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# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Published by **FutureHeights**

Written by volunteers for Cleveland Heights and University Heights • Read more at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)

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## Brennan's wins Best CH Business in 2014 Best of the Heights Awards

Daniel Budin

Following a summer marked by both tragedy and resilience, Brennan's Colony received the title of Best Cleveland Heights Business in the 10th annual Best of the Heights Awards, held Sept. 23. Voters also honored the Lee Road restaurant and bar in naming it the Heights's Best Bar, Pub or Tavern.

"It's an overwhelming testament to the amount of support the community has provided us, but most importantly it's a testament to what Jim Brennan was able to do in his lifetime and in his years of service at the corner of Lee and Silsby, and I would be remiss to think that this award wasn't directly for him," said Aran Keenan, Brennan's Colony manager.

The Best of the Heights Awards is an annual recognition of outstanding Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses.

Each year, FutureHeights—a non-



Brennan's Colony representatives Aran Keenan, Kathy Murphy and Richard Wise.

profit dedicated to promoting civic engagement in the Heights through information, education, and advocacy, and the publisher of the *Heights Observer* community news—conducts the Best

of the Heights survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned businesses here in the Heights, and their contributions to the local economy.

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## Heights High dedicates new stadium

Joy Henderson

A sellout crowd filled the new and expanded stands for Heights High's first home football game of the season, on Sept. 13. The game, against Glenville, marked the official opening of the new Heights High athletic stadium, featuring all-weather turf.

The enthusiastic crowd saw the Tigers fall to Glenville, 12-19. Standouts among the Heights team members were offensive running back Jevon Avery, with 85 yards and a touchdown, James Crowder, who had 50 receiving yards, and running back Marquise Watkins, who added 59 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Before the game, students, families, alumni, residents and youth athletes attended the district's tailgate celebration, opening ceremony and ribbon cutting.

Kristin Hughes, athletic director, began the ceremony with a big thank-you to Cleveland Heights and University Heights citizens, for



The Heights marching band formed its famous "H" formation for the opening ceremony. The band also performed at halftime, with dancing.

making the new facility a reality. Ron Register, Board of Education (BOE) president, recognized the citizen working groups that are supporting the facilities project, and welcomed the stadium as the first piece of the high school renovation. Talisa Dixon, superintendent, thanked the BOE

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## Lee Road will be hopping Oct. 11

James Henke

The second annual Heights Music Hop will take place on Saturday, Oct. 11. The free event will once again be held along Lee Road, between Silsby and Yorkshire roads. This year's hop will feature about 30 artists and bands, up from 20 that participated last year, and 16 Lee Road businesses will serve as music venues, also representing an increase in participation over last year.

"We are very excited by the growth of this event," said Greg Bonanno, chair of the FutureHeights Music Hop Committee, which is organizing the festival. "There has been a tremendous amount of interest and support from merchants, sponsors and the community."

Last year's inaugural Music Hop drew more than 1,000 people to the Cedar Lee neighborhood, and retailers said it had a huge impact on their businesses. This year, the following businesses will open their doors to musicians and audiences: Atma Center, the BottleHouse Brewery, Brennan's Colony, Cedar Lee Pub and Grill, the Lee Road Library, Dewey's Pizza, Joey's Bistro Bar, New Heights Grill, Parnell's Pub, Phoenix Coffee, Mitchell's Fine Chocolates, The Social Room, Stone Oven, Tavern Company, The Wine Spot and Zagara's Marketplace.

FutureHeights is again collaborating with Cleveland Beer Week (Oct. 10-18). Attendees interested in sampling beers during the Music Hop can purchase a tasting passport on Cleveland Beer Week's website, [www.clevelandbeerweek.org](http://www.clevelandbeerweek.org), and then sample special collaboration brews

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## Marotta's expands offerings and space with new patio

James Henke

Marotta's, the slender Italian restaurant located on Lee Road between Silsby Road and Meadowbrook Boulevard, opened a new patio in late August. Located behind the restaurant, the patio seats about 30 people. It has a beige roof and zip-out windows, and also features a natural brick retaining wall, LED lighting and Brazilian hardwood fences. The covering makes the patio usable most of the year, with the exception of the snow-filled winter months.

