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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Heights Arts founding director to retire

Kim Sergio Inglis

Peggy Spaeth, founding director of Heights Arts, has announced plans to retire. "It's a good time for transition—both for Heights Arts and for me personally," said Spaeth. "I feel a sense of mission accomplished."

"Heights Arts made the case that creative residents can enliven community life," Spaeth observed, "and today our community knows exactly how indispensable visual artists, musicians, writers and others are to our daily lives. As [art critic] Michael Kimmelman said, "Art is never necessary. It is merely indispensable."

Spaeth said that she plans to stay on until a new director is selected by the board—"hopefully by spring!"

Sharon Grossman, an artist and founding member of Heights Arts, commented on her time working with Spaeth. "It's hard for me to believe



Peggy Spaeth will step down as the head of Heights Arts when a new director is selected.

MICHAEL WEIL

that Peggy is stepping down from the helm, but she has a few other things she wants to achieve in this lifetime," said Grossman. "We've been in this together, from the beginning. Thirteen years of building Heights Arts—of setting and

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LFC considers six school building scenarios

Deanna Bremer Fisher

At its Jan. 29 meeting, the Lay Facilities Committee (LFC) discussed several school building scenarios and formulated a plan to survey the public.

Plan C, the scenario approved by the CH-UH Board of Education (BOE) last July, would have closed three elementary schools; moved fourth and fifth graders to the middle schools; and, through a combination of renovation and new construction, created learning communities—flexible learning spaces—in all grades.

The BOE decided against placing a bond issue on the November 2012 ballot due to insufficient public support, and created the Lay Facilities Committee to recommend a new plan.

Eric Silverman, co-chair of the buildings subcommittee, presented six possible scenarios for the LFC to consider. He began by laying out three recommendations that applied to each: keep the current grade configuration, don't go "all-in" for the learning communities concept, and reduce the number of middle schools from three to no more than two.

Patrick Mullen, LFC chair, added that a fourth recommendation could be added. "There will be an elementary school in University Heights," he said.

The subcommittee recommended maintaining the district's current grade configuration—kindergarten through fifth grade in elementary buildings, sixth through eighth grade in middle schools, and ninth through twelfth grade in a high school.

Silverman said the subcommittee considered testimony by district administrators at previous LFC meetings,

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Annual Reaching Heights Spelling Bee will honor Reggie Evans

Krista Hawthorne

Where can you find a federal judge, a Cleveland Orchestra violinist, the owner of Big Fun, and a trio of young parents known as the Comeback Kids? Only at the Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee. The 22nd annual edition of this campy yet competitive community event takes place April 17 at 7 p.m. at Cleveland Heights High School. Admission is free.

Reggie Evans will be honored with this year's Friend of Public Education Award. A longtime advocate of the

CH-UH schools, Evans has served as PTA officer, levy co-chair, and Reaching Heights Board member and president. He and his wife, Terri, are parents of two Heights High graduates.

This annual event is a community collaboration to support public education. Each three-member team pays a \$500 entrance fee and is encouraged to solicit additional support from friends, neighbors and co-workers to become



Reggie Evans

the Fundraising Champion—a title held for more than 10 years by Upper Case, a team of professors from Case Western Reserve University. Upper Case typically raises more than \$1,000 above the \$500 minimum.

There's a surprising amount of tension at the Bee. "It doesn't seem difficult when you see a word, but to hear a word and then spell it can be quite challenging," commented Nancy Dietrich, former Cleveland Heights City Council member who has spelled in all 21 bees.

The Bee raises about \$15,000 each

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Letters Policy

The Heights Observer welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to: www.heightsobserver.org/members or e-mail: info@futureheights.org

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Heights Observer newsies deliver

**OPENING THE OBSERVER**

Deanna Bremer Fisher

These days, most newspapers are cutting pages or going online entirely, but so far the *Heights Observer* is bucking the trend. Our pages are growing, not shrinking, and we are committed to our monthly print edition. You can visit our website, www.heightsobserver.org, to see more up-to-date news and sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, but many people still prefer to read the news in hard copy form.

From day one, we've been committed to the print issue because we serve all members of the community, even those who don't have easy access to a computer. For some, that may be a preference; for others, their modest means may not allow it. Whatever the reason, the print newspaper provides a physical connection to the community.

I have no idea what people might be reading on their laptops or iPhones, but I get great pleasure in seeing people pick up the print edition of the *Heights*

Observer and read it. The *Observer* is available in more than 200 locations in every neighborhood in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, and in several surrounding communities.

Hannah Baldwin, our part-time administrative assistant, coordinates delivery. She has organized the locations into 20 separate routes—the smallest of which has two stops and the largest of which has about 20. Once a month, several wonderful volunteers pull up in front of the FutureHeights office—we're located above the Cedar Lee Theatre—between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., to pick up their bundles of papers and deliver them to their designated locations. We call them "newsies," and they are a vital part of the *Observer* team.

Some complete the routes by themselves. It is great exercise and a fun way to visit favorite businesses—I know; I've done all of the routes myself at one time or another.

Others make it a social event. We have two husband-and-wife teams. Three friends take two routes together. One of the friends has Alzheimer's, and it's a wonderful way for the three of them to spend time together.

This time of year, cold tempera-

tures, heavy snow, wind and freezing rain make it more difficult for us to get the print newspaper out to all of the places you expect it to be. Many of our volunteers are retired, and winter weather poses many challenges.

If you enjoy reading the *Observer*, perhaps you might consider joining our newsies. You can help out just once, or commit to coming every month. Most of the routes take about an hour and a half to complete. The papers come in bundles of 50 or 100, depending on the page count, and we provide a list detailing how many to leave, and where to place them, at each location. If you would like to volunteer to deliver the *Observer*, call Hannah at 216-320-1423 or e-mail her at hbaldwin@futureheights.org.

We can never thank our newsies enough, but each month we show our appreciation by giving them a coupon for \$2 off any item at one of Phoenix Coffee's stores. A cup of hot coffee, tea or chocolate is just the ticket for a cold Heights winter.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

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Play it safe with artificial turf

Joan Spoerl

Would our community leaders and parents knowingly and willingly increase children's exposure to harmful toxins? Of course not—with the key words being "knowingly" and "willingly." We all want to do well by our children. That is why the Cleveland Heights City Council was the first in the country to ban the use of pesticides on public property, school grounds and playing fields. The wisdom of that measure is supported by health experts, who suggest limiting one's exposure to pesticides and other toxins.

Two years ago, artificial turf was laid down on Denison Field. Research on such fields has resulted in warnings and recommendations from public health and pediatric environmental health experts. There are concerns that the many toxic chemicals used in artificial turf's crumb rubber infill may make their way into children's bodies, the surrounding environment, soil and groundwater.

In 2010, the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) was instrumental in persuading the turf industry to eliminate lead from their products because lead is regulated by law. According to Michael Green, CEH's executive director, "Lead was only one of many concerns" related to artificial turf.

CEH's website lists 33 chemicals found in tire-based turf infill that constitute health hazards as identified by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. These include metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and aromatic solvents. Next to each chemical, the CEH notes its associated

harmful effect—cancer, genetic damage, reproductive harm, or, in most cases, some combination.

Experts at both CEH and the Children's Environmental Health Center (CEHC) at Mount Sinai Hospital have expressed concern that athletes might be inhaling, ingesting or absorbing these toxins through their skin. While athletes are at highest risk from inhaling particles stirred up by their play, experts are also concerned that they could track the particles into their homes, exposing others. Children are most vulnerable to toxins because their bodies are still developing.

Philip Landrigan, pediatrician and director of CEHC, has cited three other concerns related to artificial turf: dangerous field temperatures (exceeding 150 degrees F on warm days), staph infections (from abrasions and turf burns) and injuries such as "turf toe." He recommends that communities delay installing more of these fields "until questions about their safety have been studied more thoroughly."

I am also concerned about the harsh chemicals and pesticides used to clean the fields, the price tag for these disposable fields that last only 7–10 years before they must be replaced, and the subsequent cost of their disposal. Each field costs between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000.

Because many children are already playing on artificial turf fields, I believe that community, school and athletic program leaders should regularly publicize the concerns listed above, along with the following tips from CEHC for safer use of these fields:

- Do not use artificial turf fields on

days with temperatures in the 80s and above.

- Clean and monitor any "turf burns."
- Attempt to remove all pellets from shoes and clothes before leaving the fields.
- At home, shake out equipment and clothes in the garage or over the garbage.
- Shower and wash thoroughly after playing on the field.

For fields built before 2010 that may contain lead, the Centers for Disease Control recommends the following additional precautions:

- Clothes worn on the field should be removed and turned inside out as soon as possible after play, to avoid tracking contaminated dust elsewhere. In vehicles, sit on a large towel or blanket if it is not feasible to remove clothing. Clothes, towels and blankets should be washed separately, and shoes worn on the field should be kept outside the home.
- Do not eat on the field or turf.
- Avoid contaminating drinking containers with dust and fibers from the field. When not in use, containers should be kept closed in a bag or other covered container on the side of the field.

It is unlikely we will ever rid the world of toxins, but when it is possible to protect our children and our environment from unnecessary exposure, I believe we should do so.

Joan Spoerl is an early childhood consultant and proud resident of Cleveland Heights.

Free parking shows that CH is pro-business

To the Editor,

I wish to commend Mayor Kelley and Cleveland Heights City Council for their recent action to provide free parking in all city lots on the last weekend of each month in 2013.

This is exactly the type of vote that sends a clear message that Cleveland Heights is pro-business. It encourages those of us who are already conducting business in Cleveland Heights, and helps attract new business. Indeed, in a conversation I had yesterday with a potential new business coming to Cedar Fairmount, it demonstrates that we are a good place to do business.

Due to the large number of city parking spaces surrounding our district, this is going to be a tremendous boon to our area this year.

I encourage all Heights businesses to advertise this free parking in their windows and on their websites. Let's get the word out!

Brendan Ring
President, Nighttown
Treasurer, Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District

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Locals organize to end corporate use of individual rights

Stephen Hanley

Cleveland Heights citizens are joining others across the country in a non-partisan attempt to overturn the controversial 2010 Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*. Equating money with speech, the judicial majority ruled that limits on corporate and union campaign contributions were a denial of First Amendment rights, opening the floodgates regarding election spending.

Move To Amend (MTA) is a national movement seeking to challenge and abolish corporate constitutional rights and regulate political contributions and influence from corporations and wealthy individuals in elections and government.

Taking a grassroots approach, MTA is building support and awareness as citizens of cities and states nationwide pass measures calling on Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution.

The proposed amendment declares "only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with Constitutional rights," and "money is not equivalent to speech, and therefore, regulating political contributions and spending does not equate to limiting political speech."

The amendment would end not only corporate misuse of free speech, but other constitutional rights as well—including the misuse of the 14th Amendment's equal protection rights, a tactic used by mega-corporations against municipalities that have tried to protect local businesses.

The *Citizens United* decision was preceded by a long erosion of Constitutional rights for individuals, since corporations began to claim due process and equal protection rights in the 1870s. These 14th Amendment rights, intended for newly freed slaves, were gradually extended to corporations by the courts.

"Corporations have usurped due process and equal protection rights to the detriment of local communities," said Carla Rautenberg, Cleveland Heights MTA supporter. "Constructing big-box stores despite community opposition and public policies that favor multinational corporations over local businesses are just two examples."

This movement is a rare nonpartisan initiative, enjoying support from across the political spectrum. Recently, President Obama called for a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*, and at Oxford University, Republican Sen. John McCain called *Citizens United* the Supreme Court's "worst decision ever."

The Reid Blog quotes Tea Party.org founder Dale Robertson: "Our Founding Fathers never wanted them [corporations] . . . these behemoth organizations that never die . . . It puts the people at a tremendous disadvantage."

Hundreds of business leaders have condemned *Citizens United* and a Pew Research poll from January 2012 indicated that 72 percent believed that unregulated political spending would have a negative effect on upcoming elections.

Indeed, spending in the last elec-

tion cycle hit a record \$6 billion, giving the impression that average citizens are priced out of the process.

Last June, Cleveland Heights City Council passed a resolution calling for the reversal of *Citizens United*. However, council declined to place an initiative on the ballot explicitly confronting the issues of corporations as "legal persons" and money as speech. Members of Cleveland Heights MTA think this broader approach is critically important, and citizens should have the chance to vote on it.

Newburgh Heights, Brecksville and many other localities across the state and country have already passed similar measures at the ballot box. Members of Cleveland Heights MTA have started petitioning Heights voters to put the issue on the November 2013 ballot. However, much work remains to be done to raise awareness and collect the thousands of signatures needed.

No matter what your political persuasion, Cleveland Heights MTA invites newcomers to join the group. The next meeting will be Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Ensemble Theatre, 2843 Washington Blvd. (the former Coventry School). Anyone interested in helping can contact Sally Hanley at yrpalsal@copper.net or Carla Rautenberg at rcarla@aol.com. Read the full text of the ballot initiative at <https://movetoamend.org/cleveland-hbs-initiative-petition-wording>.

Steve Hanley lives on Rydalmount Road and is a member of Cleveland Heights Move To Amend.

