Heights Barbershoppers are best in the U.S.

Joy Henderson

The Heights High Barbershoppers scored a high note at the International Youth Chorus Barbershop Festival, taking first place in the nation and second place internationally in their division. Vocal music director Craig McGaughey, 13 students and several chaperones attended the competition on Jan. 31 at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center in Long Beach, Calif.

Unlike many of the groups competing, the Heights Barbershoppers perform without their director in front. “When the boys are on stage by themselves, they build more trust and confidence and they have to really listen to each other,” said McGaughey. The fierce competition featured groups from all over the U.S. and Canada—many with up to 80 members. The judges were impressed with the Heights’ vocalists. After the performance, the judges reviewed their scoring with the young men, citing areas where the group excelled and making suggestions for ways to improve.

In addition to receiving detailed feedback from the official judges, the group also listened to and received critiques from several award-winning barbershop groups. “The input the boys received was invaluable,” said McGaughey. “This is a journey, as they are learning the technical and performance skills that will make them top-notch singers and performers.” While most of the five-day trip was focused on learning, there was also time for teaching. Heights alumnus Scott Mandel, vocal music director at Pacoima Middle School, invited the Heights vocalists to perform for and mentor his students.

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

Wine Spot embraces digital currency

Alastair Pearson

Adam Fleischer, owner of the Wine Spot, is the first Cleveland Heights retailer to integrate Bitcoin payment processing into his business. Bitcoin, a digital cryptocurrency, is a complex and rapidly growing financial ecosystem with the potential to revolutionize the future of money.

Since Feb. 4, Wine Spot customers have been able to pay using Bitcoin, as the result of a partnership between Fleischer and Northeast Ohio Bitcoin consultancy CoinNEO.

“Bitcoin provides my customers the flexibility of another form of payment, and those investing in Bitcoin are searching for places to spend it,” Fleischer said in a CoinNEO press release. “In addition, as a small business owner I am always looking for ways to manage expenses. At this point Bitcoin transaction fees are less expensive for me, versus credit cards and PayPal. I see why many believe digital currencies are the future.”

On March 7, at 6:15 p.m., the Wine Spot will host a Cleveland Bitcoin Meetup. It is open to anyone interested in the digital currency. As of mid-February, reported Fleischer, some customers had already used Bitcoin at the shop. He added, “There is interest from the Bitcoin community, and they are thrilled that a merchant in Northeast Ohio is accepting it.”

Bitcoin is an anonymous peer-to-peer payment system in which users trade Bitcoins (BTC) that attain value through a peer-to-peer transaction network. They are minted through a “mining” process where private individuals use computers to solve complex algorithms. New BTC are added to the digital economy at a constant rate as problems are solved.
The Heights Observer is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life. 3145 Lee Road, #103 Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216.932.9000 530.422.2920 Copyright 2012 FutureHeights. All rights reserved. Reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

Powerhouse.

Diversity Heig...
A salute to a community

To the Editor,

At last, now that my health issues have become familiar, and no longer troublesome, I can try to extend all my daily thank-yous to countless people, both in and out of the Cleveland Heights community.

The rallying support, and the ongoing charity that erupted, did reach my hospital room within days. I was flabbergasted, lifted, and so deeply moved by all the attention then, as I still am now.

How does one ever convey the gratitude, the emotional boost, and the surprising connections I am humbled by? My guess, it will be an ongoing process, as it has been all along. From the visitors, flowers, plants, cards, gifts, phone calls and prayers, my recovery was off to a very strong beginning.

As if that wasn’t enough, a network of some dear, determined friends collaborated with the merchants of Cedar Fairmount, local and distant businesses, and the local community, to create the fundraiser, “Share The Road,” at Nighttown.

Once again, the outstanding attendance, donations, participation, and success of the event proved the compassion of so many people. Truly dumbfounding!

I have had the privilege to hear some of your stories in connection with the accident, at random and almost daily around the neighborhood. My verbal words.

I have had the privilege to hear some of your stories in connection with the accident, at random and almost daily around the neighborhood. My verbal words.

Some met their neighbor, some have rejuvenated, and inspired community. They, too, felt the surge of a united, concerned, thoughtful and generous response to what I have been surrounded by.

For what I heard was the goodness, concern, thoughtfulness and generosity of people whom I have been blessed by. They too, felt the surge of a united, rejuvenated, and inspired community. Some met their neighbor, some have reunited with past acquaintances, and some met for the first time. All because people engaged, rallied and connected. We all experienced humanity at its best.

Cherished words.

Mindy Manyo
Cleveland Heights

[Editor’s Note: Mindy Manyo, a long-time resident of the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood, waterer of flowers in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, and avid cyclist, was hit by a car while bicycling on Fairmount Boulevard on Oct. 3, 2013, suffering severe injuries. Friends and business owners organized a benefit for her at Nighttown last fall.]

Mosdos has been negotiating with you privately to buy the old Millikin School property. Recent public comments made by your board president have been one-sided. They inferred that Mosdos had been nonresponsive and uncommunicative in negotiations, without mentioning that most delays were due to religious holidays that forced the conduct of any business whatsoever by members of the Orthodox Jewish community.

Your board president also leaked an early private offer by Mosdos to purchase the Millikin property for $215,000, suggesting that Mosdos had made only one unreasonably low bid. He did not mention that an appraisal estimates the value of land at $215,000. Your lawyer argued that even a building which may require $3.4 million in improvements has some value. Mosdos responded with a most generous offer of $600,000 [in December 2013] to try and make a deal. Your board president neglected to mention in his public comments that this higher offer was even made.

Mosdos offered $600,000 for two parcels. One has a blighted building on it. The other includes property used for storage and the dumping of refuse. You are refusing to sell this other parcel. Mosdos needs both parcels to create a viable land use plan. Your board president did not mention this need in his public comments.

Millikin is a test case of how you will recycle abandoned school buildings. You can convert an unused asset now into cash, decrease your maintenance expenses, and stabilize a neighborhood. On the other hand, failure to make a deal with Mosdos instead may encourage certain families to relocate outside Cleveland Heights to the detriment of the tax base. The price of failing this test therefore may be high.

Your recent public proposal to relocate a theater and trades people into Millikin raises many questions. Where will you find $3.4 million to repair your buildings? This cost was not mentioned during the recent bond issue campaign. Will the cost come from funds raised by that bond issue? Or must future bond issues or levies increase in size to cover this cost? Or will funding come from your operations budget and therefore require program cuts? And, will use of buildings other than for a school violate the city’s zoning code?

Families who use private or parochial schools pay taxes that fund your programs. You have an opportunity now to show them that they can benefit from a public system that supports the education of all district children. Otherwise, why should that majority of all voters with no direct relationship to public schools support bond issues or levies, including elderly and single people? You must not assume tax issues always will require only a large turnout by your current core constituency. Without expanding your constituent base, you risk our community becoming like Parma, where tax issues routinely fail at election time.

The board needs to resolve its differences with Mosdos. Mosdos remains open to the sale of both Millikin parcels. It asks you to reconsider your position and discuss such a sale before condemnation and demolition become the only realistic options.

Alan Rapoport is an attorney for Mosdos

Cherished community.

Cleveland Heights

Ohr Hatorah and is a former mayor of Cleveland Heights.
It takes a village to keep sidewalks clear

STEIN’S WAY

Jason Stein

This has been an unusually cold winter. We have learned what a polar vortex is, and had more school snow days than my 50-something memory can recall. The winters of recent past had cold and snowy days, but there was always a break when temperatures would rise and the snow would melt. These thaws helped make the winter months feel shorter and cleared much of the snow from our sidewalks. This winter’s constant cold has highlighted an ongoing challenge: to keep our city walkable, even in the winter months.

When the sidewalks are covered with six inches or more of snow, pedestrians tend to walk in the street. Among them are elementary school children walking to and from their schools and bus stops; disabled or senior individuals who have challenges walking under the best of weather conditions; and those who use public transportation. Walking in the streets is dangerous and a public safety issue.

Recently, I posted a question on my Facebook page: Should Cleveland Heights enforce the sidewalk snow removal ordinance by issuing a warning for the first offense and a ticket for subsequent offenses (and why)? In 2011, at a city council meeting, I requested ideas from the public to encourage residents and businesses to make their sidewalks passable by shoveling them after a snowfall. At that time, I received no more than a handful of responses. To my surprise, my Facebook question quickly had 240 comments! Most who responded indicated that they felt this issue needed the attention of city council, and needed a resolution. There was no clear consensus on how the city should approach the issue.

City council and staff discussed the issue at our Feb. 9 city council meeting. In a lengthy discussion, we dissected numerous options, including the three most popular from respondents to my Facebook post.

1. The city should clear the sidewalks, like University Heights and Shaker Heights. This would solve the problem. However, the cost would exceed $500,000 a year. Cleveland Heights’ income tax rate is 2 percent. Shaker Heights’ is 2.25 percent and University Heights’ is 2.5 percent. The city would need additional tax revenue to add this service.

2. Fine residents and businesses that do not clear their sidewalks. This option would increase compliance and lead to the majority of sidewalks being shoveled after a snowfall. Exceptions would be made, however, for the disabled, seniors and others who are unable to clear their sidewalks. The city could collaborate with schools and nonprofits to assist those who cannot clear their own sidewalks, but this would not be a perfect system and would leave a percentage of sidewalks filled with snow. Of course, there would likely be complaints from residents who receive warnings and/or fines, as the city already experiences with tall grass citations in the summer.

3. Private snow-removal businesses should offer sidewalk snow removal with their driveway service: The city can encourage licensed snow-removal businesses to offer sidewalk snow removal. Certainly, paying for snow removal for the season would be less expensive than receiving a few tickets. Many residents, however, including myself, do not have any intention of paying for snow removal (I clear my own driveway and sidewalk).

In the end, it was decided that:
• The city’s public works department will map out the city’s main roads and design a plan to plow those sidewalks.
• The city will encourage private snow-plow businesses to offer sidewalk snow removal.
• The city will look for best practices from other municipalities that have programs to assist the elderly and disabled in clearing their sidewalks.
• When the city receives a complaint of unpassable sidewalks at a residence or business, the city will send out an inspector and issue a warning.
• When the city receives a complaint of unpassable sidewalks at a residence or business, the city will issue a citation, when warranted, to the service provider.
• The city will create and distribute a guide to educate and assist residents with tips for keeping sidewalks and driveway aprons clear during the winter months.

Council and city staff will continue to discuss this issue through the summer in preparation for walkable sidewalks during the 2014-15 winter season. It does take a village, and Cleveland Heights has great neighbors throughout our village. I have heard stories of residents who go above and beyond, plowing neighbors’ sidewalks, clearing snow for a neighbor, helping a neighbor put trash out on the tree lawn, starting a street club and contributing in other ways.

I want to recognize those Cleveland Heights heroes who make our city so special, and encourage others to be more neighborly. With this in mind, I am establishing “Councilman Stein’s Outstanding Neighbor of the Month” award, to be awarded to CH residents who go above and beyond to help their neighbors and improve their neighborhood. To nominate a neighbor for this recognition, fill out the online form at councilmanstein.blogspot.com or contact me at jstein@chvths.com or 440-231-9603 for a nomination form.

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 440-231-9613 or jstein@chvths.com.

JUDGES BY DAY continued from page 1

It would be a relief to know we’re playing in a real band. “It’s a dream come true for me,” he said. “I never thought I would have the talent to play in a band.”