In addition to increasing the restaurant's seating capacity, the patio is also enabling Marotta's to expand its offerings. The restaurant is now presenting live music and hosting wine tastings on the patio. Singer-songwriter and pianist Harry Bacharach and violinist Ariel Clayton both performed there in September. Owners Alicia Marotta Linihan and Brian Linihan are also making the patio available for private events and parties.

The Linihans opened Marotta's in the fall of 2000, and named the

restaurant after Alicia's father, who died in 1999. "I always wanted a very intimate Italian restaurant," she said, "one that reflected my family's history."

Alicia, 41, was born and raised in Cleveland Heights and has lived here her entire life. Her grandparents all immigrated to the United States from Italy, making her parents first-generation Americans. "Italian food was a staple in our house when I was growing up," she said. "We'd always have big Sunday dinners, and all of

*continued on page 4*

**Letters Policy**

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

**HEIGHTS OBSERVER**

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**Editing, fact-checking and correcting errors**



**OPENING THE OBSERVER**

Bob Rosenbaum

The biggest part of the *Heights Observer's* mission is to enable discussion of important community topics. Who decides what's important? You do, by choosing to contribute.

There are some boundaries. Topics must be relevant specifically in Cleveland Heights and/or University Heights. So you can discuss the merits of city council candidates, but we don't make room for opinions on would-be presidents or governors. There are plenty of other outlets for those conversations.

There's more than one way to contribute too, and this sometimes causes confusion. If you have something to say, here are your options:

- Write an article. This is fact-based reportage—who, what, when, where and why—citing information from people other than the author. An article about a local issue may outline the pros and cons of the possible outcomes, but it won't seek to persuade readers which side to take.
- Write an opinion piece for the *Heights Observer*. This needs to be factual too; you can't assert some-

thing that's untrue. But if you hope to persuade others to take a particular position, this is the place to try.

• Write a letter to the editor. Most people exercise this option when they want to respond directly to something else they've read in the paper. But it's open to any local topic, and is shorter and less formal than an opinion piece.

• Write a blog post. We have a separate blog site ([blogs.heightsobserver.org](http://blogs.heightsobserver.org)) where you can post your thoughts in a more free-form style—though we still enforce our standard for highly local content. Posts from the blog site are sometimes excerpted in the printed *Observer*. Anybody can comment on any blog post at this site, but bloggers need to be given a higher level of access in order to publish. If you're interested, contact me at [brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org](mailto:brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org).

Space in the printed *Heights Observer* is limited. Items that don't fit into the printed edition will still be published on our website at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). The website and blog site have prominent links so you can easily find one from the other.

Periodically, the factuality of something we publish gets questioned. People sometimes ask, "Don't you check the facts before you publish something?"

Typically, yes. Our standards are at

least as high as the *Plain Dealer* and certainly higher than *Cleveland.com*, where reporters routinely publish stories that an editor hasn't reviewed.

We're pretty good at catching big errors, but we aren't perfect; keep in mind that our editors, as well as our writers, are volunteers. If you find a substantive error, let us know; we'll look into it and take appropriate action.

The blog site is different: Items there are not reviewed in advance. If you see something that's incorrect there, the best action is to set the record straight by writing your own comment at the end of the blog post.

If you believe an error was an intentional attempt to mislead, please let us know. We'll look into it and take action as needed.

More details about how information gets posted and reviewed is available online. Visit [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on the "Policies" link on the left-hand menu. On the blog site, visit [blogs.heightsobserver.org](http://blogs.heightsobserver.org) and click the Rules/FAQ link on the main menu.

*Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum, a former member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, is co-chairman of the Heights Observer, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development. Contact him at [brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org](mailto:brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org).*

**UH voters need information about park bond issue**

To the Editor:

Thank you for featuring Anita Kazarian's column on the University Heights Park Bond Issue [in the September print edition].

We in University Heights need to be informed, in order to vote responsibly. Your newspaper serves the need for all sides of this issue to be exposed.

Charlotte Grossman  
University Heights



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**About the Observer**

The *Heights Observer* is not an ordinary newspaper; it is a nonprofit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The *Observer* has no writing staff; it is written by you—the readers.