Highlights from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

The year of the Anna Kareninas

On the last day of 2012, I finished reading *Anna Karenina*, which some say is Tolstoy's greatest work. Hmmm, maybe . . . It was a terrifically good read! The inspiration for reading the novel was the newest and most audacious movie adaptation of the book.

Watching the promotional trailer over and over again at the Cedar Lee before the film opened there, I had a serious approach/avoidance conflict about the film. Would my dislike for Keira Knightley overcome my deep admiration for Tom Stoppard, the screenwriter?

The tipping point in my decision to see "*Anna Karenina*," was the opening sentence in A. O. Scott's review of the movie in *The New York Times*—a play on the novel's famous opening line.

Tolstoy: "All happy families resemble one another; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

A.O. Scott: "Bad literary adaptations are all alike, but every successful literary adaptation succeeds in its own way."

—Jewel Moulthrop

Tommy Talks

Yes, that Tommy.

The owner of 40-year-old Tommy's Restaurant doesn't say "no" to very many reasonable requests. He's just that kind of guy; it seems like he'll help out with just about anything the community needs.

But I've never heard him talk about himself, until I saw this video, posted on the Friends of Coventry Village Facebook page.

—Bob Rosenbaum

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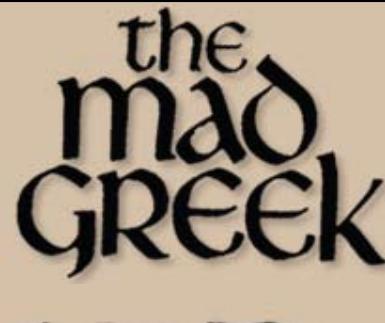
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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

December 17, 2012

All council members were present.

Employee of the year

City employees again chose John Pucella, assistant service director, as employee of the year. He is the first employee to receive this honor twice.

Public health services

Council authorized the contract with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for 2013 to provide public health services for \$51,990.

Check policy

Council approved establishing policy for returned checks.

Citizen of the year

Council recognized Katherine Kay Hawn as University Heights Citizen of the Year. She had been a member of the Purvis Pool swim team as a child and was disappointed to find that the team no longer existed when her own daughter was ready. She single-handedly revived the swim team, working diligently to encourage all children to improve their swimming skills and to enjoy the excitement of competition. Her daughter is now a coach of the swim team, and Hawn continues to serve as the youth swim team coordinator.

Joint economic development

Council authorized joining the cities of South Euclid, University Heights, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and East Cleveland in their application for funding from University Circle Inc. and the Heights Chamber of Commerce for a feasibility study on joint economic development.

The application is due by the end of March and the work is to be completed within 12 months. Councilwoman Susan Pardee expressed concern that the list of projects would not be completed within the 12 months but praised the quality of, and need for, the work.

Tax collection methods

Council approved a resolution in opposition to HB601, which would impose standardization of tax collection methods across Ohio communities. The bill is essentially an unfunded mandate from the state. Communities across Ohio are submitting their opposition to this bill.

Joint police dispatch

A resolution was presented on first reading that supports submission of a grant application by South Euclid on behalf of University Heights, Shaker Heights, Euclid and Beachwood to the State of Ohio Local Government Innovation Fund to conduct a feasibility study for joint police dispatch.

Bomb squad services

Council authorized an agreement with Cleveland Heights for Cleveland Heights to provide bomb squad services to University Heights. Cleveland Heights has a highly sophisticated bomb squad. In exchange, University Heights would agree to provide backup personnel when needed. Currently, the city uses another bomb squad service that is more widely shared, less readily available, and entails a usage fee.

Multivehicle accident

Police Chief Steven Hammett announced a major accident had occurred two days earlier at the

intersection of Warrensville Center and Cedar roads, when a city bus veered into oncoming traffic. The bus driver was the only fatality in the multivehicle accident.

Police presence at schools

In the wake of the Sandy Hook school shooting, there is a heavier police presence at all schools, and this will continue as long as they are needed. Safety drills are conducted in all schools as required by law.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

JANUARY 7, 2013

All council members were present.

Interim fire chief

Mayor Infeld swore in Brian Phan as the interim fire chief. He was previously the fire chief in Bainbridge and captain in University Heights.

Joint police dispatch

Council approved the city's joint application with South Euclid, Beachwood, Shaker Heights and Euclid for a grant from the state of Ohio for a feasibility study for a joint police dispatch. There is no cost to the city for this study.

Wire transfers

Council approved entering into a wire transfer agreement with FirstMerit Bank. Two signatures are needed to approve a wire transfer. Council also reauthorized the law director, finance director and clerk of council as signators on the account.

City budget

Budget appropriations were presented on first reading. The finance committee added \$25,000



to improve roads, and some other minor revisions totaling \$40,000. Two hundred thousand dollars was added to police and fire salaries to retain or have funds available to retirees.

Traffic control box

Council approved replacing the traffic control box, pole and traffic signals on the corner of Warrensville Center and Cedar roads due to the accident in December. The cost is approximately \$46,000, for which the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is responsible. Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg asked if the city has to front any of the money. Law Director Anthony Coyne said he would speak to RTA.

LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes951@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lww-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

LFC continued from page 1

research studies, and a survey of teachers conducted by committee member Brian Schaner.

"Almost one-third of the teaching staff responded to the survey," reported Schaner at the Jan. 9 LFC meeting, "While they agree that the transition issue is important, they don't agree that the district's proposed configuration is best or that configuration should drive the process."

Mullen reported that he had discussed the subcommittee's recommendation on grade configuration with the district administration earlier that day and said that the district prefers K-4 elementary buildings and 5-8 middle schools. Mullen noted that it was clear from the survey that there was concern about putting fourth graders with eighth graders and asked, "What would be the response of putting fifth graders with eighth graders?"

Silverman reported that separating the facilities plan from the concept of learning communities would allow more time to determine the value and validity of the concept and result in potential construction savings. "We can implement components of the concept, such as more communal work spaces, but retain hallways," he said.

Each of the six scenarios included maintaining the high school at its current location, reducing the number of middle schools from three to one or two, and maintaining four or five of the current seven elementary schools.

Steve Dzuranin of Fanning/Howey Associates, architectural consultants to the district, expressed concern about the idea of using Boulevard Elementary School as the site for a single middle school. "The building would have to be three times the size of the current Boulevard," he said. "The size would not allow for playing fields at the site." He said the same would be true if Boulevard were to be one of two middle schools.

Steve Shergalis, director of building services for the district, expressed concerns about attendance boundaries. "If you had both Noble and Oxford as elementary schools," he said, "it makes drawing boundaries almost impossible. They are too close together."

Krissy Dietrich-Gallagher, co-chair of the community subcommittee, reported that her group had considered several approaches to surveying the public, including asking about broad community values or asking respondents to evaluate specific scenarios. "We need to know whether we should immediately move forward with a broad survey or hold off until specific scenarios are developed," she said.

Mark Chupp, volunteer advisor to the community subcommittee, said that he preferred an earlier, broader survey. "The community wants to know what is happening," he said. "It is important to get feedback before there are limited options or people will question why you didn't consider other things. When you have scenarios that say which buildings

would close, that will get more people to attend community meetings and engage."

LFC committee members agreed to conduct a broad survey about preferences during February and have the

results inform their decisions about scenarios at the March 6 meeting.

Dietrich-Gallagher said that her committee would distribute the survey online and would visit, district PTAs,

continued on page 10



67th Student Independent Exhibition

Feb 15–Mar 16, 2013
Opening reception
Fri Feb 15, 6–9pm

A student sponsored and organized exhibition now in its 67th year, the SIE invites a jury of professional artists and designers to select the very best from hundreds of student submissions. Watch CIA's young rising stars mingle with serious art collectors. Come early—the art sells quickly.



Cleveland Institute of Art

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

DECEMBER 17, 2012

All council members were present.

Noble Road commercial property cleanup

Council amended a prior resolution in order to provide additional compensation relating to the city's purchase of a long-vacant commercial property at 2920 Noble Road, previously a Medic Drugstore and a Pick-N-Pay supermarket. The building, condemned in June 2012, will be demolished and the property prepared for future economic development. The Cuyahoga County Land Bank and the city have agreed that the city will reimburse the Land Bank \$1,213 for the costs of demolishing the property and providing a clean site. Mayor Kelley noted the city's commitment to improving the area north of Mayfield Road.

Nighttown expansion

Council authorized the sale of two parcels of city-owned land, at a price of \$25,000, to Nighttown Inc., to accommodate expansion of the restaurant's facilities at 12395 Cedar Road. On a previous occasion, the restaurant facility expanded through an agreement under which Nighttown leased city-owned property. Now the restaurant wishes to purchase the leased property, which is west of the building, as well as an additional parcel to the north, for additional expansion.

Parking violation penalties

Council raised the penalties by five dollars for

seven specified parking violations: parking in truck loading zones, in bus zones, during posted rush hours, blocking a drive, parking on private or public property, and parking unlawfully in meter zones.

City's 2012 and 2013 budgets

Council amended the 2012 budget to balance amounts that have increased, decreased, and/or been transferred between funds. Total funds of all types available to expend for municipal activities are \$88,344,015. Council also appropriated funds for the 2013 fiscal year. Overall city expenditures for 2013 are projected to be \$79,293,743.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

JANUARY 7, 2013

All council members were present.

Youth Advisory Commission

With one dissenting vote, council approved the establishment of a Youth Advisory Commission. This has been a priority of Council Member Jason Stein since he took office. The commission will promote understanding and awareness of government among youth, encourage their participation in government, provide advice to council on issues affecting youth, promote communication between young people and adults within the community, and work on projects that better the community. The commission will meet monthly and consist of 13 members: ten youth members (six from Cleveland Heights High School and four from

other schools or home-school environments) and three nonvoting adult members (a Cleveland Heights police officer, a member of the Recreation Advisory Board, and a Cleveland Heights High School teacher). Term of office shall be one year, from Oct. 1 through May 30. Applications will be available on the city's website, at city hall, from Jeffrey Johnston, director of student services for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, or from Council Member Stein. Council Member Bonnie Caplan voted against the ordinance because she didn't see the impetus coming from the city's youth. She also noted fiscal challenges and demands on city staff, the police department and school administrators. She said she hopes to be proven wrong, however, and that the commission will be a success. Council Members Dennis Wilcox and Janine Boyd, along with Mayor Edward Kelley, expressed their support.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Council reappointed 17 residents to the Citizens Advisory Committee: Jeffrey Bendix, Vetella Camper, Douglas Dykes, Jonathan Goldman, Chris Henry, Ben Hoen, Allison McCallum, Marian Morton, Donalene Poduska, Becky Price, Amanda Shaffer, Keba Sylla, Rob Taylor, Steve Titchenal, Diana Wellman, Parker Zabell and Kevin Ziegler. Council also appointed five new members: Carol Gibson, Jessica Cohen, Kahil Seren, George Witherspoon and Melissa Bilancini.

Police Unity Tour

Council Member Mary Dunbar noted the fundrais-



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ing efforts of Cleveland Heights Police Officer Larry Rieck, who will be riding a bicycle on the four-day, 320-mile 2013 Police Unity Tour (www.policeunitytour.com) from New Jersey to Washington, D.C., starting on May 9. Rieck is riding to honor his fellow Cleveland Heights Police Officer and friend, Tom Patton II, who was killed March 13, 2010 while attempting to arrest a fleeing criminal.

Sharing bomb squad services

Council authorized a memorandum of understanding with the City of University Heights for sharing police personnel and equipment for bomb squad services. When needed, Cleveland Heights will make its bomb squad technicians and equipment for explosives handling and disposal available to University Heights. In turn, University Heights police will provide Cleveland Heights with manpower to help respond to bomb threats or incidents. Cleveland Heights has a similar memorandum with Shaker Heights.

Nuisance properties

Council declared two properties to be a public nuisance and authorized abatement: 1638 Glenmont Road and 936 Helmsdale Road.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 5.

Cain Park dog-walking pilot project set to begin pending city council approval

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Dog Project Committee of the Cain Park Neighborhood Association is set to begin a one-year, leashed-dog pilot program in Cain Park in April, pending approval by Cleveland Heights City Council.

The committee formed to work toward the Cain Park Neighborhood Association's goals of helping to keep Cain Park safe and encourage more neighborhood activities in the park. Members hope lifting the dog ban will bring more foot traffic to the park. The group's multifaceted approach also includes efforts addressing abandoned and foreclosed properties bordering the park, and organizing family activities, such as picnicking, kite flying and sledding.

"Dog owners think of their pets as part of their family," said Hannah Baldwin, Dog Project Committee member. "Dog walking will increase activity in the park on a daily basis. It will put more eyes on the street and make the park safer for everyone."

"We've met with city staff, and council is due to vote on it in February," she said.

Baldwin said the committee seeks to educate dog owners about their responsibilities to ensure that they respect the rights of those who don't own dogs or are afraid of them. "Dogs must be leashed," said Baldwin, "They won't be allowed by children's play areas, and they must be picked-up after. These are the same courtesies that you observe when walking your dog on city streets, and we want to make sure that residents understand that it is essential to follow these rules, for everyone's safety."