James Hone, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

Donnelly estimates that the band has raised about $200,000 at benefits over the years.

Last year, the group played the Jam for John at the House of Blues. As a result of that gig, it was featured on “Live on Lakeside” on WKYC-TV.

Donnelly, 47, grew up in Rocky River and went to high school at St. Ignatius, then majored in history at John Carroll University. He started playing guitar in high school. “I’ve followed bands and music all my life since high school,” he said. “It’s my number one passion.” About five years ago, he decided to attend the School of Rock in Highland Heights. They have a ‘graduate program for adults’,” he said. “and you work with other musicians and come up with a set of about 20 songs. Then it culminates with a live performance at the Beachland Ballroom.”

One night, Donnelly told the School of Rock classmates decided to go out on their own. In 2011, they played their first gig at Brothers Lounge in Cleveland. They came up with the name Faith and Whiskey after experimenting with a variety of other names. “Faith and Whiskey is the name of a bar in Chicago,” Donnelly said. “Our bass player suggested that we use the name.” The group has a motto related to the name: “If you don’t have one, you better have the other.”

The group has played many local venues, including a Wade Oval Wednesday event last summer. The group’s repertoire comprises about 60 cover songs, including songs by the Rolling Stones, the Clash, J. Geils Band, Simple Minds and Billy Idol. “We basically agreed that we should offer sidewalk snow removal to encourage licensed snow-plow businesses to offer sidewalk snow removal.”

Many residents, however, including myself, do not have any intention of paying for snow removal (I clear my own driveway and sidewalk).

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 440-231-9613 or jstein@chvths.com.

Apple Construction
Residential Contractor
Serving Greater Cleveland since 1980
Kitchens, bathrooms, additions and more
216-321-6639
www.apple-construction.com • email: appleconstructioncle@gmail.com
Can our voices change the world?

People with different experiences had the chance to explore ideas, clarify their own beliefs and arrive at some level of shared understanding. Proponents of the policies reviewed by Ravitch have discouraged any questioning of their ideas, so this series of conversations was radical in that it ended the public silence. It increased awareness of complex issues and put the community and educators on the same team. It demonstrated that individual citizens are willing to invest the time and thought needed to create informed action.

The series was a model of how to build awareness, common language, shared understanding, trust and the will to act. We need more of this!

The experience helped overcome my paralysis. If I focus on what I can do in my community with my fellow readers to resist the negative thrust of public policy—instead of worrying about the well-financed privatization machine—I can make a difference.

I don’t like someone far from the machine—I can make a difference.

The turnout was large and many of the 97 who came to the first meeting attended all three.

- Susie Kaeser

How do you change the world?

In a recent conversation about the future of public education—the focus of my quest for a more just and inclusive society—a friend reminded me that change starts with each of us: “I only have control over what I do.”

Can a one-person-at-a-time approach make a difference when unfettered corporate influence, Gerrymandered legislatures, and both political parties embrace education policies that are undemocratic and harmful to children?

For the last 20 years I’ve had a growing fear that reform ideas sounding reasonable on the surface could destroy public education. The narrative of crisis and failure has infiltrated the public discourse, and obsession with standardized tests has narrowed learning, while emphasizing labeling and judging.

The free-market school reformers have created a dual system of education where the wealthy have access to good schools, while policies that are undemocratic and harmful to children?

Proponents of the policies reviewed by Ravitch have discouraged any questioning of their ideas, so this series of conversations was radical in that it ended the public silence. It increased awareness of complex issues and put the community and educators on the same team. It demonstrated that individual citizens are willing to invest the time and thought needed to create informed action.

The series was a model of how to build awareness, common language, shared understanding, trust and the will to act. We need more of this!

The experience helped overcome my paralysis. If I focus on what I can do in my community with my fellow readers to resist the negative thrust of public policy—instead of worrying about the well-financed privatization machine—I can make a difference.

I don’t like someone far from the machine—I can make a difference.

The turnout was large and many of the 97 who came to the first meeting attended all three. If we act, so will others.

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

Meeting highlights

JANUARY 21, 2014

Vice Mayor Susan Pardee and Councilwoman Adele Zucker were absent.

Ed Kelley

Ed Kelley, former mayor of Cleveland Heights, officially announced that he is seeking election to Cuyahoga County Council to fill the seat representing the district that includes University Heights.

Green driveways

The Home Repair Resource Center will be presenting a free lecture on green driveways, including such ideas as water-permeable pavers, which would reduce water runoff. Mayor Infeld noted the possibility of increased fees in the future for nonpermeable surfaces, [and said this program might be of particular interest.

Police dispatchers

Council approved a contract wage reopened agreement, implementing the new contract terms between the city and the three police dispatchers. This contract expired last July, but an agreement was finally reached in December. A salary increase of 2 percent plus a signing bonus will be paid retroactively to July 1 to each of the dispatchers, at a cost to the city of $2,860. Councilman Mark Wiseman voted against passing the issue on emergency standing, leaving only four council members voting yes. The law director announced that four votes were insufficient for approval on emergency. Because the ordinance would all pass, but with a 30-day delay of the retroactive pay increase if it were not passed now on emergency, Wiseman made a motion to recall the vote and changed his vote to yes.

Council chambers repairs

The roof has been repaired and there has been no additional water damage. Council approved Robert C. Van Gunten Inc. to repaint the chambers at a cost of $5,885. Council also approved Marshall Carpeting to replace the carpet and asphalt tiles at a cost of no more than $3,476.04.

Sanitary sewer repair

Council approved land networking LLC (to carry out) the emergency repair of a sanitary sewer at 2535 Eaton Road at a cost of $6,234. The sewer became blocked when the pipe crumbled. Sewage was already beginning to back up into the home, so the emergency contractor had to be brought in. Council authorized the mayor to request bids for the 2014-16 emergency sewer repair contract. University Heights has paid $100,000 over the past two years to Land Network LLC for emergency sewer repairs under the current contract. LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

FEBRUARY 3, 2014

All council members were present.

Tribute to Martin Luther King

Councilwoman Nancy English spoke briefly on the evolution from Negro History Week, selected to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, to what is now Black History Month. Mayor Wayne Dewing, who has spoke next, noted that February is the time to honor people who came before us and laid the foundation for today’s promised land, a truly American story of perseverance.

Nine children from Mrs. Mandelson’s third-grade class at Gesu Elementary School spoke with pride and clarity, reading poems and essays they had written in honor of Dr. King. The Wylie Middle School Challenge Choir, comprising ninth and eighth-grade students, performed under the direction of Glen Brackens. This group recently won three first-place awards from the Music Showcase Festival in New York City, and has traveled across the country sharing its music. The current president of the choir read an essay she had written on the choir song behind her.

University-community liaison

Kyle Wake, a junior at John Carroll University, extolled the importance of university students and permanent residents learning to coexist. He asked council to provide a contact person, someone other than the police, to serve as a liaison when issues arise between students and residents. He suggested that punishments and compensatory actions could be arranged through mediation. Mayor Infeld noted that all the students are full residents of the community, just for a shorter time than homeowners. Although he appreciated his ideas, incidents that happen off-campus are more difficult to mediate because the students are considered citizens of the community and are bound to the same laws as long-term residents.

Anthony J. Coyne, UWV director, noted that such an agreement would require legislation, and that the Juvenile Division program exists already and might be an option.

Gas line replacement

Engineer Joe Conini reported that Dominion East Ohio Gas will be replacing gas lines along Cedar Road this summer, extending from Miramar Boulevard to Legacy Village. [The company will need to close one lane on the south side of Cedar Road, and will do the work during the day, except for the month of June and Cedar roads, which will be done at night due to traffic congestion. The project will take three months to complete.]

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. For information, and to suggest program topics, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-397-0336 or info@universityheights.com.

March 6: Shellie Davis and Kevin Richards, popular lyricists for Roots of American Music, will perform unforgettable bits of the 1970s and engage attendees in an exercise to compose some new classics.

March 13: Robert Walton, UH’s 2013 Citizen of the Year, Frankie Goldberg, UH’s 2013 Public Servant of the Year, and Scott Rudyk, UH’s 2013 Employee of the Year, will reflect on how fulfilling the responsibilities of their respective occupations earned them the city’s tribute.

March 20: Patrick Mullin, executive director of Reaching Heights, discusses the work of this nonprofit organization that views the CH-UH public schools as the community’s greatest asset. It mobilizes human and financial resources for their support, creates innovative extracurricular programming, and fosters excellence and pride in the schools.

March 20: At the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area, this discussion must accompany any redistribution of these reports.
Remembering Chessie Bleick

Chesca Hadden and Halley Moore

Heights resident Francesca Kemp Bleick, known as Chessie, died peacefully on Feb. 18, following a struggle with cancer. She was 73.

Bleick was born in Cleveland on Nov. 23, 1940, and attended Roxboro Elementary School and Laurel School. Following her graduation from Colorado College, she returned to her hometown to work as a librarian for General Electric.

In 1969, she married Edgar Bleick and settled into life on Delaware Drive in Cleveland Heights. She and her husband worked together for many years at K&E, the company they owned that manufactures a specialty chemical used to clean cathedrals and other historic stone buildings.

A longtime civic leader dedicated to the improvement of Cleveland Heights, Bleick was the founder of Friends of Cahn Park; one of the founders of The Heights Fund, a pro-integrative housing initiative; and PTA president at Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle School.

Bleick served as chair of the Junior League of Cleveland’s House Operations Committee, and was a dedicated member of the Cleveland Botanical Garden, where she helped with the club’s legendary White Elephant Sale.

She volunteered for more than a decade at the Nearly New Shop, which benefited the Cleveland Sight Center. She was once voted “Kwamian of the Year” by the Kiwanis Club, and ran for Cleveland Heights City Council in 1995.

Bleick was an ardent supporter of Cleveland Heights ice hockey, having two generations of exceptional Bleick hockey players under her wings. This season, Bleick was the top seller of fundraising wreaths for the Heights hockey team.

Bleick traveled extensively and managed to visit every place she intended to, with the exception of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. She was a longtime member of the Cleveland Skating Club, where she played bridge and swam daily. An avid needlepointer, she was always secretly working on a canvas for a loved one.

Bleick was a magnificent cook and host; her New Year’s Eve parties were a tradition etched into the lives of many of her friends and family. Her great room, which her son, Carl, built, was the site of countless parties and afternoon visits. She was the glue that held her community together, and she will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, at Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights. In lieu of flowers, her family asks that friends consider a memorial gift to the Forest Hill Church Endowment Fund, 3031 Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

Bleick is survived by her husband, Edgar Carl Bleick Jr.; her son, Edgar Carl Bleick III (Mary “Missy” Grace Bleick); her daughter, Francesca “Chesca” Bleick Hadden (Edward “Kenny” Kenneth Hadden IV); grandchildren Emma Grace Bleick, Calvin Jennings Bleick, Evan Mitchell Bleick, Zachary Kemp Bleick, Francesca Alexandra Hadden and Edward “Kent” Kenneth Hadden IV, brother-in-law George Goodwin (sister Molly Bliss Goodwin, deceased); niece, Sally Goodwin Connolly (Sean Connolly); nephew, Richard Goodwin (Molly McGuigan); and brother, Phillip Bliss.

She is predeceased by her mother, Francesca “Ches” Moore Kemp Bliss; her father, Evan Jennings Kemp; her brother, Evan “Van” Jennings Kemp Jr.; her father, Charles “Bill” William Bliss; and sister, Sarah Bliss.