Individuals throughout the community decide what stories they want to write, then submit them for publication. Anyone in University Heights or Cleveland Heights is welcome to contribute regularly, occasionally or even just once.

Is there something you think should be covered in the *Heights Observer*? If so, please write it on your own, or with friends, neighbors or colleagues. Our volunteer editors will make sure it's ready to publish and contact you with any questions.

If you're writing a news article, it should be clear and factual. If you want to express an opinion, submit it as a letter to the editor or an opinion piece. Either way, make sure it's about something specific to our two cities.

• To make a submission of any kind, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on "Member Center" at the left.

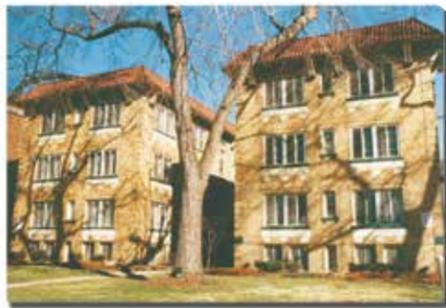
• For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

Articles to be considered for the November issue must be submitted by Oct. 13. But don't wait that long; we publish articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

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# A collaborative approach gives community building the best chance for success

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Since its inception, FutureHeights has provided tools for citizens to become more engaged in their community, bring innovative ideas forward to confront our challenges and have a greater voice in civic life. Cleveland Heights is a city of neighborhoods, and it is only with strong, vibrant neighborhoods that our city will be able to sustain itself and remain a desirable place to live and work.

This year, FutureHeights has applied for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the City of Cleveland Heights to help support the addition of a staff member who can oversee a community-building program. Through this program, FutureHeights would support existing neighborhood groups and assist new ones in forming. We would train neighborhood residents in neighborhood

asset mapping, data analysis and resident engagement, to enable them to create priorities for their own neighborhoods.

The city is also increasing its emphasis on neighborhoods, and its planning staff has proposed using CDBG funds for a Neighborhood Wellness Program that will examine census data and create a wellness assessment for each neighborhood. The city's process would be modeled after one undertaken by Champaign, Ill., that rates each neighborhood on certain criteria and crafts plans to address areas in which a neighborhood underperforms. FutureHeights would anticipate complementing the city's data-driven process with our resident-engagement process as an ideal effort to create a more comprehensive neighborhood plan for a particular neighborhood.

Our approach is strength-based and resident-driven. Our community-building philosophy is based on an ap-

proach known as ABCD, Assets-Based Community Development, which asks neighborhood residents to identify the strengths they have and devise strategies that build upon them. For example, rather than defining the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood as an area that lacks easy highway access, the neighborhood should focus on the fact that it is in close proximity to University Circle. Likewise, the Noble neighborhood has an abundance of affordable housing and good transit connections. Our approach recognizes the uniqueness of our neighborhoods, and encourages residents to craft solutions to neighborhood challenges by building on existing assets, allowing for the greatest chance of success.

We believe community engagement needs to be part of the process from the beginning. Only when engaged residents are driving the process will we be able to

create neighborhood plans that will be successful. Residents will feel ownership of the plan and its objectives because they actively participated in creating it. They will ensure that the focus remains on priorities that are important to them. They will not allow a plan to sit on a shelf.

Our challenges are great in Cleveland Heights, and our resources are limited. We are hopeful that FutureHeights can be an active partner with the city and can help our residents work cooperatively with the city to create the best possible future for all of us. At the FutureHeights annual meeting, held Aug. 20, City Manager Tanisha Briley stated, "We need a collaborative approach to make a difference in our most challenged areas." We couldn't agree more.

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

## Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at [blogs.heightsobserver.org](http://blogs.heightsobserver.org)

### There's something happening here

Last spring in a profound commentary the editors of *Rethinking Schools* magazine argued that school accountability based on high-stakes standardized tests merely disguises class and race privilege as merit. While individual children of all economic and racial groups are likely to score all over the spectrum on standardized tests, in the aggregate scores are likely to be higher among privileged children. And if schools in our racially and economically segregated society are judged by the students' test scores, the schools serving wealthier children will appear to be doing a better job . . .