The committee conducted a survey of Cleveland Heights residents in 2012 and met with city officials to discuss their findings and formulate plans for a pilot project. The pilot project would require new legislation to amend laws passed in the 1970s prohibiting dog walking in all Cleveland Heights parks.

The committee plans to place four stations within the park to hold biode-

gradable dog waste bags and to post signs reminding dog owners of their responsibilities. The committee is seeking volunteers to help replenish the bags and to assist in maintaining the project's website. For more information, contact the project's

volunteer coordinator at chdogproject@gmail.com or 440-478-6226.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

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Free parking weekends in Cleveland Heights continue in 2013

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights will extend the free-parking weekends it offered last year through 2013. On the last full weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) of each month, parking will be free wherever there is a meter: on the street, in city parking lots and in city parking garages.

The February free-parking weekend will be Feb. 22, 23 and 24.

Mayor Ed Kelley said that Cleveland Heights City Council made the decision in mid-January, after hearing from a number of merchants, and from people who live in other cities who had visited the Heights during last year's free weekends.

"The response to our free parking weekends has been very positive," said Kelley. "Business owners and residents have been very supportive of this idea. It reinforces the city's commitment to our commercial districts and also has been an incentive to bringing more people to our excellent restaurants and one-of-a-kind stores throughout the city."

Kelley said that the last weekend of the month is generally slower for merchants than other times. He said that,



although the three-day free-parking weekends cost the city an average of \$1,600 in meter revenues per day, it frees police officers from writing tickets and gives the officers an opportunity to attend to other duties. "We know we are competing with free parking elsewhere. This gets people to come to the city, and maybe they return to rent or buy a house," said Kelley.

Signs will be posted on the city's parking garages the last week of the month to remind visitors and residents they may park at no charge the last weekend of the month.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

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UST assists refugees here in the Heights



A group of Nepali refugees at the UST office, after an English class. [Photo by Bhupati Pradhan, a Nepali-speaking case manager for US Together.]

Kayleen Herron

US Together Inc. (UST) is a nonprofit refugee resettlement agency with a branch in Cleveland Heights. An affiliate of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), UST resettles refugees from all over the world—irrespective of religion or ethnicity—who are forced to seek refuge in another country. All resettlement cases are referred by HIAS.

UST was founded in 2003 in Columbus, where it is headquartered, in response to the needs of refugees and immigrants in central Ohio. In 2008, UST opened an office in Beachwood, and in 2010 moved to an office in Cleveland Heights, at 2940 Noble Road.

"The majority of UST's clients were being placed in this area," said Helen Tarkhanova, refugee resettlement coordinator for UST. "The organization wanted to move its office closer to the refugee population in order to serve it better. Cleveland Heights was one of the neighborhoods that presented the best opportunities for our clients." The Cleveland Heights office resettles refugees from the former Soviet Union, Bhutan and Iraq, among other countries.

"As a mutual assistance agency," explained Tarkhanova, "the organization was founded and is run by refugees. UST understands that refugees coming to this country are facing numerous challenges, including learning a new language, navigating a new culture and finding employment. The organization gives hands-on experience to incoming refugees from

the day they arrive in the United States, and teaches them how to acculturate best to their new environment."

UST's services to refugee families include pre-arrival processing and reception planning; housing set up; airport pick up; case management; development and implementation of a resettlement plan; orientation; employment assessment; referrals to social services and community resources; advocacy; coordination of community volunteers; acculturation classes and workshops; and basic needs support.

The organization is currently working on a public education curriculum, noted Tarkhanova, and would like to improve awareness of the presence of refugees in the Heights. After meeting recently with Cleveland Heights Council Member Jason Stein, said Tarkhanova, UST is excited to partner more closely with the City of Cleveland Heights and work to make the city a more welcoming destination for newly arrived refugees. "We accept new cases daily, make transitions as smooth as possible, and encourage self-sufficiency," said Tarkhanova. "UST works with the hope that all refugees will flourish and succeed in their new lives."

Contact UST at 216-456-9630, or visit www.usttogether.us.

Kayleen Herron is UST's resettlement support and research specialist, and volunteer coordinator. She is working to shed more light on the topic of refugees living here in the Cleveland area.

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STEIN'S WAY

Jason Stein

Our youth are our city's most precious resource. I believe they can add value and substance to the public discourse if they have an opportunity to speak, and if we make it a priority to really listen. I want our youth to have a direct connection to our city government. With this in mind, I have made the creation of a Youth Advisory Commission a focus since I began serving on city council.

Back in the fall of 2011, Mayor Kelley and I met at Tommy's restaurant to discuss what my priorities were for the upcoming year. I proposed the concept of a Youth Advisory Commission based on a number of successful programs, such as those in Milpitas, Calif. and Pinellas County, Fla. To my pleasant surprise, Mayor Kelley told me he also had the creation of a youth commission on his priority list.

Following that meeting, Cleve-

land Heights City Council had good, thoughtful discussions on the structure, purpose and goals of a youth commission. I discussed my ideas with Doug Heuer, Cleveland Heights-University Heights school superintendent, and Jeffrey Johnston, the director of student services, and received their enthusiastic support for this Youth Advisory Commission concept.

After the appointment of Council Member Janine Boyd last year, with her pro-youth agenda, energy and extensive background with youth issues, we were finally prepared to move forward with making this commission a reality. On Jan. 7, Cleveland Heights City Council voted 6-1 in favor of the establishment of the Cleveland Heights Youth Advisory Commission.

The commission will work to promote understanding and awareness of government among youth, encourage participation in government by youth, provide advice to council on issues affecting youth, promote communication between young people and adults within the community and work on projects that better the community.

The commission's membership will

include ten youths and three nonvoting adults. The three nonvoting adults will be a Heights High teacher, a Cleveland Heights police officer and a Recreation Advisory Board member.

Candidates should submit a 250-word essay telling council why they are interested in serving as a Cleveland Heights Youth Commissioner. Each candidate must provide three school or community (nonfamily) references. If you know of a student in ninth, tenth or eleventh grade who you feel would make a good Cleveland Heights Youth Commissioner, please encourage him or her to complete an application.

The applications are available on our city website and at City Hall. Applications can also be obtained by contacting Jeffrey Johnston, or by contacting me on Facebook or via e-mail at jstein@clvhts.com. The application must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Feb. 8.

Jason Stein is a member of Cleveland Heights City Council, a Heights High graduate and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. He can be reached at 440-253-9613 or jstein@clvhts.com.

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Berkeley residents spread cheer



Neither freezing temperatures, nor snow and ice deterred Berkeley residents from spreading a little joy, peace and love in their community. On Dec. 22, more than a dozen Berkeley residents went caroling from South Taylor Road to Euclid Heights Boulevard. This was the first caroling event since the neighbors began meeting in 2006. The carolers sang traditional Christmas songs as they strolled along Berkeley Road. People came to their doors or stood on their porches to listen. Later, everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and warm apple cider.

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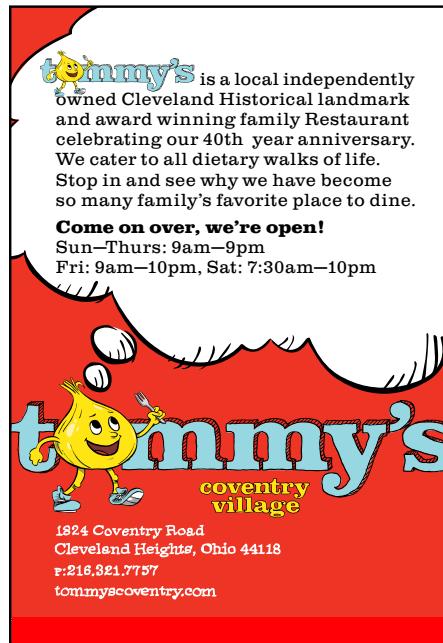
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SPAETH continued from page 1

collaborations . . . It's exhausting just to think of all we have done together!"

Founded in 2001, Heights Arts has grown into a regional arts organization serving Greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Following a successful gallery expansion in 2011, Heights Arts continues to deliver programs in visual art, public art and design, concerts, and writing.

The Heights Arts gallery, in the Cedar Lee business district of Cleveland Heights, promotes the work of local artists through its year-round display of fine and functional art, and mounts six special exhibitions per year.

Though Spaeth's retirement date has not yet been set, praise for her work in the community, and for the vision she brought to Heights Arts, is already pouring in. Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley said, "Her commitment to our community and to the arts in every form, from murals to streetscapes to signage, has made a lasting impact. A major reason why Cleveland Heights is known as Home to the Arts is because of the work of Peggy Spaeth."

"To see the impact of the organization, one needs only to visit the gallery to see the space filled with the work of artists living right here in our community," said Joel Borwick of Seitz-Agin Hardware—a Lee Road mainstay until its 2011 closing. "Heights Arts draws so many artists out of the woodwork, and provides an invaluable and relatively scarce platform for their work to have an audience."

For more information about Heights Arts, and to learn more about the executive director position, visit www.heightsarts.org.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. Sharon Grossman and Andrea Joki of Heights Arts contributed to this article.

COZZENS continued from page 1

that time frame, the mayor shall make the appointment.

On Jan. 24, the City of University Heights announced that it was accepting resumes from residents interested in applying for the vacant seat, and asked that applicants submit their resumes to Kelly M. Thomas, UH clerk of council, by no later than 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 1. Contact Thomas at 216-932-7800, ext. 223 or kthomas@universityheights.com.

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Panel to speak on neighborhood organizing

Kevin Smith

FutureHeights will host "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" a program about neighborhood organizing, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, at The Bottleshouse Brewing Company, 2050 Lee Road. The event will feature panelists Pete Titas of Cain Park Neighborhood Association; Sarah Wean of the Grant Deming's Forest Hill Historic District in Coventry Village; Jason Stein, member of Cleveland Heights City Council; and Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. The panelists will discuss their experiences with neighborhood organizing and, how others can start their own neighborhood groups. The event is free and open to the public; however, a courtesy RSVP to www.bemyneighbor.eventbrite.com is requested.

"The event brings together leaders of Heights groups who have been successful in engaging their neighbors in initiatives to improve their quality of life," said Deanna Bremer Fisher. "Our hope is to create an alliance of these

neighborhood groups that could meet periodically to share best practices and learn from each other's successes."

Below, panelists answer the question how has neighborhood organizing affected your neighborhood?

"In the Cain Park neighborhood, organizing has helped give our neighborhood an identity and has helped foster a new sense of community. It has increased communication with our neighbors and with the city, as well. Organizing has also turned the streets surrounding Cain Park into a neighborhood with great events like block parties, picnics and park cleanups. But mainly, it has helped us realize that there are a ton of great people in our neighborhood and at city hall who all share the common goal of making our neighborhood a better place to live." -Pete Titas, Cain Park Neighborhood Association

"Recent resident initiatives have had a huge impact on the Grant Deming's Forest Hill District of Coventry Village. From listing the neighborhood in the National Register of Historic Places—courtesy of Lincoln Boulevard resident Mark Souther—to the creation

of a neighborhood networking website with a membership of 350 and growing, Grant Deming District neighbors are stepping up to help maintain and build a more connected and engaged neighborhood." -Sarah Wean, Grant Deming's Forest Hill Historic District of Coventry Village

"Throughout the city, groups of residents are making a positive impact. The groups that have success share a similar proactive and collaborative spirit. It is about, how we can make our little area of the city better and more appealing. It does not take a lot of money or government intervention to make a difference, but it does take a principled commitment of working together to create positive outcomes. Groups like the Berkeley Street Association, Blanche Neighbors and Cain Park Neighborhood Association are contributing to the rejuvenation of the Taylor Road area." -Jason Stein, Cleveland Heights City Council

Kevin Smith is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and chair of the FutureHeights FutureNow Committee.

SPELLING BEE continued from page 1

year for programs that support academic and musical excellence in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools, such as tutoring programs and music scholarships. "Twenty-five teams can fit on the auditorium stage, so we hope to fill it to capacity," explained Saroya Queen-Tabor, chair of the Spelling Bee Committee this year, and president of the Reaching Heights Board of Directors.

The Cleveland Orchestra boasts the Bee's most successful team. OPSALA, short for Orchestral Orthographers Publicly Support Annoyingly Lengthy Acronyms, was co-champion in both 2010 and 2012, and solo champion in 2006 and 2007. Each year's winning team gets its name engraved on the coveted Big Plastic Bee Trophy.

This year, Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, will again serve as the Bee's chief judge, working with Doug Heuer, CH-UH City School District superintendent, and Tony Zupancic, a professor at Notre Dame College. Word pronouncer Nancy Levin, CH-UH Public Library director, will be back, as will Steve Titchenal, who projects the words for the audience to see, and Big Fun impresario Steve Presser, the event's master of ceremonies.

For more information, contact Krista Hawthorne at krista@reachingheights.org or 216-932-5110.

Krista Hawthorne is assistant director of Reaching Heights.