Chesca Hadden and Halley Moore are members of Chessie Bleick’s family.
Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

JANUARY 21, 2014
All council members were present.

Arnold Pinkney
Vice Mayor Cheryl Stephens reflected on the life and service of longtime political and community activist Arnold Pinkney, who died earlier this month.

Sanitary sewer work
Council approved an agreement, at a cost not to exceed $198,000, with Mackey Engineering & Surveying Company for engineering and surveying services needed in advance of constructing a new sanitary sewer line, and rehabilitating an existing sanitary sewer, on Fairmont Boulevard between Shulbrede Road and approximately 200 feet east of Wellington Road. The existing sanitary sewer on Fairmont Boulevard is supposed to control up to five sanitary sewer overflows along this route, but is too small to do so without periodically overflowing into the storm sewer, thus sending waste into Lake Erie. The city will issue tax-exempt notes or bonds to cover these costs.

Cedar Lee streetscape
Council authorized an agreement with CDM Smith for engineering, bidding support, and prebidding design services for signal design and roadway work for the Cedar Lee Streetscape Project, at a cost of $69,778, to be covered by issuance of tax-exempt notes or bonds.

Heritage Home Program
Council renewed an agreement with the Cleveland Restoration Society and Preservation Resource Center of Northeast Ohio for historic preservation consulting services in connection with the Heritage Home Program. Since 2001, the city has participated in this program, which provides below-market interest rate loans to owners of historic properties, for repairs and improvements. The fee paid for these services will be $17,850.

Juvenile offender mentoring
Council authorized establishment of a Juvenile Diversion/Mentoring Program. The program’s goal is to provide an opportunity to juvenile first-time offenders to correct self-devaluing and life-altering behaviors instead of referral to the juvenile court system. Stemming from an alliance of the Cleveland Heights Police Department, the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, the program has three objectives: 1) to redirect juveniles from delinquent, voracious, and anti-social behavior, 2) to reduce the recidivism rate of all juvenile offenders and 3) to decrease the risk factors associated with delinquent behaviors.

Notable Heights residents
Council Member Melissa Yasnow noted that resident Margaret Bernstein is a finalist for the Cleveland Indians “Mentor of the Year.” Another prominent resident, Michael Symon, recently topped a segment of his network show, “The Chew,” with members of the Cleveland Heights Fire Department. The program will be broadcast at 1 p.m. on Feb. 4 [on ABC, Channel 3].

February 3, 2014
All council members were present.

Public comments
Easton Dental: Joseph Walker, a dentist with Easton Dental, invited council to the firm’s grand opening in the Severance Medical Arts Building on Feb. 9. He expressed enthusiasm for the chance to serve the Cleveland Heights community.

Janine Boyd’s candidacy
Resident Diane Hallam criticized Council Member Janine Boyd for running for her mother’s (Barbara Boyd) seat in the (state) legislature. If elected, Boyd’s replacement for the city council seat would be appointed and not elected.

Heights Community Garden Network: Samantha Provencio, director, described the new organization’s work to connect local gardeners and promote the development of community gardens. They work with the city to develop gardens on vacant lots. Information can be found on their website: www.heightscommunitygardens.net

Lennon/Suzy parking garage
Council authorized receipt of proposals to review strategic operations and bids for repairs for the Lennon/Suzy parking garage.

Turkey Ridge development
Council heard a first reading for the establishment of the boundaries of the Turkey Ridge Community Reinvestment Area, which includes Kenilworth Mews and parts of Overlook and Edgehill roads. Designation as a Community Reinvestment Area will encourage reinvestment for remodeling or new construction of owner-occupied housing. The resolution introduced outlines for three different categories of investment that will enjoy tax exemptions on the value of improvements to property:

• New construction of owner-occupied housing valued at $400,000 per unit minimum, in a project that is valued at $4 million or more, may apply for property tax exemption for 15 years.
• New owner occupied housing valued at $400,000 per unit minimum, in a project valued at $1.6 million, may apply for property tax exemption for 10 years.
• Rehabs of existing housing with a minimum investment of $500,000 or more may apply for 10 years tax exemptions.

The legislation also creates a five-person Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council to inspect properties that have received exemptions.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Council also declared two vacant properties in serious disrepair to be nuisances and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

All council members were present.

Amending Building code fees
Council heard a first reading for the establishment of the boundaries of the Turkey Ridge Community Reinvestment Area, which includes Kenilworth Mews and parts of Overlook and Edgehill roads. Designation as a Community Reinvestment Area will encourage reinvestment for remodeling or new construction of owner-occupied housing. The resolution introduced outlines for three different categories of investment that will enjoy tax exemptions on the value of improvements to property:

• New construction of owner-occupied housing valued at $400,000 per unit minimum, in a project that is valued at $4 million or more, may apply for property tax exemption for 15 years.
• New owner occupied housing valued at $400,000 per unit minimum, in a project valued at $1.6 million, may apply for property tax exemption for 10 years.
• Rehabs of existing housing with a minimum investment of $500,000 or more may apply for 10 years tax exemptions.

The legislation also creates a five-person Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council to inspect properties that have received exemptions.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Council also declared two vacant properties in serious disrepair to be nuisances and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Council also declared two vacant properties in serious disrepair to be nuisances and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Council also declared two vacant properties in serious disrepair to be nuisances and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Council also declared two vacant properties in serious disrepair to be nuisances and revoked its certificate of business occupancy.

Building code fees increased
Council heard a first reading of legislation amending several sections of the building code to increase a variety of fees for permits and inspection related to property improvement.

Nuisance business and properties
Council declared the bar operating at 2573 Noble Road (The Byou) to be a nuisance, and revoked its certificate of business occupancy. 
On March 12, Reaching Heights will host its annual Adult Spelling Bee in the Heights High auditorium. The event serves as both a fundraiser for the organization and a family-friendly event for the whole community.

For 25 years, community members have formed teams to test their spelling skills and compete for the honor of having their team’s name emblazoned on the “Coveted Big Plastic Bee Trophy.” Teams represent organizations, such as parent-teacher associations from Heights schools, local religious institutions, universities, world-class orchestras, law firms, and city councils, or they comprise groups of friends. Some teams train extensively, others not so much, but all get into the spirit of the evening with creative costumes and cheering sections.

Each year at the Bee, Reaching Heights honors a Friend of Public Education for his or her commitment to Heights schools. This year’s honoree is Carla Bailey.

“Carla Bailey is a parent, PTA leader, vocal music volunteer, AFSA national student exchange host parent, and advocate, refugee student advocate, and mentor in South Euclid, founded in 1910. He has been a member of the Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights since 1969. Lauren Lanphear is the third-generation owner of Forest City Tree Protection Co., has been a member of the Church of the Saviour since 1969. He is Carla Bailey. Ms. Bailey’s father, the late Mr. Bailey, was a prominent member of the church and a respected community leader.”

“Carla Bailey is a parent, PTA leader, vocal music volunteer, AFSA national student exchange host parent, and advocate, refugee student advocate, and mentor.”

The Bee will start at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 12, and all are welcome to attend the free event. As in previous years, Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun, will be master of ceremonies, and Nancy Levin, CH-UH library director, will be the pronouncer. This year’s judges will be Nylajean McDaniel, CH-UH superintendent, and Tony Zupancic, a Heights resident and associate professor of communications, English and theater at Notre Dame College.

The Reaching Heights Spelling Bee raises funds for programs that support academic and musical excellence in the CH-UH public schools. Each team raises a minimum of $500. In 2013, 21 teams competed and raised $13,000. Video of last year’s Bee is online at www.reachingheights.org.

The deadline to register a team is March 4. To register, or for more information, contact Krista Hawthorn at 216-932-5102 or krista@reachingheights.org.

Saroya Queen-Tabor is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and a member of the Reaching Heights Board of Directors.

The effects of frigid temperatures on garden plants

With periods of extreme cold come questions about the impact such temperatures may have on plant materials in the landscape. It is a good time to review potential damage to trees and shrubs, keeping in mind that much of the damage that may occur will not become apparent until new growth begins in the spring. By then, many of us will have forgotten the frigid temperatures that have now twice invaded the Heights, especially if it’s a mild winter, and gardeners may not relate in mind when assessing plant problems in the spring.

Significant root kill will certainly affect the survivability of landscape plants. Soil by itself is a good insulator, and in winter it protects roots from the cold. Snow cover is also important, as it provides natural insulation that can help to protect root systems. If low temperatures affect roots, it is the feeder roots—those closest to the surface—that are likely to be killed. The roots of plants in above-ground planters or containers, of course, are much less protected and are subject to direct injury or death from the cold.

One type of cold injury that is most predictable is the killing of flower buds on those trees and shrubs that are marginally hardy in our region. For example, the buds of forsythia, a common ornamental in Heights gardens, are prone to winter kill when temperatures drop to 15 degrees below zero.

Evergreen trees and shrubs are at additional risk as they continue to evaporate moisture due to winter’s drying winds. Frozen soil prevents replacement of this water. The beautiful mature landscapes surrounding our homes include many rhododendrons, azaleas and the like—broad-leaved evergreens that are particularly susceptible to winter burn, a common injury that results in brown, yellow, or, sometimes, dead plants in the spring. A late fall application of an anti-desiccant to these plants can significantly reduce this moisture loss, thereby giving shrubs and trees an edge against winter injury. The spray’s effects last through the winter and help to maintain the evergreens’ natural color and protect them from salt damage.

The frigid weather and the possible types of damage that it could cause should be kept in mind when evaluating plant growth or death come spring.

Neff Landscaping

Have Radiators? Want Central Air? Don’t resist any longer!

The Unico system was designed for homes like yours. This system provides exceptional comfort without any messy and expensive remodeling. Heights homeowners have relied on the Hahn family for providing quality heating and cooling service for over 100 years. Call today for your initial inspection.

VERNE • ELSWORTH HANN INC
hannheatingcooling.com
(216) 932-9755 or 371-HANN

Owned and operated by Chris & Bill Hahn

FREE WEEKENDS IN MARCH
Try any weekend in March for FREE and get special pricing at your first visit!

NEW CUSTOMER DISCOUNT
First time visitors only - One free weekend per customer

NEW CUSTOMER DISCOUNT
First time visitors only - One free weekend per customer

Contact Mary Beth: (440) 655-5394
marybethmccnn@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/JazzerciseClevelandHeightsSouthEuclid

Plates, yoga and hip-hop inspired dance moves to great music PLUS core and strength training!

I
I
HCC hosts March 7 diversity awareness program

Mayeetha White

Heights Community Congress (HCC) will host a diversity awareness program on Friday, March 7, from 7–8:30 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. Advance registration is not required for this event, where participants will have the opportunity to experience the choices people made during the civil rights movement. Sometimes these choices meant the difference between life and death.

HCC will ask this question: You are living in the United States during the time when African Americans aren’t treated equally; will you join in the movement to bring civil rights to all Americans?

This is an interactive program, and those participating in the history adventure will deepen their understanding of life before the Civil Rights Act was passed. Participants may help design bus lines as Freedom Riders, or join a lunch counter sit-in.

The March 7 program continues a series that began in October 2013 with a screening of “The Last White Knight,” and a conversation with the film’s director and producer, Paul Saltzman, about his experiences during the civil rights movement. It is presented as a direct response to feedback HCC received from youths—their thoughts and feedback HCC received from youths—will be the focus of the program.

