impenetrable cocoon. It occupies the hand and the eyes, and the posture comes to make a complete impermeable sphere. The screen completes the membrane. It is my friends, my intimacy, my information, my music. It gives entirely new meaning to the expression, "left to one's devices."

And I dreaded to sit there with only my eyes, my notebook and my pen. I moved on, away from the intensity of the Case Western Reserve University study-hall quiet.

My first whiff of this new culture came years ago when a son came home and plugged in at the kitchen table like it was a gas station. He sat down and assumed that rounded position. How great it was to have him home, but was he really home or connected only to the innards of that flat little box? My kitchen table had always been for another kind of connection.

Jazz, fun and worship on 'Low Sunday'

Peg Weisbrod

"It’s not fun, it’s not worth doing." So says the pastors of Forest Hill Presbyte- rian Church in Cleveland Heights.

Fun in worship is one of the catalysts behind Forest Hill Church’s alternative worship services. The next one is the New Song service, Sunday, April 6 at 11 a.m. at the church (3551 Monticello Blvd.), will be a toe-tapping, joy-filled jazz fest, showcasing sacred works written in jazz or gospel styles.

Pastor John Lentz says that the service is part of the church’s commitment to presenting "the dance of worship" in new and lively ways. Many mainline churches are trying unorthodox worship styles in an attempt to appeal to younger people. But Forest Hill, notices that many younger churchgoers appreciate traditional worship ele- ments, decided against scrapping their current style. We call our 11:00 Sunday morning service ‘formally informal,’ says Lentz. "The pastors wear robes and a choir processional starts the service, but it’s a rare Sunday when the congregation doesn’t burst into laughter or applause, or both."

Still, Forest Hill wanted to offer something different, not only to draw in people who don’t normally attend church, but to provide new ways to worship for its regular congregants. Music director and organist Anne Wilson has designed a series of Sunday evening services around different musical experiences, naming them "AWE" for "Alternative Worship Experiences."

Swing to the Lord A New Song falls on the Sunday after Easter, sometimes referred to as Low Sunday. But, Wilson promises, ‘there will be nothing low about this service." A jazz combo with well-known professional jazz musicians— trombonist Paul Ferguson and trumpeter Jack Schantz—plus the adult and high-school choirs of Forest Hill Church and the award-winning Cleveland Heights Barbershop Group will be featured.

Previous AWE services featured calypso music by the University of Akron’s steel drum quartet; Dance Afrika Dance, a Cleveland dance and drama group specializing in African arts; and global music specialist Amanda Powell.

All AWE events are free and open to the public and followed by refreshments. For more details call 216-321-2660 or visit www.fhcpresb.org.

Peg Weisbrod is a freelance writer and part- time publicity coordinator and Webmaster for Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.

Starting again at 87

Becky Rocker

On a blustery day in February, Maria Gershovanich became a United States citizen at the age of 87. The day may as well have been like any other in Cleveland in February. She arrived at the U. S. District Courthouse at 8 a.m. on Feb. 19, ready to begin a new chapter late in her life. The weather was atrocious, with a blizzard-like conditions. Her case manager at JFSA, Svetlana Nakov, drove her to the exam, and Gershovanich said she almost fell after getting out of the car.

Rocker is marketing/pr specialist for the Jewish Family Service Association.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Beyond Pesticide’s 28th National Forum, April 9-10
Growing the Community: Green economy, organic environments, and health. Speaker Sallye is the life of Beyond Pesticide’s 28th National Forum, which will take place on April 9 and 10 at Case Western Reserve University. The forum costs $225 per person, and includes access to the Cleveland Botanical Garden, two evening receptions, breakfast and lunch. Sallye will be available to answer your questions and provide resources on organic gardening and farming. For more information, contact Barry Zucker, at 216-291-3424 or br Zucker@beyondpesticides.org forum. Visit www.beyondpesticides.org/forum for more information.

Spring clean your electronics April 17
The World Food Mart will hold a freecommunity E-Cycling & Early Earth Month Celebration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, at its University Heights store, Cedar Center. Anyone may drop off used, broken and unwanted electronics. Then stop in the store for fresh foods, entertainment and activities. Any hard drives in computers will be removed, shredded, and destroyed after collection. Look for signs in the parking lot and team members to direct you to the specific outdoor drop-off location. Visit www.worldfoodmart.com/cleveland, for more information and a list of eligible items.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park spring cleanup will be April 17
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park, the playground at the former Coventry Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, was built in 1997 by the community-volun...
Cleveland Heights: How do we compare?

Fran Mentch

All are welcome to attend “Cleveland Heights: How Do We Compare to America’s Other Older, Inner-Ring Suburbs?” It’s a free presentation by Dr. Dennis Keating, at the first annual meeting of Severance Neighborhood Organization, Sunday, April 11, at 3 p.m. in the Cleveland Heights Community Center.

Dr. Keating, who holds a joint faculty appointment in the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State, is an expert in organizational change. For information, call 216-383-5356, visit www.heightsSNO.org or e-mail snol@heightsoss.org.

Fran Mentch, a civic activist and 20-year resident of Lynn Park Drive, is president of Severance Neighborhood Organization.

Spell well, and do a good deed

Joy Henderson

Twenty-five teams will compete in the 19th annual Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, in the Heights High auditorium. Admission is free.

Since 1990, this fierce but friendly competition has raised more than $240,000 for grants to teachers in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district.

Reaching Heights is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes community resources to support highly valued public schools. For more information, contact Reaching Heights at 216-932-3110 or visit www.reachingheights.org to see video from last year’s bee.