Advertise in the Observer

Introduction to Zen Buddhism at Feb. 9 workshop

Heights Observer Editor

Learn about Zen Buddhism at an introductory workshop on Saturday, Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program will feature a lecture about Zen practice and how it differs from other forms of Buddhism, a demonstration and guided

meditations. A discussion of how to integrate practice with daily life will follow.

The workshop will be led by Susan Rakow, leader of the Cleveland Zazen Group. Rakow was a student of Roshi Philip Kapleau and is a senior student of Roshi Bodhin Kjolhede, Kapleau's dharma

heir. Rakow is a member of the Three Jewels Order, an organization devoted to serving the community and sharing the teaching and practice of Zen Buddhism.

The workshop will be held at 1813 Wilton Road. The cost is \$10 per person, and advance registration is required. For more information, visit www.clevelandzen.org or contact Rakow at 216-932-3084 or susanrakow@earthlink.net.

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Cleveland Heights' first Holistic Fair will be similar to this one held in Rocky River.

Local resident organizes area's first Holistic Health Fair for Feb. 23 and 24

Bob Rosenbaum

The first Holistic Fair to be hosted in Cleveland Heights will be held Feb. 23 and 24 at The Unity Center of the Heights, 2653 South Taylor Road. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 2 to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Visitors will have the chance to experience products and services from vendors offering aromatherapy, alternative healing products, raw food, yoga, Reiki, natural pet care, organic clothing, crystals and jewelry.

Expert speakers will cover topics such as pain management, nutrition and alternative medicine. There will also be psychic mediums providing personal readings, and healthy foods available for purchase. All ages are welcome. Admission is \$5 per day and includes entrance to all of the speaker sessions.

The event is produced by Cleveland Heights native and resident Judith Eugene, owner of Loving Hands Yoga and

Reiki. Eugene founded the business to help other people, and animals, achieve health and balance of mind, body and spirit, and based her approach on her experience with the positive effects of yoga and therapeutic touch on her own health.

"This fair will be a great opportunity for members of our community to explore longstanding approaches and traditions to health that can benefit them," she said. It emphasizes information, services and products that are integrative, peaceful and nontoxic.

Eugene is producing the event in partnership with Harmonic Journeys, a like-minded small business in Lakewood.

For more information visit www.LovingHandsYoga.com or call Judith Eugene at 216-408-5578.

Bob Rosenbaum is a Cleveland Heights resident, a longtime Observer contributor and its director of advertising and market development.

The singing Barbershoppers



The Heights High Barbershoppers competed in the International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival Jan. 10-13. The youngest vocalists there, the group received an "excellent" rating, and placed fourth in a field of 19 groups, many of which have been singing barbershop-style music for longer than the boys have been alive. Kari Sharpe, assistant vocal music director, said, "One of the highlights of the trip was the boys' performance of 'The Prayer for the Children.' Many of the adults in the audience had tears running down their cheeks." Craig McGaughey (right), vocal music director, directs the group.

LFC continued from page 5

as well as private and parochial schools, religious institutions, libraries and other venues.

"We will hit as many as we realistically can in person," she said.

The next LFC meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Roxboro Elementary School. On the agenda will be a report by the sustainability working group and further discussion of the building scenarios.

"At the March 6 meeting at Canter-

bury," said Mullen, "we will identify no more than three scenarios to be costed out by district consultants."

For more information about the Lay Facilities Committee, visit www.chuhfacilities.org or join the discussion at <http://theciviccommons.com/conversations/ch-ub-school-facilities>.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

"Has technology made God and spirituality obsolete?"

Explore the meaning of identity in the context of advances in technology.

Discover how prayer and your relationship with God plays an important role in your happiness and well-being.

The talk will be given by
Mary Alice Rose, CSB

Rose's interest in science and technology led to a 20-year career in different areas of applied physical science. Her work ranged from a meteorologist for the National Severe Storms Laboratory to a manager developing the ground system for the Hubble Space Telescope. As interesting as her career was, Rose found that she wanted more time to focus on her most rewarding scientific endeavor: exploring her relationship with God. So, in 2002, she made the transition from manager, engineer, and earth scientist to the full-time ministry as a Christian Science practitioner. She is now an authorized teacher of this Science and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Rose travels from her home in Brookeville, Maryland.

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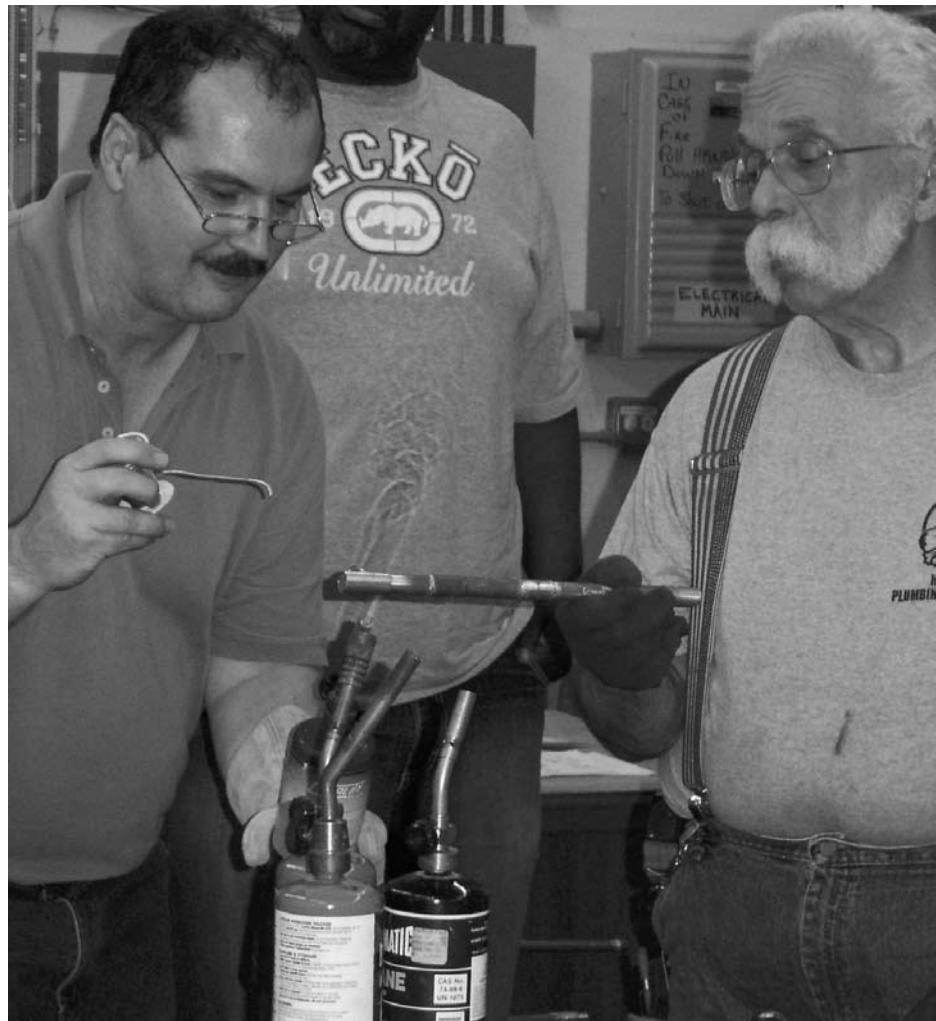
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Spencer Jaffe (right) of Herb's Plumbing teaches Bruce Menapace to solder copper pipe.

Rebecca Stager

Do you have a ghost that mysteriously flushes your toilet in the middle of the night? Does the sound of your dripping faucet annoy you and increase your water and sewer bills? Does your bathtub drain slowly or not at all? Do you want to use new plastic water lines but don't know how to install them?

Homeowners can learn to tackle these common plumbing problems and more by attending the upcoming workshops offered by the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRCC).

Class size is limited so that attendees can practice using the tools, materials and techniques required for each repair and receive hands-on instruction from experienced plumbers.

The first class, Toilet Repair and Replacement, will be held on Feb. 25,

followed by Faucet Repair and Replacement on March 4. Drains and Traps is scheduled for March 11 and Copper and Plastic Water Lines will be covered on March 18.

Class fees are \$10 for Cleveland Heights residents and \$15 for nonresidents, with reduced rates for low-income Cleveland Heights homeowners.

For additional information about HRRCC's repair workshops, visit www.hrrcc-ch.org.

Reservations are required and classes fill up quickly. To reserve a space, contact Becky Stager at 216-381-6100, ext. 16, or at rstager@hrrcc-ch.org.

Becky Stager has been HRRCC's education coordinator since 1989. Visit Home Repair Resource Center's website at www.hrrcc-ch.org or call 381-6100 for more information on programs and services.

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Holistic Moms Network launching chapter on Cleveland's East Side

Patti Carlyle

The progressive underground of moms on Cleveland's East Side is well established, and the Heights may well be the mothership.

In the past, it was surprisingly difficult to gain entry to the green, holistic underground. Lately, the signs have been clearer, with cloth diapers flapping on now-legal clotheslines, workshops on edible lawns, and CSA delivery in every parking lot. Green is about to get even more mainstream.

Holistic Moms Network (HMN) is launching a new chapter on the East Side of Cleveland and will hold a kick-off event at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights on Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to noon.

HMN is a growing national nonprofit organization with more than 100 chapters, connecting parents who are passionate about holistic health and green living.

"Through monthly meetings our local chapters bring parents together in a nonjudgmental environment that honors their lifestyle and parenting choices," said Nancy Massotto, the group's executive director. "For parents who choose to raise their children holistically, having the support of like-minded parents is critical."

This year marks the organization's 10-year anniversary. A new HMN chapter launched on Cleveland's West Side in late 2012.

HMN's mission is threefold: support, education and community. There



is no requisite level of crunchiness to become a member, no secret password to the underground. HMN is for everyone with an interest in mindful parenting and sustainable living.

Members play a critical role in shaping the character of each chapter. Activities may include nature walks, book clubs and playgroups. Moms- and dads-to-be, new parents, parents of older children, grandparents, single parents and same-sex parent families are all welcome. Diverse perspectives lead to richer member experiences.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at 2747 Fairmount Blvd., has offered space for monthly meetings. The missions of both St. Paul's and HMN align with an emphasis on green initiatives and supporting young families.

Meetings will be held on the third Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon, and will often feature an educational speaker.

Visit www.clevelandeast.holisticmoms.org, the group's page on Facebook or e-mail hmclevelandeast@gmail.com for more information.

Patti Carlyle is an alternative health educator and writer with a homeopathic practice in the Heights. She co-leads the Holistic Moms Network Cleveland East Side chapter and lives in University Heights. Find her at www.heightsfamilyhealth.com, on Facebook and Twitter.



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CH-UH Public Library

Meeting highlights

DECEMBER 17, 2012

Vending device for iPads

The board approved a technology fund request to purchase a vending device for iPads. The equipment, a MediaSurfer kiosk, will be installed in the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC). With a library card and a credit card, patrons will be able to check out an iPad for use in the Center.

New appointments

The board approved the appointment of Mary E. Looby as a full-time youth services librarian at Noble Neighborhood Library and the appointment of Matt A. Mancini as a full-time information technology technician.

Board tribute to Esther Moss

A resolution honoring Esther Moss, retiring board president, highlighted her two terms on the board, her contribution to passing the \$9.5 million bond issue in 2000 and the operating levy in 2008, her understanding of the value of an independent public library system, her support of early literacy, and her suggestion of programs leading to collaboration with the Cleveland Foodbank Summer Lunch programs.

New trustee

Cleveland Heights resident Jeffrey Eumer, a chemist at Ursuline College, will begin his library board term with the January meeting.

Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center, currently located at Cleveland Heights City Hall, will move to HKIC in 2013. It will be staffed by a director and two Cleveland State University graduate students.

Friends of the Library

Louisa Oliver, new Friends president, introduced herself to the board and outlined upcoming activities. The first Friday sale in January will feature fiction, February will feature audiovisuals, and March will feature four-dollars-per-bag books. The main book sale will be in May. In February the Friends board will meet with the Foundation for the Heights Libraries board.

Matchmakers program

Constance Dickerson, Noble Neighborhood librarian, talked about the resurrection of the Readers Advisory Team (RAT) as Matchmakers. Joanne Vicarel, former Noble Neighborhood librarian, began RAT in 1993 and a year's hiatus followed her retirement. The aim of Matchmakers is to link readers to the books, and audio or visual works that they want. The Matchmakers' page on the library's website links to the librarians' blogs and their Pinterest pages.

November Public Service Report highlights:

- About 50 people attended the last meeting of the fall Cedar-Coventry Author Series, which featured a talk by Debra Chwast and her son,



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Seth, based on their book, *An Unexpected Life: A Mother and Son's Story of Love, Determination, Autism, and Art*.

- Noble Neighborhood Library's Magic Tree House Party featured games and crafts for fans of the popular series.
- On Election Day, the University Heights Library served as the polling location for two South Euclid and one University Heights precincts. The door count for the day was more than 4,000—about five times greater than a typical weekday.
- Youth services librarians met with Jim Metzner, host of the NPR program "Pulse of the Planet," in hopes of partnering on a grant to be the sole partner library in the Kids Science Challenge Local Competition. Young children and families in the library district would have the opportunity to try to answer scientific questions and win an award and prize.
- Librarian Henry Drak staffed an information table at Roxboro's Celebration of Reading event.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 5.