Ohio, like other states, ignores this reality by attaching its rating system for schools and school districts to the standardized test scores of the students. The state credits standardized test scores to the quality of the school district's teachers and the curriculum and ignores other variables that might be affecting the test scores. . . .

I looked at poverty data for the eight Cuyahoga County school districts with the lowest Performance Index ratings and the eight districts with the highest Performance Index ratings. . . . The difference in the amount of family poverty between the high and low scoring districts is startling.

—Jan Resseger



### Citizens Police Academy – Part IV: The Heavy Equipment

On paper, Week Four of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy looked like it should be fun. On Monday night, the agenda included time with the K-9 unit, bomb squad and the SRT Team (it stands for Special Response & Tactics, but most people still call it SWAT).

All three hours of Tuesday—plus an extra 45 minutes of overtime—were spent at the city's shooting range, located in a nominally marked building on Superior Road just south of Mayfield.

This was the week when the police department got to show off its most impressive hardware to an interested and captive audience.

By the time it was over, I was depressed and angry. It's taken me several days to think it through. . . .

—Bob Rosenbaum



### Cleveland Heights City Hall is now a bank

I was very pleased to hear that Millikin School was sold to Mosdos.

But, I am confused as to why the sale is contingent on the City of Cleveland Heights financing the purchase.

What is the justification of CH City Council offering to finance this sale?



. . . I don't understand why Mosdos is getting financing from the City of Cleveland Heights instead of a bank. Do you?

—Fran Mentch

### Citizens Police Academy – Part III: Narcotics

. . . Day 5 of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy was all about narcotics investigations. The visual aids included not only multiple grades of marijuana in clear plastic, but also cocaine, . . . crack, heroin, some drug paraphernalia, and a Tec 9 automatic handgun. Unfortunately, none of it was unfamiliar, thanks to the images we see every day on TV and the Internet. But up close and in person it spoke of dark obsession and horror that was surprising to a bleeding heart lefty from the suburbs. . . .

"We go into neighborhoods where nobody knows anyone else who has a job," Cmdr. L said. "What's needed is education and the opportunity for people to use it. If we want to solve the drug problem, we need to break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness. You're not going to arrest your way out of this." . . .

—Bob Rosenbaum

Click on the QR codes or go to [blogs.heightsobserver.org](http://blogs.heightsobserver.org) to read these blogs in their entirety.



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HUMAN PLUS was produced and is toured by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in partnership with the New York Hall of Science. The exhibit was made possible with funds provided by the National Science Foundation.

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PATIO continued from page 1

the family would come over to eat. Everything was centered on food.”

Alicia became interested in cooking when she was very young, and recalled, “All through grade school and high school, I would cook with my mother.” After graduating from Beaumont School, she enrolled in Cuyahoga Community College and majored in culinary arts, business management and food science. After graduating from Tri-C, she went to Italy and studied cooking in Florence for a year.

Her husband, 42, grew up on Long Island in New York. Brian also had a strong interest in cooking, and earned his culinary arts degree from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I. He moved to Cleveland in 1995. “It was time for a change,” he said. “I needed a change from the atmosphere in New York, and I wanted to try something new.”

He got a job at Salvatore’s restaurant in Little Italy, and that’s where he and Alicia met. They got married in August 2002, and are now the parents of four children: Margaret, 8, Elizabeth, 7, Brendan, 5, and Mary Katherine, 3. The family lives in the Fairmount Taylor neighborhood, and they love Cleveland Heights. “When Brian and I got married, I told him I was never moving from Cleveland Heights,” Alicia said. “I love all of the culture here and the proximity to downtown. It’s also a great place to raise children.”

“Everything is at your fingertips here,” Brian said. “There’s gorgeous architecture, a great cross section of people, and you’re close to University



Brian Linihan and Alicia Marotta Linihan on their new patio.

Circle, where there are some of the world’s best museums and the best orchestra.”

As for their restaurant, the Linihans said the menu is based on creative dishes, many of which Brian conceives, as well as Italian-American staples. Virtually all of the food is locally grown and raised. They get organic, grass-fed cattle from a farm near Youngstown, and they buy virtually all of their fruit and vegetables at local farmers markets. “Being a small restaurant, we can be more experimental,” Brian said. “We can try different things. For example, we make our own ice cream. In addition, we do our best to make people feel at home here.”