New CRS program facilitates purchase and rehab of older homes

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Jan. 16, the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) announced the expansion of its Heritage HomeSM Program to assist potential homeowners in both purchasing and rehabilitating existing homes. Previously, homeowners could receive a low-interest fixed-rate loan for renovations. Now they can also receive a second mortgage to make the initial purchase more affordable.

Called the Heritage Home Purchases and Rehab program, the new program combines technical assistance from CRS with a variable-rate home purchase loan and fixed-rate home improvement loan from program partner First Federal of Lakewood. Cayahoga County subsidizes the loan to ensure a low interest rate.

Kathleen Crowther, CRS president, made the announcement at a press conference held in front of a vacant home on Bluestone Road in South Euclid. One South Euclid, the city’s community development corporation, recently purchased the home from the Cayahoga Land Bank, and seeks to market it as a candidate for the purchase/rehab program.

The loans are made based on the after-rehab value of the property—up to 90 percent of the appraised value or 95 percent if the property is located in a low/moderate census tract or the borrower’s income falls within a low/moderate range. The purchase loan is a variable rate. The rehab loan is a low fixed rate—currently 2 percent through KeyBank and 1.5 percent through First Federal Lakewood. No real estate tax or insurance reserves need to be posted at closing, so homeowners can put all of their cash into upgrading the property.

The program is available to buyers of homes that are 50 years old or older, in communities that participate in CRS’s Heritage HomeSM Program. The home does not have to be owner-occupied, and it can be income-producing.

Cleveland Heights has participated since 2002, and University Heights, which participated from 2003-09, rejoined the program in 2013.

According to Mary Ogle, program specialist at CRS, Cleveland Heights is one of the most active participants in the program. In Cleveland Heights, CRS has facilitated 164 loans valued at more than $5.5 million, conducted 244 personalized site visits and provided 647 instances of free technical assistance valued at $24.4 million.

In University Heights, CRS has facilitated 12 loans valued at $555,682, conducted 14 site visits and provided 97 instances of technical assistance valued at $1.5 million.

“We see great potential for prospective homebuyers looking to relocate to the Heights and take advantage of real estate opportunities,” said Ogle. “We also think the Heritage Home Purchase Program would be a great tool for existing Heights homeowners looking to upgrade or reinvigorate their living situation in a community they love.”

Ogle said that CRS can review a vacant or distressed home, identify the rehab potential and estimate the project cost. She said that CRS has worked with the cities of South Euclid and Lakewood to promote properties that each city brought to CRS’s attention, and could partner with Cleveland Heights and South Euclid, the city’s community development corporation, recently purchased the home from the Cayahoga Land Bank, and seeks to market it as a candidate for the purchase/rehab program.

The retailer does not assume the risk of Bitcoin’s extreme market volatility said Chad. “Bitcoins are automatically converted to U.S. dollars within one or two business days, guaranteed for the price paid at the time of transaction.”

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of Future heights and publisher of the Heights Observer.
Finding the needle in the haystack of senior support services

Senior Scene

Judith Eugene

As our needs change due to age, illness or injury it can be difficult to sort through the myriad support services available. Choosing one that best meets our needs is a daunting and sometimes confusing task. Fortunately, there are local resources to help us to make a well-informed decision.

The estate and life-care planning firm of Bartimore-Greenne, located in Beachwood, is one such resource. The firm helps clients with legal and financial services. Kelsey Loushin, the on-staff care coordinator, assists with aging-related needs. A well-respected veteran in the senior care field, she has an extensive inventory of local services, programs and products at her fingertips.

“Our clients tell us what their goals are and then we do everything in our power to help them meet their goals,” Loushin said.

An elderly Cleveland Heights couple came to Bartimore-Greene for help when the husband’s health started to decline. Loushin connected them with a local company that helped them modify their home so they could continue to live there safely. Eventually, the husband needed nursing care and Loushin helped them apply for Medicaid benefits to preserve the couple’s assets and enable the wife to continue living at home.

“We pride ourselves on being a holistic care firm,” said Loushin. “We address all of the aging needs someone might have.”

The Senior Comfort Guide is a comprehensive listing of services such as insurance, home care, transportation, medical supplies and long-term care. The guide is user-friendly with easy-to-read type. There are more than 9,000 copies available at local senior centers, hospitals and doctor’s offices.

Compton personally visits all of the businesses listed in his guide and reviews their services. “People can call me at no charge,” he said, “and I will match them to the services that best fit their needs.” When a Cleveland Heights family needed a medical alert system, they called Compton for advice. He referred them to a reputable company that provided them with a system, which enabled them to remain living safely at home. The guide is available online, a convenience for out-of-town family members.

A Place for Mom is a national company that provides free telephone and Internet referrals to helpful resources for seniors in the Heights and surrounding areas. “Our job is to make sure mom and dad are safe and comfortable first,” said Angelique Kaczmarek, community relations advisor for the Heights, “and then we find them the best resources for their particular situation.”

The service lists senior housing options and helps families compare the features of each, then arranges tours of the facilities for the family. To ensure it refers clients only to high quality companies, the company reviews the licenses and inspection reports of each facility on its list. A Place for Mom also offers helpful tools, guides and articles on subjects such as dementia, Medicare and Medicaid, and caregiver concerns.

Bartimore-Greene can be reached at 216-464-9999, Max Compton can be reached at 216-292-8485 or www.seniorcomfortguide.com, and A Place for Mom can be reached at 866-344-8005 or www.aplaceformom.com.

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 through www.3livinglandgroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or judith@3livinglandgroup.com.

McDaniel's superintendent contract began on July 1, 2013 and ends July 31, 2014, at an annual salary rate of $152,062. At the time Heuer stepped down as superintendent, his salary was $153,062.

In the same June 2013 news release that announced the transition from one superintendent to another, the district announced a “new role” for Heuer, and said he would “lead an effort in the upcoming year to help the district implement the State of Ohio’s new standards-based evaluation system for teachers and principals.”

According to Angree Shaker, director of communications for the district, in June 2013 the board “contracted for consulting services with Heuer through Cayahoga County Educational Services Center (CCESC) to address three critical state mandates: OPES (Ohio Principals Evaluation System), OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System) and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.”

Heuer’s consulting contract with the district is for a period of one year, ending June 30. He is being paid $121,956 for his consulting services through CCESC. The district does not plan to renew the consulting service when the contractual agreement ends.

Commenting on Heuer’s consulting work for the district, McDaniel said, “Mr. Heuer has provided counsel ... to assist us in implementing the State of Ohio’s new standards-based evaluation system for teachers and principals (OTES and OPES).”

The framework provides tools for assessing and monitoring leadership performance, including both formative assessment and summative evaluation. Mr. Heuer has provided consulting work to our assistant superintendent, Dr. Andrea Celico, and has been available to our principals to assist them with their OTES examination preparation and has been providing leadership development for three of our principals.”


In June 2011, the BOE voted unanimously to extend Heuer’s contract for an additional three years, effective August 2012 through July 31, 2013. Heuer’s June 2013 resignation came less than one year into that three-year contract. In April 2013, he was a finalist for the position of superintendent of Toledo Public Schools.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

Community News

Superintendent continued from page 1

Heights Observer March 1, 2014

www.heightsobserver.org

Heights Observer March 1, 2014     www.heightsobserver.org

of three superintendent search firms the board interviewed in January. The board anticipated that the firm would provide a report of the “desired attributes and characteristics” on Feb. 26, and begin recruiting that same day.

At its Feb. 4 meeting, the board said it plans to develop interview questions on April 2. The first round of interviews, with the top five candidates, are planned for April 7 and 8. Then, April 15-17, the top three candidates will return for “more discussion,” and will each spend a day in the schools and the community. On April 19, the board plans to meet in executive session to select a superintendent.

“This will be a critical decision, and it’s extremely important that we get it right. That’s why we will conduct this superintendent search in a thorough, professional and diligent manner,” said Ron Register, BOE president. “Dr. McDaniel has been a strong and steady leader for this district during a time of change, and her leadership is directly responsible for the historic passage of the bond issue, which will renovate and renew our high school and middle schools. That’s an impressive legacy to leave.”

On June 25, 2013, the BOE announced that then-superintendent Douglas Heuer was “stepping down,” and that Nylean Jackson McDaniel, the district’s director of human resources, would become the new superintendent for one year.

McDaniel had been set to retire as the district’s director of human resources on June 30, but accepted those plans,” according to Register, “in order to help the district transition to new leadership.” Prior to joining the CH-UH district, McDaniel was superintendent of the Fairview Park School District.

McDaniel’s superintendent contract began on July 1, 2013 and ends July 31, 2014, at an annual salary rate of $152,062. At the time Heuer stepped down as superintendent, his salary was $153,062.

In the same June 2013 news release that announced the transition from one superintendent to another, the district announced a “new role” for Heuer, and said he would “lead an effort in the upcoming year to help the district implement the State of Ohio’s new standards-based evaluation system for teachers and principals.”

According to Angree Shaker, director of communications for the district, in June 2013 the board “contracted for consulting services with Heuer through Cayahoga County Educational Services Center (CCESC) to address three critical state mandates: OPES (Ohio Principals Evaluation System), OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System) and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.”

Heuer’s consulting contract with the district is for a period of one year, ending June 30. He is being paid $121,956 for his consulting services through CCESC. The district does not plan to renew the consulting service when the contractual agreement ends.

Commenting on Heuer’s consulting work for the district, McDaniel said, “Mr. Heuer has provided counsel ... to assist us in implementing the State of Ohio’s new standards-based evaluation system for teachers and principals (OTES and OPES).”

The framework provides tools for assessing and monitoring leadership performance, including both formative assessment and summative evaluation. Mr. Heuer has provided consulting work to our assistant superintendent, Dr. Andrea Celico, and has been available to our principals to assist them with their OTES examination preparation and has been providing leadership development for three of our principals.”


In June 2011, the BOE voted unanimously to extend Heuer’s con-tract for an additional three years, effective August 2012 through July 31, 2013. Heuer’s June 2013 resignation came less than one year into that three-year contract. In April 2013, he was a finalist for the position of superintendent of Toledo Public Schools.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

Harmonious Services Under One Elegant Roof!

► Rental Apartments for 55+
► Furnished Extended Stay/Corporate Housing
► Bed & Breakfast Getaways
► Unique Event Venue

How May We Serve You?

Please call 216-321-5400 or visit us @ www.thealcazar.com

The Alcazar

Conveniently located close to University Circle at the top of Cedar Hill in Cleveland Heights’ vibrant Cedar Fairmount neighborhood

2450 Derbyshire Road, Cleveland Heights 44106

Become an Observer

Submit your story or letter at www.heightsobserver.org

www.heightsobserver.org
Heights Swim Cadets perform annual show
March 6–8

Amy Rosenbluth

The Cleveland Heights High School Swim Cadets, a synchronized swim team, will hold its 2014 season performances on March 6, 7 and 8. This year’s theme is “Swim Cadets Fall into a Dream.”

The 20-girl team is the school’s oldest extracurricular organization, and has been active for more than 80 years.

Laina Cohen, a Heights High graduate and one of the team’s coaches, said, “The athletics department has graciously taken us under its wing for the first time this year. I am so proud to say that, with the amazing amount of help they have given us, as well as all of the work and dedication these girls bring to the team, this year’s show is bound to be a must-see event!”

Kristin Hughes, Heights High’s director of athletics, commented, “I was really happy to support the Swim Cadets this season. They are a great group of students who work very hard. Coach Cohen has done a tremendous job in her first season with us. Upholding this tradition is truly something special for Tiger Nation.”