What's going on at your library?

Tax Day is looming. Don't panic—Heights Libraries is offering help. Throughout February, AARP volunteers will be available to help you prepare your 2012 taxes at two Heights Library branches. Appointments are required. See below for details.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.
Ukulele Jam! Bring your ukulele for an evening of strumming, singing and an altogether good time. All ability levels are welcome. Music will be provided.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 6 p.m.
Free Tax Help from AARP. Call 216-932-3600 to make an appointment (required).

Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.

Quarterly Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Discussion: Stranger in a Strange Land. Winner of the Hugo Award in 1962, the book was first published 60,000 words shorter than author Robert Heinlein's original manuscript. We'll explore the life and times of Valentine Michael Smith, the man from Mars, in the 1991 restored version, touching on themes of religious belief, sexuality, and government.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Mondays, Feb. 11–25, 7 p.m.
Piece-It-Together Jewelry Design Workshop. This three-week series will help you focus your inspiration, work on creating designs and putting together unique mixed-media jewelry. Bring your imagination and a notebook to the first week and come prepared to be inspired. Stop in and see what we're up to.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Thursdays, 12:30 to 6 p.m.
Free Tax Help from AARP. Call 216-932-3600 to make an appointment (required).

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

Rockets Rock! Kids in grades K–5, come and hear an outer space story or two; then create and launch different types of rockets using every-day materials found at home. Registration begins Feb. 5.

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Staff and customer creations enliven Heights Libraries

Sheryl Banks

The next time you visit the Noble Neighborhood Library, head downstairs to the children's area to see the long-awaited, crowning jewel of the library's renovation: a warm, inviting canopy of leaves on the whimsical tree that serves as the centerpiece of the area. Victor Cimperman, Heights Libraries' graphic designer, designed and installed the canopy, which was sewn by Carmen's Drapery, a Cleveland Heights business.

"One of Victor's many skills is his ability to create incredible three-dimensional pieces," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "His sets for our Hobbit Quest program in December included a hobbit house, a mill and Smaug the Dragon's head."

Cimperman, however, is quick to point out that he isn't the only staff member with creative skills. "So many of the librarians are incredibly talented," he said. Cimperman cites Henry Drak, youth services librarian, as an example. Drak created Smaug's body from scratch, including its enormous wings. Drak also created a "dream cloud" using chicken wire and coffee filters. It floats near the children's magazines in the Lee Road Library.

The children's areas in the four branches also benefit from the creative work of young patrons, whose artwork often adorns the walls and display cases. Programs such as Cozy Crafts, Creat(eens) and Saturday Craft Corner give kids opportunities for creative expression.

The adult areas also benefit from



COURTESY HEIGHTS LIBRARIES
Victor Cimperman, Heights Libraries graphic designer, puts the finishing touches on the tree canopy in the children's area of the Noble Neighborhood Library.

the creative touch of the staff and library users. Maggie Rose, adult services librarian, has been creating simple, humorous displays that attract curious patrons. The Computer Gallery at the Lee Road Library gives residents a venue where they can display their original artwork at no charge, and the annual Heights Library Photo Contest submissions and winners receive prominent display at the library's branches and on the website.

"The art, displays and sculptural elements in our buildings create a vivid,

fun atmosphere that sends the message that our libraries are living, vital, energetic places full of creative materials and opportunities," said Levin. "What could be more conducive to our mission of 'Opening Doors, Opening Minds'?"

When you stop by a Heights Libraries branch, take a moment to walk around and enjoy the creative efforts of the staff and your neighbors.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Friends of Heights Libraries to host African American Read-In

Sarah Lammarino

The Friends of Heights Libraries will host an African American Read-In at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10 at the Lee Road Library, 3456 Lee Road.

The public is invited to share a five-minute reading by an African-American author, or be part of the audience. Students and adults are welcome.

The African American Read-In is sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. The goal is to make the celebration of the African-American literary legacy a traditional part of Black History Month.

"This will be the third time that our library is hosting," said Joni London, Friends board member. Interested readers should contact London at 216-321-7695. For suggested reading lists, visit www.ncte.org/action/aari.

Refreshments will be served and a tour of the library will follow.

Friends of Heights Libraries is a group of enthusiastic library supporters united by a common interest in the continued well-being of our libraries. The group promotes interest in, and appreciation and use of, the four branches of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Sarah Lammarino is a member of the Friends of the Heights Libraries Board of Directors.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

DECEMBER 18, 2012

All board members were present.

Moment of silence

Karen Jones, board president, asked for a minute of silence for the students and teachers in Sandy Hook, Conn.

Sports teams recognized

The board recognized the successful seasons of the boys soccer team, the girls soccer team, and the boys cross country team. Sean Sullivan, boys' soccer coach, received the 2012 Ron Pinenchham Award as coach of the year from the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.

Senior activities package

The father of a senior student questioned the new policy concerning options for selecting and paying for senior activities. Previously, seniors were able to select and pay for activities, such as the yearbook and after-prom, as individual activities, but now activities are available only as a package.

Field trips

The board approved five field trips:

- Cleveland Heights High School Barbershoppers trip to the International Barbershop Competition 2013, Orlando, Fla., Jan. 10-14
- Roxboro Middle School 7th grade trip to the



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Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in Peninsula, March 13-15

- Wiley Middle School Challenge Choir trip to the Music Festival, Jackson, N.J., May 15-18
- Wiley Middle School 6th grade trip to Camp Nuhop, Ashland, Ohio May 28-31
- Middle School 7th & 8th grade trip to Puerto Rico, May 17-20, 2014

Courses for 2013-14

New and modified high school courses for 2013-14 were approved. Some were in response to the new state requirement of four years of mathematics.

Transportation

The new transportation policy was approved

iPad policy

The updated iPad policy allows time before and after school for students to use their iPads, as they cannot be taken home.

New audio equipment

The board approved a contract for the new audio equipment for the high school auditorium.

Auto collision equipment

The board authorized the sale of no-longer-used

equipment from the auto collision program.

Safety and security

Jeffrey Johnston, director of student services, reported that the district was reviewing its safety and security procedures. A safe school phone number is on the website.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

JANUARY 8, 2012

All board members were present.

Organizational meeting

Ron Register was elected president, and Nancy Peppler was elected vice president. Board meetings will continue to be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month, and all Cleveland Heights-University Heights school board members were recognized at the meeting for their dedication to the continuing success of the district's schools and students.

Field trips

The following field trips were approved:

- Gearity Elementary School, Camp for All Kids Program trip, Chicago, Ill., Jan. 20-21
- Cleveland Heights High School, spring tour for the A capella Choir and Singers, New York City, March 15-20

- Cleveland Heights High School Symphony Symphonic Winds, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Md., March 23-28

Dick Mann, track and cross country coach

The board adopted a resolution to recognize former longtime Cleveland Heights High School track and cross-country coach, Dick Mann [who died recently].

Race to the Top

The state has purchased software for instructional improvement, and several school districts are testing it this year. The CH-UH district has been using the Data Director software for several years. The district can change to the state software after it has evaluated findings from the current testing by other districts.

Board committee assignments

Ron Register announced that board member committee assignments would not change for 2013, except that Nancy Peppler will replace Karen Jones on the Lay Facilities Committee.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 5.

Parent involvement starts with trust



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

One of the lessons of my career as a community activist is that when people trust each other they can accomplish amazing things. Because of this, it is a wise use of organizational resources to invest in building trust with the people who need to be on your team.

This is especially true in education. If we want our schools to succeed, we need to create trusting relationships among parents, educators and children. This cannot be mandated, but makes a profound difference!

Instead of harping on the need for parent involvement we should focus on something more basic: trust. With trust comes a respectful environment where everyone feels responsible and empowered to contribute. Without trust, the power of collaboration is diminished. Much less is accomplished.

Trust does not come easily. We are all vulnerable. And in the field of education, the stakes are high and the temptation to blame others strong. The

situation is ripe for mistrust.

Parents turn over their precious children to strangers. Will the powerful teacher like their children? Treat them fairly? Understand the ways they are unique? Honor and support them fully? Abandon stereotypes and have high expectations? Class and racial differences can heighten the potential for misunderstanding. If a parent had a bad school experience as a child, it can also throw cold water on the dynamic, and parents aren't always skilled at navigating a bureaucracy, especially one that has such power over their lives.

Teachers worry too. Will parents value their work and see how demanding it is? Will they appreciate the teacher's commitment and effort? Will they honor them as professionals? What kind of stereotypes will the parent bring to the situation that will skew how they experience the teacher? Is it possible to talk openly about problems? What happens when teachers and parents have different values and ways of working with their children? Teachers may not be skilled at negotiating the power differences and vulnerability of parents. The current public discourse that disrespects teachers makes them even more wary of parents and outsider appreciation for their efforts.

The significance of trust was brought

home to me in a grocery store conversation with an upset mom who I've known since she was a student. She had recently moved out of our neighborhood, and, after a very positive experience raising her first child in the trusting world of her alma mater, she was in the uncomfortable position of getting to know her second child's new school. She wanted to feel confident that her daughter would be treated well, and her own interest welcomed. But that comfort did not exist. She was distressed.

When parents trust teachers and their school, and when that respect is reciprocated, it opens the door to constructive engagement. It motivates everyone to push themselves and creates an environment that supports student success.

But trust is not automatic. Teachers, principals and parents all have roles to play in building it. Experienced parents can help new parents overcome the jitters, understand the need to forge relationships with teachers, and navigate school concerns effectively. Volunteerism and visibility at school events demonstrate commitment—a building block for trust. The teacher and school can reach out and find ways to forge personal connections, acknowledge that parents know their children best, demonstrate respect and inclusion, and build a sense of mutual support and common goals.

Trust is fundamental to creating community. And when a school is experienced as supportive and respectful, it becomes a safe place for learning and working, and the kind of place where people want to engage—parents, children and teachers.

It's as simple and challenging as building trust.

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, former director of Reaching Heights, and serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

Spell it like it is

Jacalyn Elfvin

Twenty-four students will bring their A-game to the annual Roxboro Middle School Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies and Big Fun owner Steve Presser will be wearing his famed letter jacket, and Angee Shaker, CH-UH district communications director, will be the pronouncer. Judging the event will be Donna Feldman and Megan Lutz, Heights High English teachers, and Patricia Gray, Coventry Village Library manager.

Many of this year's spellers participated in previous spelling bees at Roxboro Middle and Elementary schools. Two finalists are returning: 2011 champion Isabella Jaffery, and 2012 second-place winner Anya Chew.

The highest placing 7th or 8th grader will represent Roxboro at the Plain Dealer Cuyahoga County Spelling Bee at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus Auditorium.

The district extends special thanks to the humanities teachers for encouraging their students, and to the companies that generously donated prizes this year: Bruegger's Bagels, Chipotle, the Cleveland Orchestra, On the Rise Bakery, Encyclopedia Britannica, and powerspeaK12.

Jacalyn Elfvin is administrative assistant in the office of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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~ Daniel Hathaway, *ClevelandClassical.com*

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Making movies

Joy Henderson

Heights High junior Vera Howard is flying. She might be a superhero. Her hair is blown back by the wind, her arms extended in front of her.

Or, she might be a student in Jeff Glass's Digital Video Production program, producing and starring in a short video using green-screen technology.

Howard made a 30-second video, "Vera Can Fly," in which she appears to be flying in the clouds.

To record the image of her "flying," she lay down on a small table as her classmate, Antonio Harper, held a fan in front of her to create the flying hair effect. Other classmates operated the camera and lights. Howard then used the video-editing program Final Cut Pro to layer the flying image over a sky background and added music.

The green-screen assignment is part of the first year Digital Video Pro-

duction program. The 13 juniors in the program work in small groups to learn the basics of creating a video: writing a script, creating a storyboard, operating a camera, capturing sound and editing.

While the technical skills are important to video production, Glass said that other skills are needed, such as time management, the persistence to learn editing programs, and the willingness to work productively on a team.

The two-year program is part of the Career and Technical Education curriculum. Students enter as juniors and learn the basic skills. During their senior year, they hone their skills and complete more complex productions.

Other digital video program options are an English elective class and the after-school Tiger TV Club.

The district's communications department partners with the video production program on many projects. Students and staff created videos such as



COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vera Howard is filmed "flying" in front of the green screen.

"Tiger Proud and Bully Free" and "Get Out the Vote." Students record athletic events and provide commentary for Channel 22, create videos about each career tech program, interview and spotlight students.

Senior Esli Israel is interning for two periods each day in the district's communications department. "Esli is a very advanced student," said Glass. "He has learned all the skills needed to work on projects in the communications department."

"Having Esli on our team has made it possible for us to produce more videos, and they are videos we can be very proud of," said Angee Shaker, communications director. "He is a young man of high integrity and character who is

dedicated to excellence. If his editing is off by a nanosecond, he insists on going back and fixing it."