The Linihans are delighted by the new patio. “It’s been a long time coming,” Alicia said. “We had been thinking about it for a few years, and we just needed the timing to be right.”

*James Henke, 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.*

## October is national Fair Trade Month

Laura Potter

October is the 11th annual National Fair Trade Month. Fair trade products are “food or crafts that are produced under standards designed to end and prevent the poverty, sweatshop labor conditions, environmental degradation, etc. that are endemic to the free trade ‘race to the bottom’ that puts profits above people and the planet,” according to the Global Exchange human rights organization.

Fair trade products can be found throughout Cleveland Heights, in grocery stores, local boutiques and major chains.

As the holiday shopping season begins, this month’s special designation offers a chance to reflect a little bit more on purchases.

If you’re buying a gift, is it as unique as its ultimate recipient? Do you know who made it, where it came from and the impact of your purchase? Was it produced under safe conditions and for fair wages?

Fair trade shopping provides answers to these questions while stretching your money farther than you may have imagined. It enables fair labor standards, and provides financial security and emotional independence to artisans—often

women—who would otherwise have nothing. It enables children to go to school and not work in the fields, factories or on the streets. It allows the disabled and un-educated to find self-confidence and skills. It helps communities to flourish both economically and emotionally. Fair trade is more than a label; it’s a way of life.

Ten Thousand Villages, with a store located in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, is a nonprofit charitable organization that offers fair trade products from more than 100 artisan groups in 36 developing countries.

It was voted “Best Place to Buy a Gift” and “Best Cleveland Heights Business” in the 2013 Best of the Heights awards, presented by Future-Heights and the *Heights Observer*.

Whether you shop at Ten Thousand Villages or any other local business that offers fair trade products, National Fair Trade Month is a good time to consider the true cost and value of the things you buy.

*Laura Potter is store manager for Ten Thousand Villages in Cleveland Heights. She is active on the Ohio Fair Trade Expo Committee and the Cedar Fairmount SID Marketing Committee.*

## Heights libraries are vital to our community

Louisa Oliver and Abby Botnick

The immense value of our local Heights libraries cannot be taken for granted. The services they provide can sometimes seem routine: lending books, connecting residents to the Web, running programs for children, providing resources for job seekers, and more. But these services are fundamental to all of us. Our libraries are part of the bedrock of our community and must not be overlooked.

Since the library first opened its doors in the Heights in 1921, it has helped to shape the community’s success. The libraries have anchored our walkable neighborhoods, educated our citizenry, and provided top-notch, free services to every resident. And it is not only Heights residents who think we have a wonderful library system. *Library Journal* has awarded our library 5 Stars—its top grade—for the fifth year in a row! Heights Libraries is ranked seventh in the country for libraries of its size.

Now we find ourselves having to protect this amazing community resource. Fortunately, we have an opportunity this fall to keep our libraries strong by passing Issue 5.

In recent years the state of Ohio has aggressively cut funding to local communities, and our library’s state funding is at its lowest point since 1996. State funding provides one-third of the library’s budget, with property tax, which is also bringing in less, providing the other two-thirds. As funding has decreased, the demand for services has increased. In 2013 alone, Heights Libraries had more than one million visitors, loaned 1.8 million items, and provided more than 300,000 individual com-

puter visits. In 1996, the library had no public-use computers, and circulation was 350,000 less.

In the face of declining budgets, our Heights libraries have made smart fiscal decisions. More than \$1 million has been cut from the Heights Libraries’ budget, with minimal service impact. The State of Ohio Auditor’s Office awarded our library the Auditor Award with Distinction.

We need to protect the solid financial foundation Heights Libraries has built by approving Issue 5, a small 2.2 mill operating levy, on the November ballot. The impact on homeowners amounts to only \$6.13 per month per \$100,000 valuation.

Passing Issue 5 will do more than protect current services and programs. The library board has prioritized restoring Sunday hours to Coventry Village and Noble Neighborhood libraries; providing enhancements to library facilities, to keep up with technology and new uses; improving parking and handicapped access; and establishing energy-saving and sustainability upgrades.