The shows begin at 7:30 p.m. each night at the Heights High pool, at 13263 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. Parking is available at the rear of the building, and the pool entrance is at the northeast corner. Tickets are available from cadet members and will also be sold at the door. Buy them early—these shows always sell out.

This year’s Swim Cadet officers are co-presidents Phoebe Lammert and Sarah Lentz, treasurer Emma Bleick, secretary Franny Krupkin and sergeant-at-arms Meredith Matia.

Laina Cohen and Madison Walker, the team’s coaches, are both former Heights High Swim Cadets.

2014 Heights Swim Cadets members are: seniors Emma Bartz, Emma Bleick, Amber Jackson, Franny Krupkin, Phoebe Lammert, Kasey Lanese and Meredith Matia; juniors Julianna Clark, Miranda Coble, Arden Dyer, Emily Lang, Sarah Lentz and Amelia Williams; sophomores Maya Hubbard, Grace Pepler, Allegra Steiger; and freshmen Soli Collins, Aubrey Fort, Jessa Lammert and Laurel Matia.

Amy Rosenbluth is the proud parent of a Heights Swim Cadet.
Heights High hockey wins division, coach of the year

Mike Adams

The 2013-14 Cleveland Heights High School varsity hockey team won the White East Division of the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League (GCHSHL) with a league record of 6-1-1, and an overall record of 12-9-3.

The team’s season was highlighted by strong leadership from veteran players, with younger players contributing to the successful season, and providing a glimpse toward an exciting future. The small team, coached by Heights graduate Eddie Babcox, exceeded expectations by earning post-season play in the Baron Cup Tournament.

After the team’s second-round defeat to eventual Baron Cup Champion Western Reserve Academy, Kristen Hughes, Cleveland Heights athletic director, said, “I am really proud of how well our ice hockey program represented Tiger Nation this season. They are a gritty bunch who play with a lot of heart. When you look at how young our roster is, you can only be excited about the future of Heights Hockey.”

Senior defensemen Isaac Brown and freshman forward Stephen Lang were named to the GCHSHL/White All-League team. Freshman goalie Trent Swain was named to the second team, and junior forward Dominic DiTirro earned third-team honors. Sophomore defensemen Bobby Edwards earned honorable mention.

GCHSHL/White All-Division first-team honors went to DiTirro, Lang, Edwards and Swain, with Brown earning second-team honors. Babcox was named coach of the year for both the league and the division.

Mike Adams lives in Cleveland Heights and has long been involved with local youth hockey and baseball.

Heights athletes are college-bound

Joy Henderson

On Feb. 5, 19 Heights High student-athletes signed national letters of intent to officially accept college athletic scholarships.

The February ceremony at Cleveland Heights High School has become an important tradition for many of the school’s teams. The football team had a strong showing, with 16 seniors on the auditorium stage.

Jeff Rotsky, the team’s coach, expects at least five students will play at Division III schools. “We have one of the largest numbers of athletes signing in the Cleveland area,” said Rotsky.

Building a winning team is very important to the coach. “However, building men of character and sending our young men to college is really our top priority,” Rotsky added.

There were three girls at the signing table. Basketball player AShanti Abshaw, who averaged 21 points per game and has scored more than 1,000 points in her high school career, will attend Cleveland State University. Diver Ellen Bosch, currently ranked second in the state, will attend Georgia Tech. Soccer player Kalah Saunders, who earned a record of 53 goals and 50 assists during her high school career, plans to attend Lake Erie College.

The 14 football players who committed to a college as of mid-February are: Marcus Bagley, Sr. Francis University (Pa.); Dorian Baker, University of Kentucky; D’Andre Barden, University of Charleston (W.Va.); Derwin DeAngelo Ware, Bowling Green State University (Ohio); Devon Cox, West Liberty University (W.Va.); Rayshawn Dickerson, University of Charleston (W.Va.); Marquion Menee, Alderson Broaddus University (W.Va.); Taz Pauldo, Central Connecticut State University; Kory Pearson, St. Francis University (Pa.); Stewart Smith, University of Charleston (W.Va.); Robert Morris University (Pa.); and DeAngelo Ware, Bowling Green State University.

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

Heights High hockey team engages in a pregame ritual on its way to earning league and division honors.

Heights athletes raise pens for the ceremonial National signing Day, where they commit to play a sport and study at a college or university.


Summer Ruffing It!

Summer camps for ages 18 months - 14 years

June 16 - August 8, 2014

For more information or to register online please go to: ruffingmontessori.net/camps

3380 Fairmount Boulevard · Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

LENSOFTSPORTS
Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

JANUARY 27, 2014
All board members were present.

Coventry residents address board
Coventry resident Sarah Wein presented a petition with 175 signatures protesting the board’s decision to close Coventry Village Library on Fridays, transferring the hours to the University Heights Library to enable it to open Sunday afternoons. Other residents who spoke asked the board not to take away the neighborhood library. They stated that the Coventry Village Library is the smallest and has the worst parking.

The speakers made the following points:
• The decision was made without prior an-
nouncement or opportunity for input from the community.
• The decision seems to have been made on the basis of numbers only, ignoring the facts that the Coventry Village library serves the neighborhood with the lowest median income and [one that] has already lost its neighborhood school.
• Coventry Village Library is the smallest branch and has the worst parking.
• The library is an integral part of the neigh-
borhood and is the center for services to the deaf.
• The board feels that the library is under-
used, perhaps innovative programming is needed.
• The library hours are already inconvenient.
• Is the board working on a zero-sum theory in that if one library gains hours, another loses them.

University Heights resident Marcia Beaufort Klasnner sympathized with the Coventry sup-
porters but asked the board not to take away the Sunday hours for University Heights, indi-
cating how important they are, especially for the Orthodox community.

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

New computers boost literacy
Sheryl Banks

“The board has added more computers to our libraries as they have been popular with children,” said Sheryl Banks, marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

“Please note that we do not have a zero-sum theory when it comes to library hours,” she added.

New computers were just added to Heights Knowledge and Information Center (HKIC).

Coventry Village Library has had readers from the Heights Knowledge and Information Center for the past several weeks.

The HKIC is a free library branch that serves the neighborhood with the lowest median income.

The HKIC has already lost its neighborhood school.

“Ours are continually in use,” said Constance Dickerson, Noble Neighbor-
dom Library manager. “We are always happy when children choose to use the Internet PCs. This happens quite a bit!”

The stations feature such programs as Homework Help, which gives school-age kids a wide variety of learning resources, including guides for writing books reports and science reports; and online reference sources such as the Encyclopedia Britan-
nia, a dictionary and a world atlas. For the younger set, there are multiple games that teach numbers and letters, and read aloud to children while they follow the words on the screen.

The stations also offer a service to par-
ents and other caregivers—they give kids a fun, educational way to stay busy while mom and dad get some work done nearby.

What’s going on at your library?

Got cabin fever? Stop by the library, where we are getting ready for spring. At the Lee Road Library, the Home Grown Food series will explore compost-
ing, food preservation, garden planting by plant type, and backyard chicken keeping.

Coventry Village Library
1927 Coventry Road, 216-331-3400
Friday, March 21, 4 p.m.
Bubble Gum Fun. Have fun with bubble gum. Learn about this sticky treat, sample various flavors, and make a bubble-gum craft. For school-age chil-
dren must be accompanied by an adult.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.
Home Grown Food Home Food Preservation. Linnette Grain, field specialist for food safety with The Ohio State University Extension, will present a workshop on home canning and food preservation. The program will address food safety prin-
ciples, water-bath and pressure canning, as well as freezing fruits and vegetables. Register at www.heightslibrary.org.

Brennan’s Colony
2299 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

Officer Jason West Memorial Scholarship Fund
Saturday March 16, 6-8 p.m.
Mega Raffle, Tickets Available

See disclaimer on page 6.
CH-UH students are finalists in Maltz Museum essay contest

Jewel Moulthrop

More than 2,500 students in grades 6-12, from throughout Northeast Ohio, entered the sixth annual Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out essay contest created by the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. The contest encourages middle- and high-school students to focus attention on the corrosive effects of discrimination and intolerance while developing critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.

Three finalists from each lower-grade level have been chosen and are eligible for cash prizes to be awarded at a ceremony on Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at Severance Hall.

Among these finalists are four students from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. They are Jordan Major, 8th-grader at Roxboro Middle School; Justin Fitzgerald, 9th-grader at Heights High; and Taylor Jackson and Madeleine Shutt, 10th-graders at Heights High.

This year, students in grades 6-12 were asked to write an essay in 500 words or less, about one of the following themes: witnessing an act of discrimination or hate toward yourself or someone else; if you responded, why did you decide to stand up and how can you encourage your peers to do the same; if you didn’t respond, why not and what changes might you make to your behavior next time.

Teens tape Nancy Levin to the wall

Yes, that is Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director, duct-taped to a wall. This was the work of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB), which comprises a group of students who design and advocate for events that they would like to see at the library. They also raise funds to enable teen programming to continue and improve.

“When the teens are the ones making the decisions, there is a lot more momentum from them to make these programs happen, whether it is the Teen Poetry Slam, Teen Movie Zone or the Teen Workshop,” said Jessica Robinson, youth services librarian.

Last year, TAB held a bake sale to fund the Teen Tech Week program. The group has been the spark for other programs, such as the nerd-fighter meet-up and, most recently, the Middle Earth walk-off event. The group also helped promote the programs to other teens and provide the manpower and volunteer time to set up for these events.

A recent event that benefited from TAB’s involvement was the 15th Annual Poetry Slam. Sixteen teenage poets performed for an audience of more than 60. While community partners, such as Lake Erie Ink and Heights High, contributed greatly to the event’s success, said Robinson, “It wouldn’t exist without the efforts of the Teen Advisory Board.”

So why did Levin allow herself to be duct-taped to the wall? It was a fundraiser put on by TAB on Friday, Jan. 10. Selling strips of duct tape for $1 each, the teens made more than $100 and successfully anchored Levin to the wall without any other support.

TAB occupies a special place in Levin’s heart. She explained, “Teen advisory boards are a staple in public libraries. They are created to harness the energy of our young adults and to help them become engaged in the creation of exciting and productive programming for their age group. In addition, it gives them leadership opportunities where they can hone skills used later in the workplace or in college.”

Teens interested in joining the Teen Advisory Board can call 216-932-5600 or talk to any Heights Libraries staff member.

This year the entries for the essay contest doubled. [Students] who entered should feel proud of their effort.”

Upper-grade students also participated in the contest. Randall Gregory, a 12th-grader at Beaumont School, is a finalist.

The junior or senior with the winning essay will receive a $40,000 Grand Scholarship Prize. First and second runners-up will receive a $15,000 and $10,000 scholarship, respectively, and seven honorable mentions will each receive a $500 cash prize. In addition to student scholarships, three schools will be eligible to win $10,000 for their schools, to be used specifically toward anti-bias education.

The essay contest is a yearly initiative that supports the Maltz Museum’s mission to build bridges of appreciation, tolerance and understanding of persons of all religions, races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds. It reflects Jewish values of responsible citizenship and respect for all humanity by challenging young people to consider the consequences of intolerance and the role of personal responsibility in affecting change. This year’s contest is sponsored by Cleveland Clinic, Dealer Tire, KeyBank and the Nordson Company Foundation.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Heights Observer’s Editorial Advisory Committee.