Some of the projects Israel has worked on include a description of CH-UH literacy education and a video on kindergarten to show parents what to expect when their children enter school.

After graduating from Heights High, Israel plans to study film production at Columbia College in Chicago or at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Juniors Prisca Ngolo and Antonio Harper entered a video contest sponsored by the Ohio Attorney General's office warning of internet scams.

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

Swim Cadets Go Old School starts Feb. 28



COURTESY GLENN COLLINS

Members of the Cleveland Heights Swim Cadets at the 2012 swim show.

Heights Observer Editor

The Cleveland Heights Swim Cadets will perform their annual swim show at the Heights High pool on Feb. 28, March 1 and March 2, at 7:30 p.m. This year's theme is Swim Cadets Go Old School.

The Swim Cadets have been a Heights High team for more than 60 years, and is the Cleveland area's oldest synchronized swimming club. Many participants are second- or third-generation team members. Swim Cadets member Jenna Goldthwait said, "Being a part of the oldest group at Heights, we find ourselves meeting Swim Cadet alumnae and immediately having a connection—from the songs we've sung

dating back to the 1940s, to reminiscing about the excitement of the show. Once the music begins and those lights flash, all the fundraising, time and practice will pay off."

The students select members, raise operating funds, develop routines and produce the show each year. Tickets are \$7, and attendees should enter through the doors off the back parking lot of the high school.

Team members hold various fundraisers throughout the year. If you would like to support the team, send a check payable to Cleveland Heights Swim Cadets to 3020 Coleridge Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. For more information, call Temma Collins at 216-695-8289.

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Reaching Heights reaches fifth graders as it rolls out role models program

Joan Spoerl

In keeping with its tradition of enhancing the experiences of students in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools, Reaching Heights has introduced "Reaching Heights Role Models." The new program is inspired by Ron Ferguson, director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University, and a talk he gave at Cleveland's City Club in the fall of 2011.

Ferguson suggested that schools could bridge the achievement gap by bringing adults who are satisfied with their lives into the classroom. Fifth grade is a particularly effective time to do so. Different speakers could visit monthly or bi-monthly to talk about their personal and professional journeys and expose students to "a whole menu of possible selves."

Reaching Heights is developing a cadre of community members to serve as speakers for the program. Initially, the group plans to start with one speaker each semester in each of the district's fifth grade classes, and hopes to provide more frequent visitors as the program grows. The speakers are professionals (broadly defined) who will speak about the path that led them to their careers and life interests. Speakers will illuminate how their education, experiences, choices and challenges have been relevant to their lives. The hope is that children will better understand the importance of their education, the need for hard work, the possibility of overcoming obstacles, and the many options available to them if they work



David Jones speaks to Fairfax fifth graders.

careers and lives outside of work.

Already, students at Fairfax and Oxford have interacted with role models. After hearing David Jones, a local Tai Shin Doh (martial arts) instructor speak, one Fairfax fifth grader wrote, "This program was helpful because it gave me an idea of exactly how to prepare for my life." After hearing local entrepreneur Alvin Saafir speak, an Oxford student wrote, "This was helpful because he inspired me." Others wrote, "It helped me know what I need to do so I can have a better life," and, "I know what I want to be when I grow up and I know to do my homework." Not bad for just a one-hour investment of these speakers' time.

Want to get involved? You can speak at one or multiple schools, with a time commitment of a little more than an hour for each visit. For more information, visit www.reachingheights.org.

Joan Spoerl is the parent of a second grader at Fairfax Elementary, an early childhood educa-

hard and have a vision. The ultimate goal of the program is to spark student

curiosity and promote the value of life-long learning as it relates to their future

Lady Tigers fastpitch building new home field

Larry Sollisch

This season, the Lady Tigers fastpitch softball team will play on a brand new field at the corner of Goodnor and Washington roads. After years of playing at Forest Hills Park, the Softball Booster Club, with the help of Heights High athletic director Kristin Hughes and the CH-UH City School District, broke ground in December on the new



The Lady Tigers fastpitch softball team will begin the spring season on a new home field at Heights High.

COURTESY LARRY SOLLISCH

field. The Lady Tigers Fastpitch Boosters undertook an ambitious fundraising effort and raised enough money to commit to phase 1, consisting of a new backstop, dugouts, bullpens and infield renovation.

The team is now fundraising for the next phase of the project: outfield fencing, dugout covers, and mounting a scoreboard generously donated by Larry Shaw and the City of Cleveland Heights. Individuals can support the team by purchasing raffle tickets to win an iPad3 (\$499 value) or making a tax-deductible donation at the Reaching Heights website (www.reachingheights.org). Indicate softball in the purpose box. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20, and are available from any softball player, at school athletic events, or by mailing a check to Cleveland Heights Fastpitch Club, 2981 Lincoln Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 no later

than Feb. 15. The iPad3 winner will be drawn at the boys basketball game on Feb. 22.

Businesses interested in purchasing advertising space on the outfield fence and scoreboard should contact the club at heightsfastpitch@gmail.com or 216-554-2002.

The team will be led by a new head coach this season and looks forward to competing for the Lake Erie League crown. Senior pitcher Alexa Sollisch and a solid crop of returning players have been playing in a winter league to prepare for the season on their new home field.

For more information, contact Larry Sollisch at heightsfastpitch@gmail.com or 216-554-2002.

Larry Sollisch is president of the Cleveland Heights Fastpitch Boosters and proud parent of two players on the team.

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Parenting 101: Helping your child with math

Charniece Holmes

Q. My son is in third grade, and math is truly challenging for both of us this year. I am amazed at some of the assignments he has for homework. Math was never one of my favorite subjects and I feel like I am in elementary school all over again. When I try to help him with his homework, he tells me that I'm doing it wrong, and that his teacher does it differently. Can you please share with me some resources that will help me help my child?

A: There are several resources you can turn to for help. Ask your child's teacher how math is being taught, so that you can reinforce at home what your son is learning in school instead of adding to his confusion by approaching it differently.

If your schedule does not allow you to come early for school drop-off or talk with your child's teacher after pick-up time in the afternoon, call the school to arrange a time to meet with your child's teacher or e-mail the teacher.

Family Connections has a family liaison in every elementary school in the CH-UH school district and a parent resource center stocked with items you can borrow to support your child's learning. The family liaison can provide suggestions for learning activities using simple household items. Family Connections also offers various school-based programs throughout the year. Call your child's school or Family Connections (216-321-0079) to set up a time to talk with your family liaison.

Several websites provide useful information for parents who are uncomfortable with the so-called new math. These online resources offer videos explaining and demonstrating math strategies in a way that can be helpful to children and parents alike. Some websites provide interactive opportunities for children to practice important skills. Ask the Family Connections liaison at your child's school for recommendations that fit your child's specific needs.

Charniece Holmes is a school connections coordinator with Family Connections. Her children are in college, but she remembers the joys and challenges of being a working parent with school-age children.

Two Heights skiers head to Russia to compete in Winter International Children's Games

Bob Rosenbaum

Two Cleveland Heights students are among ten from Northeast Ohio who will travel to Ufa, Russia, later this month as members of Team Cleveland, representing the United States in the sixth Winter International Children's Games (ICG). Children from nearly 40 countries are expected to participate.

The local participants are Gwen Wright, who attends Roxboro Middle School; and Will Schneider, who attends Ruffing Montessori School. Both will compete in Nordic ski events along with Gautam Apte, Shaker Heights Middle School; Max Hannibal, Orange High School; and Colin Wadsworth, Avon Lake Learwood Middle School.

The remaining Northeast Ohio delegates are alpine skiers. Members of Team Cleveland range in age from 12-15 and are sponsored in part by the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

The games run from Feb. 26 to March 2. Wright will ski in the girls 3.5 km Nordic classic and 3.5 km freestyle cross-country ski events. Schneider



JAMES WRIGHT

Gwen Wright (left) and Will Schneider (center) of Cleveland Heights, and Colin Wadsworth (right) of Avon Lake, are among Team Cleveland's five Nordic skiers going to the International Children's Games in Russia.

will ski in the boys 3.5 km classic and freestyle events. Both are members of the 4x3.5 km relay team. Both are also expected to participate in orienteering events—overland navigation on cross-country skis using a map and compass.

Wright and Schneider are members of the Hilltoppers XC ski club, which practices at various locations, includ-

ing Brecksville Reservation, Springvale Country Club in North Olmsted and Holden Arboretum.

The goal of the ICG, an International Olympic Committee sanctioned event, is to promote peace and friendship among the world's youth through a focus on sports. The first ICG event was held in Slovenia in 1968. Cleveland hosted the Summer ICG in 2004. Ufa, the capital of the Republic of Bashkortostan, is located approximately 700 miles east of Moscow.

Sponsorship of the event includes part of the cost for entry fees and travel. Remaining expenses are being covered through fundraising and contributions from the families of team members.

Bob Rosenbaum is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Observer's editorial committee.

Registration is open for Summer Ruffing It camp

Julia Sheehan

Since 1980, Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights has offered dynamic camp programs for children from all educational backgrounds.

Children work with professional artists, musicians and trained educators who provide a joyful, quality experience in small student-centered groups. Classes in academics, art, athletics, drama, media, music and science are fun, engaging and productive.

Summer Ruffing It camp is held on the school's landscaped campus with private children's gardens, an extensive playground, and access to Shaker Lakes and Beaumont School's track and field. Ruffing's LEED-certified building features environmentally-conscious design and construction elements with comfortable classrooms, attractive commons areas, kitchens, a gymnasium with a rock wall, an art studio, and a theatrical stage.

Camp programs are offered for three age groups, and all offer a three- or six-week option. Session I runs from June 17 through July 5, and Session II runs from July 8 to July 26. Registration is now open, and closes on May 1.

A Summer To Grow On, for ages 3-6, runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Campers will enjoy indoor games, cooking, art, storytelling, gardening, weekly nature walks and a zoo trip.

Creative Arts & Sciences, for children in grades 1-5, runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Campers choose classes from a variety of arts offerings, athletics, drama, media, movement, music, science and technology, and go on occasional field trips.

Extreme SRI!, for grades 6-8, runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Campers create personalized schedules from a variety of offerings. Activities include visiting the Greater Cleveland community on weekly field trips, and overnight camping under the stars.

Before and after care is available for all programs to extend the day from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For additional information, contact Julia Sheehan at 216-932-7866 or julias@ruffingmontessori.net/camps, or visit www.ruffingmontessori.net/camps.

Julia Sheehan is the director of Enrichment & Camp Programs at Ruffing Montessori.


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AFS: working for peace, one student at a time

Krista Hawthorne

The Heights High AFS Club recently welcomed David Ford, an American Field Service ambulance driver in World War II, to speak on the topic "Peace is More Than a Good Idea—AFS Past, Present and Future." In addition to sharing his war experiences, Ford talked about the early years of the international exchange organization. Thirteen AFS exchange students who currently attend Brush, Shaker Heights, Solon and Cleveland Heights high schools, their host families, past exchange students, local AFS volunteers, and school administrators listened to Ford's comments.

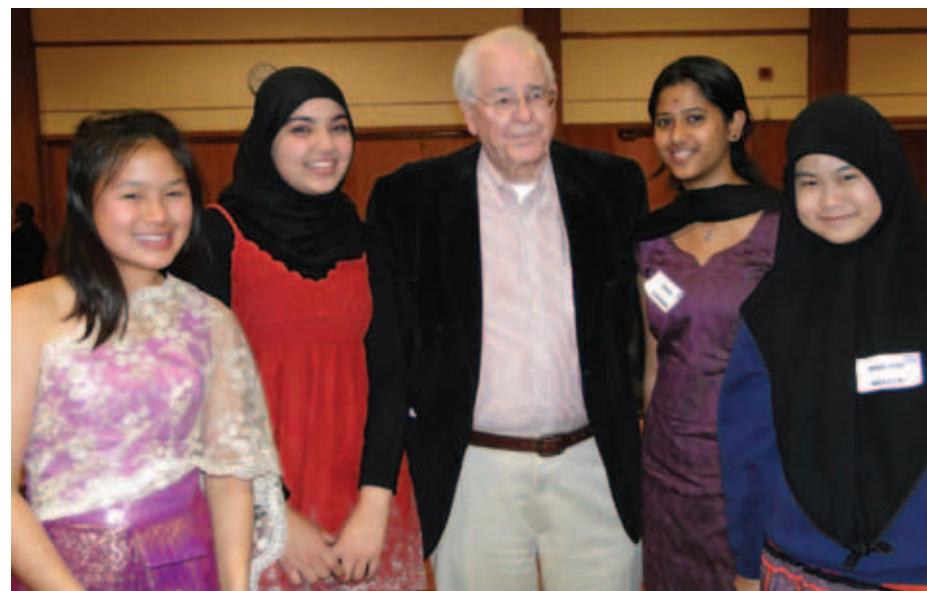
He described some of his experiences as an inexperienced 18-year-old volunteer ambulance driver, whose job it was to drive an ambulance truck near enemy territory, take care of the truck and make necessary repairs, provide basic aid to the wounded, load them onto the truck bed, and deliver them to medical posts for treatment.