We can’t take our Heights Libraries for granted! Vote FOR Issue 5 to protect our Heights Libraries this November. Supporting our libraries strengthens our community. Visit the levy website at [www.protectheightslibraries.org](http://www.protectheightslibraries.org) for additional information, to sign up for a yard sign, to volunteer for the campaign, or to donate to get our message out.

*Louisa Oliver and Abby Botnick are co-chairs of the Library Levy Campaign to support the Heights Libraries. Botnick is a member of the library board and Oliver is the president of the Friends of the Heights Libraries.*

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# Stop Mass Incarceration movement plans October month of mass resistance

Carol Steiner

Last April, three older white women here in the Heights sent out a letter to friends and sympathetic acquaintances calling on them to take up the call of author Michelle Alexander, to help build a social movement against the new Jim Crow. We read Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*, and were horrified [to learn] that the war on drugs has caused an astounding rise in the incarceration of people of color for minor drug offenses over the last 40 years. Alexander's exposure of the blatant injustice at every level of the criminal "justice" system had a profound effect on us. We felt compelled to do something.

We were also deeply troubled by the acquittal of George Zimmerman, and inspired by the "Stop Stop and Frisk" movement in NYC. Our movement, Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration, was formed in a living room in Cleveland Heights, where eight older women unanimously endorsed the Stop Mass Incarceration Network's (SMIN) call for an October "Month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration, Police Terror and the Criminalization of Generations," initiated by Carl Dix and Cornel West.

We quickly planned a showing of the film "Broken on All Sides," about the movement in Philadelphia at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland. We began to spread our message

through social media and by going out to events such as the Hessler Street Fair, Wade Oval Wednesdays, the Cain Park Arts Festival and others, with informational flyers, dressed in orange T-shirts with our logo on the front. We also held an action to puncture the silence with facts on Larchmere during Porchfest. We have received a very positive response.

Outraged and deeply saddened by the police murder of Michael Brown, on the heels of the police killing Eric Garner, we feel the time is right for this movement. People are saying, "No More!"

We seek to have a significant impact in Cleveland in October, and invite all who want to join the Stop Mass Incarceration effort to join our Meetup Group ([www.meetup.com/Grtr-Cleveland-Stop-Mass-Incarceration-Puncture-the-Silence/](http://www.meetup.com/Grtr-Cleveland-Stop-Mass-Incarceration-Puncture-the-Silence/)) and participate in our October month of resistance to all the ugly features of the new Jim Crow.

Nationally, SMIN plans include publication of the SMIN Call in major and smaller newspapers, sermons in all types of houses of worship the first weekend of October, demonstrations on Oct. 22 (in Cleveland meet at 3 p.m. on Public Square), and a day of wearing orange on Oct. 30. Greater Cleveland events planned for October include a pop-up art show on Oct. 17 (at Art Palace, 7201 Kinsman Road), and an Oct. 22 march to Public Square (meet at the Northeast Reintegration Center,



Stop Mass Incarceration activists puncture the silence with facts during Larchmere Porchfest.

2675 E. Orange St.).

Our Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration kick-off and organizing event on Aug. 28 was a big success, with 75 people in attendance. Everyone there agreed that—between then and October, and beyond—our movement needs to get even stronger and more active, with a focus on resistance. The night ended with a determination and spirit to use the kickoff as a springboard to become a bigger part of the national movement to Stop Mass Incarceration. People took stacks of the 5,000 palm cards, ready to go. It's going to take a lot of hard work and outreach to the people. For more information, and to get involved, please contact us at [puncturethesilencecle@gmail.com](mailto:puncturethesilencecle@gmail.com).

Carol Steiner moved to Cleveland Heights in 1985, and her two sons graduated from Heights High.

STADIUM continued from page 1

for its leadership, and thanked city officials for their support. Zoraba Ross, Heights High administrative principal, recognized the athletes and the important role that athletics plays in the life of students and the school. Student athletes from each of Heights High's teams participated in the ceremonial ribbon cutting that preceded the football game.

Volunteers from the Sustainability Working Group, a citizen group supporting the district's move to more environmentally friendly facilities, stood by all of the stadium's recycling and trash containers, to encourage fans to recycle as much as possible. The volunteers are part of the Tiger Nation Game Day Recycling Challenge, an initiative to promote waste reduction at athletic events.