Watch Your Money Grow

Purchase A Bremec Bond

Now thru March 31 - PAY ONLY $40

Then Redeem The BOND When Fully Matured

WORTH $50

May 1 - August 2

For Use In Our Garden Center

August 2 thru December 15

 Redeem the Bond for the Original Purchase Price.

Bonds cannot be combined with other coupons. We are not responsible for lost or stolen bonds. Bonds have no cash value. Additional restrictions apply. See our website for details. All bonds expire 12/31/14.

Shop With Us • Bremec on the Heights

13410 Cedar Road • 44118 • 216.932.0039
Just West of South Taylor

www.bremec.com
Ruffing Montessori School’s partnership with Geauga Family Farms

Kelly O’Melia

Ruffing Montessori middle school students have become involved in the local food movement through Ruffing’s curriculum, which encourages students to answer the question: Where does our food come from?

Ruffing students are encouraged to engage with the community through running their own micro-economy. Students have become involved in the local food movement through Ruffing’s partnership with Geauga Family Farms (GFF) and the Ruffing campus became a pick-up site for the farm’s community-supported agriculture program (CSA).

A CSA supports the financial viability of small family farms. Before the growing season begins, members of the public purchase shares of the season’s harvest directly from the farmers. During the season, a share of the harvest is delivered each week to designated pick-up sites.

Each week, members of the GFF CSA are greeted at Ruffing by seventh- and eighth-grade students, along with parents and teachers. The students unload trucks from the farm, which contain fresh produce, bread, free-range eggs and homemade jams. Students arrange the weekly bounty on tables, and facilitate the pick-up process.

“Working with the CSA and seeing the boxes of fresh veggies every week gives me the sensation of being on a farm,” said seventh-grader Fabio Tessioire.

Ruffing’s students learn through participation. Each week, they discuss what produce is in season, and learn about recipes and food preparation techniques.

“The CSA work and bulk setup is good because our micro-economy earns money as a result, while our community enjoys fruits and vegetables from the farm,” said Lia Coyle, an eighth-grader.

Seventh-grader Gavin Gidlow explained why this is important: “Buying food from the CSA is better because it also helps the local economy. We all benefit.”

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris, GFF’s representative, lives a few blocks from the school, and enjoys stopping by on Thursdays to help with the CSA setup and facilitate the pick-up process.

Kelly O’Melia is a teacher at Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights and a mother of three.

CH-UH middle school students in regional Power of the Pen competition

Camilla Welch

Monticello Middle School hosted the regional Power of the Pen Competition on Dec. 14. More than 200 seventh- and eighth-grade writers from Greater Cleveland participated in this district-level creative writing competition. The competition consisted of three rounds of writings, and students were given a “prompt” and 45 minutes to develop a creative story. Students who qualified for the regional tournament will write again on Saturday, March 15 at St. Joseph’s Academy.

Teams from Roxboro and Wiley middle schools also participated in the competition. “Hard work paid off, as teams were very successful at their first competition,” said Caitlin Gerber, Roxboro Middle School teacher and co-coach. Teacher Wendy Ward-Price is also a coach at Roxboro. “Every competitor put their hard-earned skills to use at the competition. They did a wonderful job and had fun,” said Ashley Newman, Wiley Middle School teacher and coach.

“This was a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers,” said Deborah Frost, Monticello Middle School teacher and coach. Teacher Marian Kopp is also a coach at Monticello.

Results for individual students and teams are:

• Monticello Middle School: Svedini Ainkaran, seventh grade, sixth place.

• Roxboro Middle School: Julia Lynn, seventh grade, second place; Sophie Gilson, eighth grade, second place overall; Hannah Gilson, eighth grade, ninth place overall; and eighth-grade team, fourth place.

• The regional qualifiers from the three middle schools, who will move on to the March 15 competition, are:

1. Monticello Middle School: Svedini Ainkaran, seventh grade; Emily Cassidy, seventh grade; Chantee McMillan, seventh grade; Miranda Wiese, seventh grade; Maria Tarnay, seventh grade; and Peyton Marshall, eighth grade.

2. Roxboro Middle School: Sophie Gilson, eighth grade; Hannah Gilson, eighth grade; Corinne Nicol, eighth grade; Melanie Graham, eighth grade; Gabby Taylor, seventh grade; Glennis Covault, seventh grade; Julia Lynn, seventh grade; and Rebecca Gordon, seventh grade.

3. Wiley Middle School: Alexa Solomon, seventh grade; and Angelique Hale, eighth grade.

Camilla Welch is the communications and community engagement department assistant for the CH-UH City School District.
Heights High musicians excel in OMEA competition

Florence D’Emilia

Cleveland Heights High School’s Instrumental Music Department (IMD) excelled at the annual OMEA Solo and Ensembles Contest.

The adjudicated event, sponsored by the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA), took place on Jan. 18 at Heights High.

Four Heights High chamber ensembles and 12 soloists received the contest’s highest possible rating, which is reserved for outstanding performances with very few technical errors, exemplifying a truly musical experience.

Participating ensembles were: Baker’s Dozen with Ann Zicari (trumpet), Samantha Espenschied (trumpet), Cody Radovoyevitch (horn), Gretchen Drushek (trombone), Oleaser Johnson (tuba); Five Guys, Valves and Slides with William van den Bogert (trumpet), Benjamin Gillooly (trumpet), Ian Bartz (French horn), Abraham Mendes (trombone), David Pecoraro (tuba); Rock ‘n Viol’, a viola duo with Mariah Mendes and Christina Wynne; T.A.G. with Gabriella Russo (flute), Alyssa Underwood (oboe), Tanesha Hammond (bassoon); and The Sax Pistols, a saxophone quartet with soprano GianFrancesco Quartell (alto saxophone), Brittany Rabb (flute), Halling Roosa (cello), James Smith (French horn), Juliana Sores (flute), Celia van den Bogert (prepared two solos, one for harp and one for flute), William van den Bogert (trumpet) and Ann Zicari (trumpet).

The Chamber Ensemble program at Heights High is a yearlong elective class under the direction of Dan Heim, instrumental music director.

Students form ensembles that are coached by professional musicians on a weekly basis, outside of regular school hours.

In addition to expanding the students’ repertoires, the ensembles allow participants to gain firsthand experience with many of the tasks professional musicians perform. For example, groups assign one of the students to serve as music librarian, another takes responsibility for scheduling rehearsals, and another arranges recital performances in the community.

Florence D’Emilia is a Cleveland Heights resident and parent of a Heights High student.

In addition to the 12 superior ratings, the remaining three soloists received excellent ratings, the second highest possible.

The following students competed as soloists: Anastasia Cyr (English horn), Iona Eke (viola), Devin Gamble (flute), Kristin Gustafson (flute), Aviva Klein (bassoon), Isabel McGaugh (flute), Brendan Mullen (snare drum), GianFrancesco Quartell (alto saxophone), Brittany Rabb (flute), Halling Roosa (cello), James Smith (French horn), Juliana Sores (flute), Celia van den Bogert (prepared two solos, one for harp and one for flute), William van den Bogert (trumpet) and Ann Zicari (trumpet).

The Most Beautiful Place to Learn Music in Cleveland

TMS Summer Camp-tacular!

June 23-July 3: morning, afternoon, & full-day tracks

classical / piano / jazz / rock & blues / hip-hop / a cappella

ALSO: Suzuki Camp (Aug. 3 - Aug. 9)

Music Builders Camp (June 16 - July 11)

Musical Theatre Camp (July 14 - July 25)

10% discount before April 1st: Register online

Register now: Preschool & Day School

Financial aid & subsidies available

Early Childhood - Music Therapy - Music Instruction

Register at www.TheMusicSettlement.org or call (216) 421-5806 xt. 100

The Music Settlement, 11125 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland 44106

Heights Observer March 1, 2014
**Meeting highlights**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

All board members were present.

Fats for any of the districts it serves.

Also, the district’s food service, Chartwell, will be scrutinized to determine if it has eliminated trans fats for any of the districts it serves.

**JANUARY 14, 2014**

All board members were present.

Policy adjustments

Joseph Micheller, director of curriculum and instruction, led board members through a first reading of policy adjustments necessary to keep district policies consistent and up-to-date with state and federal policy changes. Adjustments are prepared for twice-yearly presentations to the board by NEOLA, a manager of documents for school districts.

Changes included an employee harassment policy; student ability to enroll in post-secondary options based on individual student enrollment requirements, rather than a uniform state standard; state adjustments to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee; additional regulations relative to concussions; more specific guidelines on food allergies; alignment of bullying policy with the anti-harassment policy; clarification of restrictions on hiring relatives of board or staff members; substitution of “skilled” for “proficient” as a part of the state’s definition of proficiency; and procedures for any of the districts it serves.

**JANUARY 13, 2014**

All board members were present.

Board members discussed these items and the policy regarding the disposition of school property, which states that a district selling a building must give first refusal rights to a charter school, startup school, or college prep building school, if the district has been invited to be a cooperating district. The board also discussed the implementation of the facilities master plan on the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission must be approved by the district to develop interview questions. On April 7 and 8, the first round of interviews will be conducted. From April 15 to 17, the top three candidates will each spend a day in the schools and the community. On April 19, the board will meet in executive session to select a superintendent.

**Awards and recognitions**

Superintendent McDaniels recognized district elementary, middle, and high school students for their award-winning essays and poetry in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Ron Register, board president, acknowledged the Heights High hockey team for a successful season. He announced that the Heights High Barbershop group was selected as the overall winner in the 2014 State Barbershop Harmony Society conference in March.

Reilly Painting & Contracting”

**LOCAL COFFEE RASTES BETTER**

**Best Happy Hour in the Heights**

Mon thru Sat/ 4-9 p.m.

$6 wines & Martinis

$5 cocktails

$6 appetizers

$2.50 domestic beers

$3.50 imports

Reilly Painting & Contracting’s **THE HOME MECHANICS**

What’s “Driving You Crazy” About Your Home?

- That broken door knob, clogged drain, or loose stair rail?
- Leaky, ugly kitchen, bath or family room?
- We can help you start over and fix it.
- Need help with your iPhone, Laptop, Nettflix or Skype?

FREE CONSULTATION | 216-371-8160 | rgp@reillypainting.com

**March 5 is wrap-up session for communitywide book discussion**

Deanna Bremer Fisher

This winter, more than 115 people participated in three evening conversations about the future of public education and education reform. The focus of the communitywide discussions was the book Reign of Error, written by Diane Ravitch, an education historian who served as assistant secretary of education under President George H. W. Bush.

A follow-up session to discuss action steps will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, at the Heights High Social Room.

Ravitch, whose own views have changed significantly as she has observed the impact of widespread high-stakes standardized testing on public schools, neighborhoods, cities, teachers and children, argues in her book that the privatization approach that educational reformers advocate threatens the future existence of public schools in the United States.

Discussion participants explored such topics as standardized testing, the achievement gap, the meaning of interstate test comparisons, high school graduation rates, value-added ratings for teachers, and charter schools. In the last session, participants brainstormed actions they could take, individually and collectively. At the March 5 session, participants will discuss possible next steps for parents, teachers, community members, school administrators and elected officials. It is not necessary to have read the book or to have attended past discussion sessions to attend.

Several Heights-based organizations hosted the discussions, including Reaching Heights, FutureHeights, Heights Community Congress, the CH-UH Public Library, the Cleveland Heights Teachers’ Union, the CH-UH City School District, the CH-UH PTA Council and Link Educational Consulting.

Free child care is available, by reservation (call 216-311-0025), to those attending the March 5 session. For more information, visit http://chtu.oh.affl.org/news.