One student asked Ford about the fear factor involved in his war work. In response, he recalled an incident in which he followed a corporal through ankle-deep mud and darkness to pick up wounded soldiers. Ford could see only the glow of the corporal's lit cigarette to indicate the path to the wounded men. Suddenly, there were cannon blasts just a few yards away. He said "One skill everyone learned very quickly was to determine the difference between the sound of incoming and outgoing artillery. If you didn't, you didn't last long."

Because they worked on active battlefields, AFS ambulance drivers suffered high casualties. Ford was never injured, which he credits solely to good luck. When asked if he would do it again, he responded without hesitation, "Yes."

When he returned from war, Ford attended college and began a career in industrial sales, and actively supported the early years of AFS Intercultural Programs, which has become the leading international exchange organization for teens worldwide. As he explained, "AFS today is an organization that moves forward independently, without government funds and without political pressures, to lay the groundwork for world peace."

American students Tori Guy, AFS returnee from Panama in 2008, and Janine Walker, returnee from Thailand in 2011, spoke about their experiences as exchange students. They both commented on their strong connections to their host



Current AFS exchange students were pleased to meet David Ford (center), former American Field Service ambulance driver during World War II.

COURTESY KRISTA HAWTHORNE

families and how much they recommend the program to other students.

"I can speak Spanish now and I was

never a good student of Spanish in high school," said Guy. "I have more patience and tolerance for people who struggle

to speak English because people were so patient with me when I [struggled to speak] Spanish."

Walker said she enjoyed the big city life in Bangkok. She became fluent in Thai and recalled the surprised looks from Thais to hear an African-American girl speaking the local language. "I loved meeting people from around the world and helping people understand more about Americans than what they see on TV or in movies," she added.

Local AFS organizations depend on volunteers to support exchange students and their host families, to find new host families, and to interview students embarking on AFS trips. For more information about joining, or donating to, Greater Cleveland East AFS, visit www.afsusa.org or e-mail Adrienne Yelsky at adrienne@msn.com.

Krista Hawthorne is an AFS volunteer and returnee from France '80.

Heights Youth Club plans spring and summer activities

Roscoe Morgan

In its seventh year, the Heights Youth Club (HYC), 2065 Lee Road, looks forward to a busy spring and summer with many new and continuing activities designed for area youth. HYC offers afternoon programs and activities including games, swimming, bicycling, hiking, field trips, music, reading and math enhancement, self-esteem programs, nutrition classes, gardening, athletics, arts and lunch.

Peter and Barbara Averil of Cha-

rin Falls donated 76 bikes so far in their bicycle giveaway project, bringing them close to their goal of donating 100 bikes to HYC. In December, parents were delighted to come to the club and select bikes to give to their children as Christmas presents.

The Mosaic Arts project, featuring a tile and glass mosaic designed by HYC kids and the artist Augusto Bordelois, begins its second phase in early February.

Frank Keim and the Immortals will return in April to perform at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and at HYC. Mem-

bers of the HYC can take workshops in bass and lead guitar, keyboard, percussion, music theory and voice from top students at the Loudon School of Music.

All Heights young people are invited to join HYC and take advantage of these activities. Membership costs \$10 and is valid for one calendar year. Parents or guardians must complete an application and provide proof of residency. Contact HYC at 216-321-CLUB (2582).

Roscoe Morgan is the director of the Heights Youth Club.

JFSA offers scholarships for local high school seniors

Lisa Brody

The Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) has announced two scholarship opportunities for all local high school seniors, with no restrictions regarding race, ethnicity or religion. The deadline to apply is March 1 for the 2013-14 academic year.

The Jack W. and Shirley J. Berger Scholars Fund was established in 1988 by two former Clevelanders to encourage students to attain academic excellence at a secular institution. This scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who meets the following requirements: is a resident of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Portage or Summit counties; has a minimum

GPA of 3.5 and a minimum SAT score of 1850 or an ACT score of 28; will take a college course in comparative religion; is a full-time student seeking a secular education; and exhibits financial need.

The Yoda-Newton "Share the Luv" Scholarship was established in 2006 to help students who have faced adversity or who volunteer to help others in need. The scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who meets the following requirements: is a Cuyahoga County resident, has overcome adversity or is an active community volunteer, has a minimum GPA of 3.0, and exhibits financial need.

Applications are available online at

www.jfsa-cleveland.org. For more information, contact Toby Bresky, manager of the College Financial Aid Program at tbresky@jfsa-cleveland.org.

JFSA of Cleveland, a private non-profit organization, serves to strengthen families and individuals in both the Jewish and general communities in Northeast Ohio. Guided by traditional Jewish values of communal responsibility and social justice, JFSA is committed to enhancing every individual's ability to thrive in our community. For more information, visit www.jfsa-cleveland.org.

Lisa Brody, a longtime Cleveland Heights resident and Heights High alumna, is JFSA's manager of marketing and communications.

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Sunday

10am - Community Eucharist
Compline & Evensong

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5pm Feb 10, 17, 24 at St. Alban's

Ash Wednesday Service

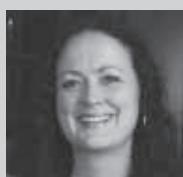
February 13, 7pm

Holy Week Services

March 24, 10am - Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist
March 28, 7 pm - Maundy Thursday
Eucharist & Agape Meal
March 29, Noon - Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
March 30, 9pm - Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil
March 31, 10am - Easter Sunday
Holy Eucharist

2555 Euclid Hts. Boulevard, Cleveland Heights (at the corner of Edgehill)

Ideas for keeping busy and active in retirement



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

There are many opportunities for Heights seniors to keep active. Volunteering is an option that can benefit both your neighbors and your community.

Learn about local opportunities by contacting the Heights Emergency Food Center at 216-381-0707, Meals on Wheels at 216-291-2737, the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging Senior Companion Program at 216-391-9500, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 800-942-2677, HandsOn Northeast Ohio at 216-432-9390 and many local churches and synagogues.

Seniors Helping Seniors, an in-home care company, hires seniors to work with other seniors who are in need of help. The caregivers are paid for their services, and assist with a variety of tasks to help keep their peers living independently in their homes. No previous experience is necessary, and caregivers in the Heights area are needed. Call 440-759-0319 for

information.

Taking a class is another way to stay active. The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) offers a variety of classes in many different subjects. There are also several clubs and interest groups you can join. Call the SAC at 216-691-7377 for more information.

Computer classes are a good way to learn how to stay connected with family members. You can also learn how to use the Internet to do your banking or read a book. Tech Deity, a husband-and-wife computer education team, will come to your home to give you one-on-one training. Owner Mely Sato said, "We help seniors embrace technology and the many benefits it offers them." Call Tech Deity at 440-454-6042.

Other interesting classes and programs may be found by contacting the Case Western Reserve University Lifelong Learning Program at 216-368-2090, the University Heights Library Senior Spot Program at 216-321-4700, and the University Heights Senior Citizen Happenings (see column at the right).

The AARP offers a Driver Safety Program that teaches seniors how to adjust their driving for age-related vision and hearing changes, how medications may affect driving, and how to be more

careful on the road. The class may also entitle you to an insurance discount. Contact the AARP at 888-227-7669.

Special-interest clubs are a good way to get out of the house and meet like-minded people. Contact the Shaker Lakes Nature Center at 216-321-5935, the Cuyahoga Astronomical Association at 440-572-0464, or the Cleveland Hiking Club at cleveland.hiker@gmail.com. You might also find—or start—a local book group, bridge or knitting club, or a support group.

Another opportunity to socialize with others is through the many hot-meal programs in the area. You can enjoy a nutritious lunch and meet new people. Call the SAC for more information.

You can also keep busy by starting a new hobby, or perhaps a project for your descendants. Put together an album of your photographs, labeled with names and dates, research your family genealogy, or preserve your memoir or family history in writing or on video.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or Judith@LovingHandsGroup.com.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings are sponsored by the City of University Heights. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. For information, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-397-0336.

Feb. 7: Amanda Dempsey, Market District director for Ohio City Inc. on behalf of the West Side Market, shares a PowerPoint presentation of the market's 2012 centennial celebration and its enduring appeal.

Feb. 14: David Rothstein, project director for asset building for Policy Matters Ohio, talks about the launch of an annual campaign to build financial security, Cleveland Saves and America Saves. **Feb. 21:** Debra Janik, senior vice president of real estate and business development for the Greater Cleveland Partnership, highlights its catalytic role in the transformation of our urban neighborhoods.

Feb. 28: Apryl Rashid, museum educator for the Western Reserve Historical Society, gives a PowerPoint introduction to its storied history, collections, resources, facilities, services and current exhibits.

Focus group on senior housing scheduled for Feb. 12

Judith Van Kleef

The Cleveland Heights Commission on Aging identifies concerns of older residents and makes recommendations to city council when appropriate.

Commission members are currently addressing the longstanding lack of accessible, affordable housing for older residents who no longer can, or wish to, remain in their homes. Many seniors would prefer to remain in Cleveland Heights, but have few options.

A building need not be designated "senior housing," to meet the needs of elderly residents. It must, however,

offer one-floor units without stairs, and elevator access to units on upper floors. It must include ADA-compliant kitchens and baths, accessible laundry facilities, and garages and doorways with wheelchair clearance.

The commission recognizes that there are as many ideas about what constitutes desirable senior housing as there are potential residents. For this reason, the commission is hosting a focus group to help generate and prioritize ideas about senior housing needs in Cleveland Heights.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the

Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) in the Community Center, located at the corner of Monticello Boulevard and Mayfield Road. The snow date for the focus group is Feb. 19. (Cleveland Heights SAC is closed when CH-UH schools are closed because of adverse weather conditions.)

For more information, contact Amy Jenkins, coordinator of the Office on Aging, at 216-691-7379, or at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

Judith Van Kleef is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and a member of the city's Commission on Aging.

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Heights Observer February 1, 2013

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Whose eyewitness account will you believe?

Jewel Moulthrop

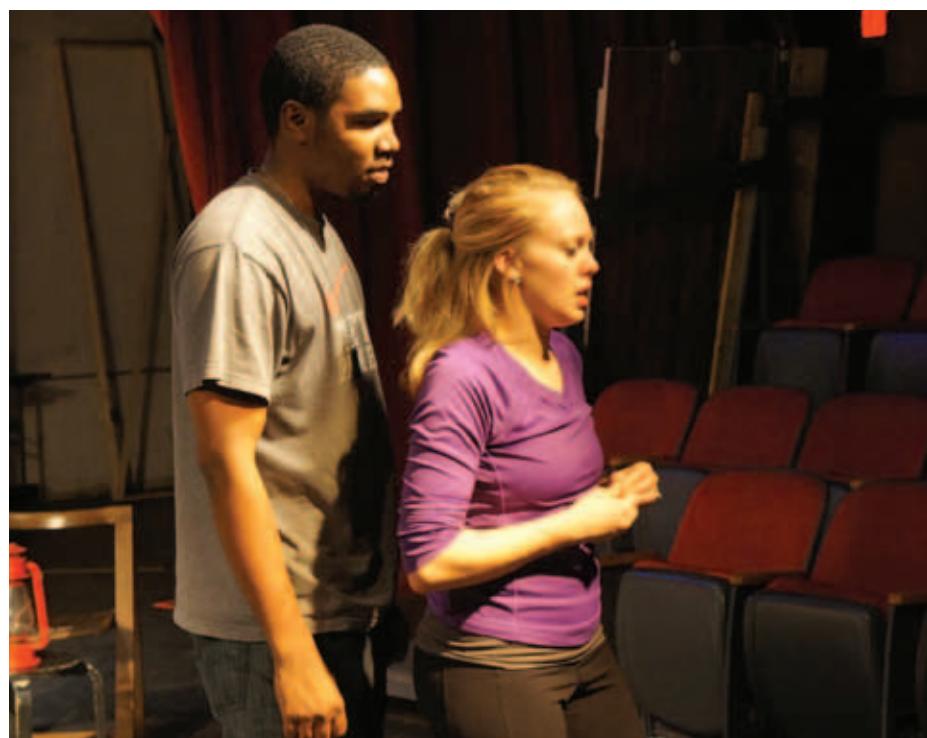
Continuing its critically acclaimed 33rd season, Ensemble Theatre presents "The Gospel According to James" by Charles Smith. The play, which runs through Feb. 17, is directed by Celeste Cosentino, with assistance from Aaron Elersich.

Eyewitness accounts, as we know, are often less than accurate, and that is the premise of this play. James Cameron and Mary Ball survived history, but whose history? The play, commissioned by The Indiana Repertory Theatre, examines the past and present lives of these two people.

Set in Indiana in 1930, five young people are eager to break out of their small town. They need a car; they have a gun. Based on an actual double lynching, playwright Charles Smith has created a fictional meeting between a man who survived the event and the only woman who was with them that night.

As "The Gospel According to James" dramatizes the events leading up to the crime, it also explores how unreliable personal memory underlies what we believe to be immutable public history.