Joy Henderson is the assistant director of Reaching Heights. She takes a phonetic approach to spelling, regardless of accuracy.

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Side by Side

Kathy Dawson

Q: Although my husband and I are home in the evenings and our kids are grown and on their own, we rarely spend time together after dinner. I watch my shows on television and he works on his computer late into the night, after I’m in bed. What can we do to change this?

A: This is common for many couples. Even without technological temptations, couples sometimes have trouble synchronizing their body clocks to get to bed at the same time. Try having a heart-to-heart talk about striking a balance for the sake of quality time in your relationship. See if you can agree to do two “techno-free” nights a week—without the television, computer or Blackberry. Play cards, board game, or chat over coffee. Can you agree to go to bed at the same time on those nights? If one of you usually goes to sleep later than the other, find an hour in between to end your day together.

Kathy Dawson is a Cleveland Heights author and relationship coach. Send questions for this column to kathy@kathybcoach.com.
Walk aims to conquer childhood cancer

Kelli Fontenot

The first CureSearch walk in Cleveland, planned for May 8 at Wade Oval from 9 to 11:30 a.m., will raise awareness and funding for childhood cancer research. Cancer is the leading cause of death for children, according to CureSearch. The organization, which works with the Children’s Oncology Group and National Childhood Cancer Foundation to fund research, will play a major role in the Northeast Ohio CureSearch Walk to Conquer Childhood Cancer, according to cochair Stephen Crowley.

Crowley and his wife, Cynthia Van Lenten, are organizing the walk. Posters advertising the event feature photographs of their daughter, Olivia, who was diagnosed with Ewing’s sarcoma in 2002. She was seven years old. For the next three years, she underwent treatment, including chemotherapy in hospitals from Memphis to New York. Described by her father as a vibrant child, who loved soccer and wanted to be a comedian, Olivia died in 2005.

“She was full of life, and it made it really hard to see that something like this could happen to somebody like that,” Crowley said. “My wife and I did everything we could to try to save her. We spent a lot of energy and resources trying to find a cure for her, so we decided to put the same energy and work into trying to help other children and other families.”

With support from members of the community, Crowley and Van Lenten now dedicate their time to raising awareness, ensuring that everyone knows that the top priority is donating the dollars to fund the research that will help find a cure.

“Cure rates for childhood cancer have gone from 50 percent in the 1980s to 78 percent today. That’s amazing,” Crowley said, “but that still leaves one out of every four children.”

Stacey Brown-Walker, sponsorship chair for the walk, says she encourages local companies and individuals to donate and attend. All the proceeds of the walk will go to fund childhood cancer research.

“You can sponsor on a corporate level, you can donate individually, or you can sign up to walk. We will take sponsorships up until the day of the walk, and then after that, people can donate directly to CureSearch,” said Brown-Walker, noting that on-site registration for the event opens at 8 a.m.

Several schools, hospitals and businesses have already formed teams and donated, including the Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children’s Hospital, Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital and the Cleveland Orchestra, Crowley said.

Six members of the CUT Hair Studio team will walk and help collect donations at the event, according to Shawn Paul Gustafson, salon manager and community liaison. “We also will be working the crowd at Lopez Southwestern Food Kitchen on Thursday, April 15, and donating our tips to this cause,” he said. “I along with the great Lopez staff, will be working behind the bar.”

Gustafson said visitors to the bar can enjoy half-priced tequila drinks, signature cocktails and food, while the rest of the business’s employees will share information about CureSearch with patrons. “It’s good to see the whole community coming together to take care of such an important issue,” Gustafson said.

Organizing the walk has been a reminder of hope for Brown-Walker, whose son Caleb was diagnosed with clear-cell sarcoma of the kidney in March 2009. “He was a very, very active four-year-old boy. He went through 26 rounds of chemotherapy,” she said. “All through treatment, he played sports, like soccer and T-ball.” Caleb went into remission in September.

“We are blessed every day that he is here with us, and we’re very thankful that he’s in remission,” she said. “Once you’re diagnosed, there’s always the possibility that it will come back. But when he was going through treatment, we tried to take one thing at a time.”

Brown-Walker said the walk is helping to unite the community. “I think that it shows support for the children who are currently going through treatment, or the families that unfortunately have lost a child to cancer,” she said. “It gives them encouragement and it shows them that this is very real, and that we are working to find a cure for this.”

Attendees will meet outside the Attendees will meet outside the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for early registration. For more information, go to www.curesearchwalk.org.

Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.

Disciples Christian Church at Homeless Stand Down

For the third year, Disciples Christian Church provided a mid-day meal as part of Homeless Stand Down in downtown Cleveland. Organized by InterAct Cleveland, Homeless Stand Down provides boots, socks, mini checkups, personal care packages, manicures and massages for the needy of Greater Cleveland.

On Feb. 28, around 50 members of the church traveled to the Cleveland Convention Center to prepare lunch for 800 people. Members donated meatloaf, cookies and brownies, with additional food provided by the Cleveland Foodbank. Food was cooked and reheated. Meals were served, silverware was rolled, and brownies and cookies were bagged.

Youth from the church helped those needing assistance in getting meals to their tables.

The Rev. Kristine Eggert, senior minister at Disciples Christian Church, helped serve the meal and led a brief worship service for the volunteers. Elders of the church made certain that the Sunday service at Disciples Christian Church ran smoothly, with Elder Lauren Wicks providing the message of the morning.

For more information about Disciples Christian Church and its tradition of community service, call 216-382-5344 or visit www.discipleschristian.org.

Ron Worman is an elder of Disciples Christian Church.

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