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

Deanna Bremer Fisher, League of Women Voters®
The South Wing Gallery of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights, announces its spring show—“Awe and Abstract: Perspectives in Nature.”

The opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 7, from 5–7 p.m. Participating artists David Bergholz (photograph), Judith Brandon (mixed media on paper), Bonnie J. Gordon (porcelain) and Nijole Palubinskas (monotypes) will be on hand to greet visitors and talk about their work. The show runs until May 30.

With a pocket-size Sony RX100, David Bergholz sets out in search of images that pique his curiosity and please his keen eye, wherever he might be. “Photography has a great capacity to move me,” said this self-taught photographer who immerses himself in influential visual experiences.

Bergholz, whose interest is in the architecture of objects, will exhibit botanical collages and abstracts. Characteristic of his mostly representational work is clarity of color, order and design. Polaroid prints of an amaryllis, for example, are imaginatively arranged, inviting the viewer to respond again and again. Bergholz’s art is in the collections of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and University Hospitals.

“Paper and I have a great relationship—it knows more about me than most people!” said Judith Brandon, a mixed-media artist who works exclusively on paper. Brandon’s “Night Wave with Southern Cross,” a tower ing avalanche of water in deep purple, is dramatic in size and power. It rises defiantly to declare the turbulence of uncontrolled forces in nature, while speaking of the human condition.

Water—oceans, rivers, clouds, tornados—dominates Brandon’s tem pestuous work, which is bound to evoke a response from viewers. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, she regularly shows at the Kenneth Paul Lesko Gallery and had a solo exhibition there. Bonnie J. Gordon, who creates works in porcelain, said it was her father, a painter, who inspired her when he said, “Women can do anything!” Gordon took her father’s liberating words to heart.

“In Full Bloom,” a porcelain vessel, exudes energy through vibrant colors, petals and leaves, while representing the flowering and coming of age of women. In contrast, “Medusa,” two years in the making, inspired Gordon to explore the dark side. She has exhibited her work at the Cleveland Clinic and the Artists’ Archives of the Western Reserve.

Printmaker Nijole Palubinskas said, “If I were to start my life again, I would be an artist.” Born in Lithuania, this fourth generation artist will exhibit monotypes, where soft edges and muted colors grace a print of crashing waves, and a lush landscape of pillow-like hills enhances the viewer’s ability to see nature freshly.

Palubinskas describes her art as abstract-realism. She is emphatic about creating original images from her imagina tion rather than relying on sketches. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, her work has been shown in the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnas and the Palanga Museum. Her art also hangs in private collections in Europe and the United States.

Kathleen McKenna, a portrait artist and former South Wing Gallery exhibitor, said, “The South Wing Gallery provides a worthwhile experience for artists and viewers. The gallery is a handsome exhibition space, and installations and publicity are handled in a professional manner. I especially appreciated the perceptive observations made by guests—St. Paul’s parishioners and art lovers from outside the church—at the well-attended opening reception.”

The gallery is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.stpauls-church.org.

Mary Krogness is a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

---

Mary Krogness

The South Wing Gallery of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights, announces its spring show—“Awe and Abstract: Perspectives in Nature.”

The opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 7, from 5–7 p.m. Participating artists David Bergholz (photograph), Judith Brandon (mixed media on paper), Bonnie J. Gordon (porcelain) and Nijole Palubinskas (monotypes) will be on hand to greet visitors and talk about their work. The show runs until May 30.

With a pocket-size Sony RX100, David Bergholz sets out in search of images that pique his curiosity and please his keen eye, wherever he might be. “Photography has a great capacity to move me,” said this self-taught photographer who immerses himself in influential visual experiences.

Bergholz, whose interest is in the architecture of objects, will exhibit botanical collages and abstracts. Characteristic of his mostly representational work is clarity of color, order and design. Polaroid prints of an amaryllis, for example, are imaginatively arranged, inviting the viewer to respond again and again. Bergholz’s art is in the collections of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and University Hospitals.

“Paper and I have a great relationship—it knows more about me than most people!” said Judith Brandon, a mixed-media artist who works exclusively on paper. Brandon’s “Night Wave with Southern Cross,” a towering avalanche of water in deep purple, is dramatic in size and power. It rises defiantly to declare the turbulence of uncontrolled forces in nature, while speaking of the human condition.

Water—oceans, rivers, clouds, tornados—dominates Brandon’s tempestuous work, which is bound to evoke a response from viewers. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, she regularly shows at the Kenneth Paul Lesko Gallery and had a solo exhibition there. Bonnie J. Gordon, who creates works in porcelain, said it was her father, a painter, who inspired her when he said, “Women can do anything!” Gordon took her father’s liberating words to heart.

“In Full Bloom,” a porcelain vessel, exudes energy through vibrant colors, petals and leaves, while representing the flowering and coming of age of women. In contrast, “Medusa,” two years in the making, inspired Gordon to explore the dark side. She has exhibited her work at the Cleveland Clinic and the Artists’ Archives of the Western Reserve.

Printmaker Nijole Palubinskas said, “If I were to start my life again, I would be an artist.” Born in Lithuania, this fourth generation artist will exhibit monotypes, where soft edges and muted colors grace a print of crashing waves, and a lush landscape of pillow-like hills enhances the viewer’s ability to see nature freshly.

Palubinskas describes her art as abstract-realism. She is emphatic about creating original images from her imagination rather than relying on sketches. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, her work has been shown in the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnas and the Palanga Museum. Her art also hangs in private collections in Europe and the United States.

Kathleen McKenna, a portrait artist and former South Wing Gallery exhibitor, said, “The South Wing Gallery provides a worthwhile experience for artists and viewers. The gallery is a handsome exhibition space, and installations and publicity are handled in a professional manner. I especially appreciated the perceptive observations made by guests—St. Paul’s parishioners and art lovers from outside the church—at the well-attended opening reception.”

The gallery is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.stpauls-church.org.

Mary Krogness is a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

---

Mary Krogness

The South Wing Gallery of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights, announces its spring show—“Awe and Abstract: Perspectives in Nature.”

The opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 7, from 5–7 p.m. Participating artists David Bergholz (photograph), Judith Brandon (mixed media on paper), Bonnie J. Gordon (porcelain) and Nijole Palubinskas (monotypes) will be on hand to greet visitors and talk about their work. The show runs until May 30.

With a pocket-size Sony RX100, David Bergholz sets out in search of images that pique his curiosity and please his keen eye, wherever he might be. “Photography has a great capacity to move me,” said this self-taught photographer who immerses himself in influential visual experiences.

Bergholz, whose interest is in the architecture of objects, will exhibit botanical collages and abstracts. Characteristic of his mostly representational work is clarity of color, order and design. Polaroid prints of an amaryllis, for example, are imaginatively arranged, inviting the viewer to respond again and again. Bergholz’s art is in the collections of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and University Hospitals.

“Paper and I have a great relationship—it knows more about me than most people!” said Judith Brandon, a mixed-media artist who works exclusively on paper. Brandon’s “Night Wave with Southern Cross,” a towering avalanche of water in deep purple, is dramatic in size and power. It rises defiantly to declare the turbulence of uncontrolled forces in nature, while speaking of the human condition.

Water—oceans, rivers, clouds, tornados—dominates Brandon’s tempestuous work, which is bound to evoke a response from viewers. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, she regularly shows at the Kenneth Paul Lesko Gallery and had a solo exhibition there. Bonnie J. Gordon, who creates works in porcelain, said it was her father, a painter, who inspired her when he said, “Women can do anything!” Gordon took her father’s liberating words to heart.

“In Full Bloom,” a porcelain vessel, exudes energy through vibrant colors, petals and leaves, while representing the flowering and coming of age of women. In contrast, “Medusa,” two years in the making, inspired Gordon to explore the dark side. She has exhibited her work at the Cleveland Clinic and the Artists’ Archives of the Western Reserve.

Printmaker Nijole Palubinskas said, “If I were to start my life again, I would be an artist.” Born in Lithuania, this fourth generation artist will exhibit monotypes, where soft edges and muted colors grace a print of crashing waves, and a lush landscape of pillow-like hills enhances the viewer’s ability to see nature freshly.

Palubinskas describes her art as abstract-realism. She is emphatic about creating original images from her imagination rather than relying on sketches. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, her work has been shown in the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnas and the Palanga Museum. Her art also hangs in private collections in Europe and the United States.

Kathleen McKenna, a portrait artist and former South Wing Gallery exhibitor, said, “The South Wing Gallery provides a worthwhile experience for artists and viewers. The gallery is a handsome exhibition space, and installations and publicity are handled in a professional manner. I especially appreciated the perceptive observations made by guests—St. Paul’s parishioners and art lovers from outside the church—at the well-attended opening reception.”

The gallery is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.stpauls-church.org.

Mary Krogness is a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.
Jazz Vespers at St. Paul’s features Paul Ferguson and friends

Kim Fry

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church will hold a Jazz Vespers service on Sunday, March 2 at 5 p.m. The service will include prayers, reflection, and music led by Paul Ferguson. He will be accompanied by a jazz combo, augmented by violin and French horn, and soprano Sandy Simon.

Ferguson is director of jazz studies at Case Western Reserve University and associate artistic director of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. He also enjoys a varied career as a performer. He can be found in the pit orchestra for the national touring production of “Porgy and Bess” when it appears in Cleveland, performing Christmas concerts with the Cleveland Orchestra, and making guest appearances in other musical events around town.

The vespers service will be a fitting conclusion to a weekend of recording his next CD, called “Evensong,” available in the fall.

The service will follow the format of the vespers worship liturgy, but will feature special jazz arrangements in an instrumental prelude, new responsive singing, and old favorites, such as “Walk Forth,” “All Who Hunger, Let Us Gather” and “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

The combo will feature Ferguson on trombone, Jack Schantz on trumpet, Mark Lopezan on saxophone, Bill Hoyt on French horn, Hanne Bert Hahmemann on violin, Russell Schmidt on piano, Dave Morgan on bass and Jim Rupp on drums.

A Mardi Gras celebration in Tucker Hall will follow the jazz vespers service.

This event is part of a series of renovation celebrations at St. Paul’s, including the conclusion of a multi-year capital building project that included the restoration of Tucker Hall, the renovation of the church’s nave, the remodeling of its dining room and kitchen, and the creation of a new north entrance.

Jazz Vespers is made possible by a grant from The ACT II Shop, a resale shop located on the church’s lower level, and is free and open to the public. The church is located at 2747 Fairmount Blvd., at the intersection of Coventry Road, in Cleveland Heights. For more information, call 216-932-5855.

Kim Fry is the director of communications at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

World Beats Drum Festival at Canterbury School

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris

March in Northeast Ohio? Many complain that this is their least favorite month, but Canterbury Elementary School will be hosting an event to shake off the winter blahs and welcome spring.

The World Beats Drum Festival will bring music, art and culture to the Canterbury stage, and is open to the community. Proceeds will support future arts programs at the school.

The school has hosted a monthly community concert series for the past year. Organizers wanted to create an interactive event that would appeal to families. Co-organizer Gina Gillombardo spoke to a number of percussion groups in developing the series, and thought it would be fun to bring several groups together for one event.

Creating a musical work together with Canterbury’s goals as an Internationally Baccalaureate candidate school and a Fine Arts Pathway school, Gillombardo said.