Smith is head of the Professional Playwriting Program at Ohio University and is playwright in residence at the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago. His plays have been produced off-Broadway and in theaters throughout the country, such as The Acting Company, People's Light & Theatre Company, The Good-



Kyle Carthens and Katie Nabors rehearse a scene from Ensemble's production of "The Gospel According to James."

man Theatre, St. Louis Black Rep, New Federal Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Berkeley Repertory Theater. His work has also been produced for HBO's New Writers Project, the International Children's Theater Festival in Seattle, and the North Carolina Black Arts Festival.

Ensemble's production of "The Gospel According to James" is a Cleveland premiere and features an all-star cast, including Equity members Peter Lawson Jones and Keith E. Stevens. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for seniors, and \$10 for

students (with valid IDs).

A special "meet the playwright" date is set for Feb. 16. There will also be a "Speakeasy" event to benefit Ensemble Theatre. Enjoy wine, food, song, and the show. There is special pricing for this performance and event.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 216-321-2930 or visit www.ensembletheatre.org.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee.

Inlet Dance Theatre to perform at Church of the Saviour

Loretta Dahlstrom

As part of its program to promote the arts, Church of the Saviour invites the community to attend a performance of the Inlet Dance Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. in the Great Hall.

Recognized as one of the region's most exciting professional contemporary dance companies, Inlet Dance Theatre is dedicated to performing high quality programs with uncommon skill, innovation and purpose.

Founded in 2001 by Bill Wade, the company's executive and artistic director, Inlet embodies his longstanding belief that dance experiences—watching, training and performing—serve as tools for personal growth and development.

The company's artistic staff collaborates to build the company's solid reputation for uplifting and engaging new audiences through performances and education programming.

The performance on Feb. 10 is about an hour long. Tickets are available online at www.chsaviour.org or by calling the church office at 216-321-8880. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for those 18 and under. Contact the church office for group sales. Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

Loretta Dahlstrom is the administrative assistant at Church of the Saviour.



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Lebanese-American family drama occupies the stage at Dobama

Jewel Moulthrop

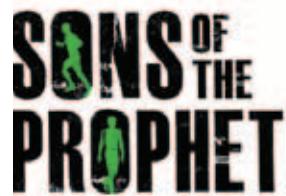
At the midpoint of its 53rd successful season in the Heights, Dobama Theatre announces its next main stage production—the regional premiere of “Sons of the Prophet” by Stephen Karam. The play runs Feb. 22 through Mar. 17.

The play is about the Douaihy family, living in a run-down section of Nazareth, Penn. Although the fictional Douaihys of the play share some characteristics with Karam’s own family—they are Lebanese-American Maronite Catholics from eastern Pennsylvania—he insists that this is not his family play.

The Douaihys are a large family in which all is not well. Joseph, 29 years old and a former running champ, is desperately trying to keep his family from falling apart, even as his body is ravaged by a series of strange ailments. Karam’s play blends comedy and tragedy in its examination of how suffering capriciously rains down on some people and not others.

Not many playwrights can claim to have had a theater built for them, but that is what happened to Karam. After a reading of Karam’s earlier play, “Speech & Debate,” Todd Haimes, artistic director of New York’s Roundabout Theater, recalled, “We loved [the play], and then we thought: ‘Where can we give this writer his first production where it won’t be so much pressure?’ There was a hole there under the [theater], a raw space in the subbasement. We decided to build it for ‘Speech & Debate.’”

This turned out to be a great idea for all concerned. In 2007, “Speech & Debate” became a runaway hit as



the inaugural production in a 65-seat black-box space that came to be called the Roundabout Underground.

Scranton native Karam is a graduate of Brown University and a MacDowell Colony Fellow. He is the recipient of the inaugural Sam Norkin Off-Broadway Drama Desk Award and the Dramatists Guild’s Hull-Warriner Award for “Sons of the Prophet.”

Scott Miller, who is directing “Sons of the Prophet,” is the director of the Cleveland School of the Arts Theater Arts Program. Before coming to Cleveland, he served as the artistic director of The Children’s Theater of Charlotte. He is also the founding artistic director of the Orange Summer Shakespeare Festival, a theater program in New Jersey for urban teenagers. Miller directed “The Seafarer” for Dobama Theatre last season, and “Dead Man’s Cell Phone” during the 2010–11 season. He has also worked as an actor, appearing in Off-Broadway and regional theater productions.

Performances of “Sons of the Prophet” are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday afternoons. For a complete schedule, ticket prices and reservations, call the Dobama Theatre box office at 216-932-3396. Ask about reduced prices for RUSH tickets, the preview performance on Thursday, Feb. 21, and the pay-as-you-can performance on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer’s Editorial Advisory Committee.

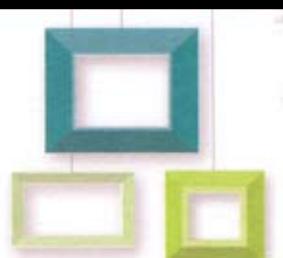
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JOY HENDERSON

Seniors Katy Collyer, Kate Barcus and Jade Woodson (L-R) received Silver Key Awards in the Cleveland Regional Scholastic Art Competition. Seven other students received honorable mention awards.

Heights High artists excel in regional competition

Joy Henderson

Ten Heights High artists won awards in the Cleveland Regional Scholastic Art Competition. Jade Woodson received a silver key and an honorable mention for ceramics, Kate Barcus received a silver key for ceramics and Katy Collyer received a silver key for a metal plate etching.

Faakoli Traore won two honorable mentions. The following students also received an honorable mention: Jessica Baumgartner, Regina Bellian, Lucas Boyle, Hanna Gillispie, Alexa Sollisch and Jimmy Taylor.

More than 2,100 pieces of artwork by Cuyahoga County students were submitted to the 33rd annual juried contest. The top 650 pieces are on display in the

Reinberger Galleries at the Cleveland Institute of Art through Feb. 2.

Gold Key winners will continue on to the national competition in New York City.

“We are very proud of these hard-working students,” said art teacher Susan Hood. “This group of students is special because they are not afraid to try new mediums and experiment.”

The Reinberger Galleries are located at 11141 East Blvd. in Cleveland’s University Circle. Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on Sunday. The show is free and open to the public.

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

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Katz Club Diner is set to open this spring

Jewel Moulthrop

Why would an exceedingly busy man like Doug Katz take on yet another huge project—transforming a vacant restaurant on Lee Road into old-time diner and bar cars of the 1940s. His plate already seems to be overflowing.

Katz, owner/chef of fire food & drink in Shaker Square, and chef/partner of the recently opened Provenance restaurant and café in the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), responded with three cogent reasons. First is his passion for cooking good food and sharing it with others. Second, his catering business, which currently operates out of fire's back kitchen, has outgrown its space. Third, he is motivated to do something for his staff and for the community in which he and his family live.

Katz has been cooking since he was a child, when he hard-boiled his first egg at age five. He is a friendly and genial host who enjoys being part of his guests' dining experience—greeting them and chatting about the food they've ordered.

With a fondness for classic diners from the mid-20th century, Katz had been admiring the Lee Road diner cars for some time. He was inspired, he said, because "the building had soul," adding that he "wanted to create a business that will bring spark to the neighborhood." And it's his neighborhood, too. A resident of Cleveland Heights for more than a decade, he likens his commute from fire to CMA to the diner to the classic kitchen triangle: fridge to sink to stove.

Cleveland Heights City Council endorsed Katz's plans for the diner, voting unanimously at its Nov. 7 meeting to approve a loan under the city's



Doug Katz, chef/owner of the new Katz Club Diner on Lee Road, has been cooking and sharing good food since childhood.

Economic Development Loan Fund Program. The \$200,000 loan has a 3-percent interest rate, with a seven-year repayment schedule after one year's deferral. Terms of the loan allow for up to \$50,000 being forgiven, based on city income taxes generated by the business from 2014–18.

Already familiar with the diner's su-

per-large kitchen, Katz knew it would be ideal for his growing catering business. After the renovations are completed, Katz will have two kitchens—one for the restaurant and one to accommodate both on-site and off-site parties.

The currently semi-finished basement will become office space for meetings with staff and prospective catering

customers. Katz will be able to show various set-ups for private parties and other gatherings. The basement will also serve as a reference library comprising mostly cookbooks.

Many of the staff at fire have been with Katz since he opened the restaurant more than 11 years ago. With only a few spots at the top—chef de cuisine and sous chef—advancement in the restaurant business is difficult. As a way to reward his employees for their competence, experience and loyalty, Katz will be able to promote current staffers into higher positions at the new diner. He plans to employ 28 people for the two-plus shifts that will keep the place open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Katz, who has developed strong relationships with local farmers, will continue that trend in the new Katz Club Diner. Jay Szabo, who runs the farm at Dunham Tavern and provides fresh vegetables during the growing season, will be updating the landscape around the diner cars.

As "creative dreamer and conceptualizer," Katz will decide the menu, which is likely to include burgers, tuna melts, BLTs and other diner favorites. A coffee and dessert bar will feature cookies, donuts, puddings, cheesecake and slices of birthday cake. Katz has put out a call for family dessert recipes and the stories that go with them. He plans to highlight one each month.

With Katz's enthusiasm and track record, not to mention his energy and creativity, Katz Club Diner is sure to succeed as well. With plans to open in the spring, he already has one party booked!

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee.

Cleveland Foodbank benefits from Heights Jazercise workouts

Pam Barr

Large quantities of food and working out don't usually go hand in hand, but one local Jazercise group used sweat equity to raise money to feed the hungry. Early this year, the Cleveland Foodbank received almost \$2,000 from the Jazercise participants at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, a sum that will provide some 8,000 nutritious meals for the hungry, according to the Foodbank.

Jazercise instructor Mary Beth McCann said the ingenious fundraising effort, which took place in December, is a popular annual program of her group. "People in our classes raise money for charity by doing what they do best—dancing their way to fitness."

"Mary Beth usually selects the

music that we use during our classes," said Beth Zednik, a member of the Jazercise group, "but each December anyone in the class can select a specific dance and song set for a \$20 donation. Or, if someone is really tired of hearing Pitbull or Justin Beiber, they can throw out that song for the day with a \$25 contribution."

Fitness enthusiasts can up the ante further by donating \$30 to have a rejected song put back on the list. In addition, \$10 raffle tickets are sold, with one winner receiving three free months of classes.

Annual recipients of the Jazercise fundraiser are selected by the group. Past charities have included Metro Health Social Services Department and Malachi House.

Cleveland Heights Jazercise classes



The Cleveland Heights Jazercise class works out for charity.

have been a staple of the Heights community for more than 35 years and, for the past several years, have been voted the "best place in the Heights to get fit."

For more information on Cleveland Heights Jazercise's charitable giving program, contact Mary Beth McCann

at 440-542-0246.

Pam Barr is a 25-year Cleveland Heights resident and a principal of Barr Communications, a boutique marketing and public relations consulting firm based in Cleveland Heights.

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Tommy Fello: from soda jerk to acclaimed restauranteur

James Henke

In 1966, when he was 14 years old, Tommy Fello began working as a soda jerk at the Ace Drug Store on Euclid Heights Boulevard near Coventry. It would have been hard to predict that in just six years Fello would own the store, and turn it into a restaurant that still exists as something of a landmark down the street on Coventry.

Fello grew up in Cleveland Heights with three brothers and one sister. His father was a chemical engineer and his mother was a fine jeweler. Fello attended St. Ann School through eighth grade and graduated from Heights High. He studied computer programming for a year, but it was his job at the drugstore that really captivated him.

In 1969, Ace was sold to a Lebanese couple. They sold Lebanese sandwiches—falafel, hummus and baba ghanoush. Two years later, the Saides decided to return to Lebanon. Fello, who was then 19, bought the store. He paid \$6,000 and renamed it Tommy's.

Much of what people now associate with Tommy's dates back to those early days. Take the milkshakes—claimed by almost everyone who's had one, including staff from *Rolling Stone* magazine, who labeled them "best milkshakes east of the Mississippi." He's been making them since the early 1970s, and still makes them with ice cream from Pierre's, a local company.

There were, and still are, unusual names for the menu items, such as the



Tommy Fello at the restaurant he purchased at age 19.

so they can get a vegetarian item. We're sort of like Alice's Restaurant—you can get anything you want!"

In 1988, a fire destroyed the dining room at Tommy's and took out a significant portion of the block. His kitchen was spared, so he kept it where it was, but moved his dining room next door. Initially, he shared that space with Coventry Cats and High Tide, Rock Bottom. In 1992, he purchased the building and took over the entire space. After extensive remodeling, it has remained pretty much the same for more than two decades.

Fello works long and hard, usually arriving there by 6:30 a.m. Visitors to the restaurant are likely to see him somewhere behind the counter.

Although he's had a restaurant in Cleveland Heights for more than 40 years, Fello no longer lives here. He and Cindy, his wife of 37 years, moved to Russell in 1982.

Over the years, he has considered opening another restaurant, and is currently looking at possibilities on Cleveland's West Side. He remains very happy with his longtime location, and he loves his customers. "My favorite thing is interacting with people and pleasing the customers," he said. That's the thing I like most."

[Read a longer version of this story online.]

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a former editor and writer for Rolling Stone magazine.



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