Adam Kukuk of Deep Grooves, and also a Canterbury parent, helped plan and organize the event. “He brings experience in leading interactive drum workshops, a percussion instrument ‘petting zoo’ and a drum circle during the first part of the evening. Performances by a range of percussion groups will follow, as will a final jam session, to include musicians and audience members.

The World Beats Drum Festival will be held at Canterbury Elementary School, on March 28, 6-8:30 p.m. Tickets, $5 for adults and $3 for children, will be sold at the door. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a city planner and local food advocate. She is a co-organizer of the World Drum Beats Festival.
A new exhibition, Alternate Routes to an Outer Space, opens at Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, on Friday, March 7 at 6 p.m. Featuring new works by regional artists Christi Birchfield, Terry Clark, April Friges and Benjamin Hauser, the show reveals the artists’ shared intrigue in exploiting chance through both inventive and traditional processes.

Representing photography, printmaking and painting, the selected works reflect meditative engagements with inner worlds, while also providing visual links to our physical world through references to natural phenomena. Christi Birchfield’s large-format monoprints read as mirrored images or palindromes. To make them, she places inked plant materials or pools of water between sheets of paper, runs the “sandwich” through a printing press, and the color runs the inked plant materials or pools of water-paint between sheets of paper. Birchfield’s “An Alchemist’s Light #1,” a print by Benjamin Hauser, is an example of such a work. Hauser’s “Savage in Limbo” bears a similar approach.

Amita Malhotra's "God of Carnage," among others, is on view at Heights Arts through April 9. For more information, visit HeightsArts.org or call 216-371-3457.

Heights Arts. Andrea Joki is an artist and staff member of Heights Arts.

Dobama presents ‘Made in America’ by Joel Hammer

Jewel Malhotra

What happens when Esther, a savvy sales rep, and Barry, a buyer for a manufacturing company, finally meet to seal the deal after months of negotiating over the phone? Meeting in a hotel bar, they begin a car-and-mouse game that falls into dangerous territory. But all may not be what it seems.

To find out more, check out the world premiere of “Made in America,” this season’s fifth mainstage production at Dobama Theatre. Written by Joel Hammer, the play runs from March 7 through April 6, and is directed by Scott Miller. Hammer has worked as both an actor and director for Dobama Theatre for the past 25 years. As the theater’s artistic director from 2009 to 2013, he helped transform the theater from its space on Coventry Road to its current home on Lee Road. He participated in the fundraising, design and development of Dobama’s new home and current management structure.

Joel Hammer has a B.F.A. from The Ohio State University. He served his theater apprenticeship at Actors Theatre of Louisville. After a brief stay at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, he moved home to Cleveland where he worked at Cleveland Play House under the leadership of Richard Oberlin. Hammer made his Dobama directorial debut with John Patrick Shanley’s “Savage in Limbo.” As a writer, Hammer’s play “The King of Carpets” was produced by The Jewish Repertory Theatre of New York and his play “Every Other Jump” was produced at Dobama.

Scott Miller is the director of the Cleveland School of the Arts theater 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 for urban teenagers in New Jersey. Most recently, Miller directed “Sons of the Prophet,” “Dead Man’s Cell Phone” and “The Seafarer” for Dobama.

Miller has worked as an actor appearing in Off-Broadway and regional theater productions, and locally in “The Goat or Who is Sylvia.” “I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda” and “God of Carnage,” among others.

Performances 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 (as available, no earlier that five minutes before curtain), the preview performance on March 6, and the “pay-as-you-can” performance on March 9.

Jewel Malhotra is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Heights Observer’s Editorial Advisory Committee.

“THERE WAS NO QUESTION—JUDSON WAS IT!”

—Don and Dottie Kuhn, Judson Park residents since 2012

University Circle played a pivotal role in Don and Dottie Kuhn’s lives together. The couple, now residents of Judson Park, met in 1974 while attending an Audubon Society meeting at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

“The rest is history—we’ve been together ever since,” says Dottie.

With no children, they felt it essential to have a plan in place as they grew older. “We wanted to make decisions under our own power,” says Don.

Deciding where they’d spend their later years was easy. “There was no question—Judson was it,” says Don. “We continue to enjoy the things we’ve always loved to do,” adds Dottie. “We’re practically in the same Cleveland Heights neighborhood where we lived before.”

“The transition was seamless,” continues Don. “Judson was home from day one!”

This is Smart Living,” defined at Judson Park. Interested in learning more? Call (216) 791-2004 to arrange for a tour today.

To read more about the Kuhns, visit www.judsonsmartliving.org/Kuhns

Heights Observer March 1, 2014

21

www.heightsobserver.org
March choral concerts at Fairmount Presbyterian

Heights Observer March 1, 2014

Robert Moncrief

Fairmount Presbyterian Church will feature its own choir and the visiting Choir of The College of William and Mary in two Sunday concerts during March. Both concerts are free to the public.

The 40-voice Fairmount Choir will be joined by orchestra to present the Mass in C and the “Choral Fantasy” by Ludwig van Beethoven on Sunday, March 9, at 4 p.m. The “Choral Fantasy” will feature Russian-born pianist Halida Dinova in the virtuoso keyboard part. Vocal soloists are Lisa Litler, Nicole Batson Bush, Alicia Hrabey, Lyndsay Moy, Baichuan Han, Steven Weems, Peter Bush and John Watson.

The Mass in C was commissioned by Prince Nikolaus Esterhazy II in 1807, in honor of his wife, and premiered in the court chapel in Eisenstadt in September 1807. The “Choral Fantasy” was first performed in Vienna in December 1808 at a concert that included the first performance of the Fifth and Sixth Symphonies, the Fourth Piano Concerto, an aria, part of the Mass in C and a solo fantasy improvised by Beethoven. The “Choral Fantasy” ended the concert, with Beethoven at the piano. The work revealed Beethoven’s power as both composer and virtuoso pianist, foreshadowed his great Ninth Symphony.

The 66-voice Choir of The College of William and Mary, from Williamsburg, Va., will sing at Fairmount on Sunday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. The featured works will be R. Nathaniel Dett’s oratorio “Chariot Jubilee” for tenor soloist, choir and organ (based on the African-American spiritual “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot!”) and Alexander Kastalsky’s Orthodox Requiem titled “ Eternal Memory to the Heroes: Selected Hymns from the Memorial Service,” composed in 1916 in memory of the fallen Allied troops in World War I.

The choir, directed by Dr. James Armstrong, will also preview a work by Estonian composer Piret Raps-Laul, commissioned especially for the upcoming international tour of the choir and Botetourt Chamber Singers to the Baltic States and Russia in May.

The church is located at 2777 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights. For information, go to www.fairmountchurch.org or call 216-321-3800.

Robert Moncrief has been minister of music at Fairmount Presbyterian Church since 2001. He will conduct the March 9 concert.

Western Reserve Chorale performs Mozart’s Requiem

Gina Veyre

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC), under the direction of David Gilson, performs Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s magnificent Requiem in D minor, Sunday, March 16, at 4 p.m. at Cleveland State University’s Waetjen Auditorium. Joining WRC are the R. Nathaniel Dett Concert Choir from the Cleveland School of the Arts (CSA); soloists Sandra Simon, Joanna Uniatoowski, Nathaniel Hein and Brian Keith Johnson; Sandra Simon, Joanne Uniatoowski, Nathaniel Hein and Brian Keith Johnson; and an orchestra pairing professionals with CSA students.

Intrigue has surrounded the Requiem since its commission in 1791 by Count von Walsegg. According to one legend, the commission was delivered with 50 ducats and a warning about Mozart’s own death. Another tale had Mozart poisoned, perhaps by his arch rival, Salieri, who wanted to pass off the Requiem as his own. Some speculate Mozart wrote the Requiem for his own death, which came, according to certain accounts, eight bars into the Lacrimosa, at the words “day of tears and mourning.”

Then, fearing that von Walsegg would not pay the last half of the advance for an unfinished piece, Mozart’s widow turned to his students to complete the score under his name and deliver it with a forged signature. Von Walsegg then copied the score and claimed the Requiem as his own. Or, so the stories go.

CSA is a specialty school within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and its Dett Choir has a longstanding relationship with this masterwork: each year, director William Woods teaches his 90-plus students select movements as part of the curriculum. Until now, however, the choir has never performed it. The CSA choir was invited to join with WRC, to give students the opportunity to learn the entire work and perform it for the first time.

In its 22nd season, WRC is a non-profit group of amateur and professional singers, many of whom are Heights residents, dedicated to bringing high-quality performances of choral music to Greater Cleveland. Concerts are free; freewill offerings accepted. For more information, visit westernreservechorale.org.

Gina Veyre is a writer and editor, and lives in University Heights.
The Wine Spot’s evolution includes live music

James Henke

Ever since it opened back in December 2011, The Wine Spot, located on Lee Road between Silsby and Meadowbrook roads, has continued to evolve. The latest change involves live music. In January, the Wine Spot kicked off its new program with an appearance by the local band Meridian, featuring Max Stern and Jake Stern. The retail store/wine bar will continue to present live music on the last Friday of every month. The shows, which are free and open to the public, take place from 7–9 p.m.

“This is a really nice space for music,” said Adam Fleischer, owner of The Wine Spot. “I thought we could provide the best local music in a comfortable space, at no cost and in a family-friendly environment.” The opening show drew about 75 people, and Fleischer said, “They ranged in age from about 21 years old to 80 years old!”

The Wine Spot is collaborating with two local organizations—Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present and Future and ChamberFest Cleveland—to present the shows. Cleveland Rocks, founded by Cindy Barber, owner of the Beachland Ballroom, will assist Fleischer in presenting folk and rock acts. ChamberFest, created by Franklin Cohen, executive and artistic director of ChamberFest Cleveland, will bring in musicians to play chamber music and other ensembles.

Fleischer grew up in Cleveland Heights and attended Wiley Middle School and Heights High. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and became a medic. Following his military service, he worked for various healthcare firms that deal with electronic medical records for about 20 years.

“When I had my IT job, I traveled a lot, and I saw a lot of different cities,” said Fleischer. “But I had young children, and I realized that if I was constantly on the road, I wouldn’t be there to see them grow up.” So he left the IT world and decided to open The Wine Spot. “I saw a lot of different things in the cities I went to, so I wanted to open something unique in Cleveland Heights,” he said.

When it opened, The Wine Spot was a bottle shop, selling retail wine and craft beer. Then, only a month after the store opened, ChamberFest’s Cohen stopped by the store. Cohen’s organization presents a series of chamber music events in and around Cleveland over the course of two weeks every June, and he suggested that one of the 2012 events take place at The Wine Spot. So that June, Fleischer presented a movie night, screening black-and-white Buster Keaton films, with piano accompaniment. About 200 people showed up for the event. The Wine Spot hosted a ChamberFest event again last June.

In addition to hosting music-related events, Fleischer has also been working with the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA). Every two months, he presents an exhibit of works by CIA students, and he said that the art usually sells out. Fleischer also hosts wine tastings every Thursday night, from 6–8 p.m., and every Saturday night, from 5–7 p.m.

Last June, Fleischer got a full bar license. The Wine Spot now sells beer and wine by the glass, as well as drinks made with vodka, bourbon, tequila and mescal. Guests can also purchase cheese plates with dried meats and olives and local breads.

Fleischer, who still lives in Cleveland Heights, is delighted with the progress he has made with The Wine Spot, and has no regrets about leaving the IT world. “Cleveland Heights is a great location,” he said, “and I am very happy to be able to serve the city.” Despite all of the changes, Fleischer emphasized that the store’s core business is wine.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.