Hughes is "thrilled" with the mud-free field, and said, "This all-weather field will be used by many teams. Besides our football team, youth and middle school football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, marching band, baseball and physical education classes will use this field." Hughes noted that the district will still use the Dennison field.

While the field surface and stands are complete, the district is working on a fundraising plan to enable it to add a Tiger Welcome Center that would include a concession stand and restrooms. The district's goal is to have that in place by next fall.

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

VIOLET BOYS

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**Spooky Tours**  
Chris Mourse

**Comic 1:** This is the latest thing: Segway Haunted Tours. You ride a Segway around in the dark and hope to god no malevolent spirit slaps you in the face while you're driving it. *Basically the worst thing to be driving in a supernatural encounter.*

**Comic 2:** The tour companies must have great insurance. Mixing ghosts and Segways just seems like a mistake. *HAUNTED ALLEY* *SOMETHING TAPPED ON MY HELMET!* *ZING* *DEATH IS NEVER FAR FROM THESE TOURS.* *BUSY STREET*

**Comic 3:** It seems like there is a huge potential for "plunging incidents." *Chicago: Al Capone's Haunted Ship Site.* *San Antonio: Haunted Cemetery* *WHAT WAS THAT??!* *open grave* *ZING* *Panic is a killer!!!! Also cliffs.*

**Comic 4:** The Austin, Texas Segway Ghost Tour includes a stop to watch the world's largest bat colony fly out for the night. *Entire tour groups have backed into each other at high speed, then plunged into the river as a group.\** *BAM!* *ZING* *\*made this part up.* *I'd prefer a Pope-mobile or Obama's Super limo to watch a bat colony.*

**Comic 5:** At least the Segways themselves aren't haunted\* because that could be really bad. *HEY!!!* *WHAT???* *NOOOOOOO* *balcony of haunted theater* *FLING* *\*yet.*

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Image: Ben Kinsley

Cleveland Institute of Art explores the roles of art and artists in society with a yearlong series *Community Works: Artist as Social Agent*.

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## A park, yes—but not a \$3 million park



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

Mayor Infeld's proposed new tax bond issue for \$1.8 million for a neighborhood park is on November's ballot. Add to it the \$856,677 already spent, and this park will cost close to \$3 million.

How did it grow from the simple "green space" Infeld said was her preference to a project that now needs a massive tax to fund it?

According to the University Heights City Council meeting minutes of Feb. 6, 2012, Brett Teacher, chairman of Citizens for Saybrook Park, requested that the city purchase the former Fuchs Mizrahi private property and "convert it into a city park."

At the April 2, 2012 council meeting, an Ashurst Road resident said that the "residents did not know the purchase price" and that there are "many unanswered questions," including "whether the building would be demolished or maintained, security measures, lights, and hours." The resident "also questioned the availability of funds for demolition and maintenance, noting that the City cannot afford to maintain the tennis courts at Purvis Park." She cited the Ashurst Road pocket park experience in sharing her concern that "what the residents are told and what they get do not always match." She said she is "in favor of more information being provided."

The minutes do not show answers to the questions.

The minutes indicate that the mayor said at the April 2, 2012 meeting that if a community center is desired [in lieu of a green space], "it could be put before the voters as a bond issue," and add that "Mayor Infeld emphasized that there is not enough money to operate a community center using General Fund revenues."

The mayor again discussed the potential uses of the Fuchs Mizrahi School property at the April 16, 2012 meeting, where she said that, if the city acquired the property, she would "appoint a committee of residents to study how the property will be used."

She again referenced the possibility of a community center: "... if the community desires to have a community center, it could go before the voters as a bond issue. . . ."

According to the "Reports and Communications from the Mayor" section of the Dec. 3, 2012 minutes, the mayor announced that "Mr. Brett Teacher [head of Citizens for Saybrook Park] will be the Chairperson for the Committee to study the use of the former Fuchs Mizrahi School property."

Given Mr. Teacher's role as head of a group of citizens seeking to use the land as a park, may this appointment be considered biased against exploring other possible uses for the property, such as a community or senior center?

Fast forward to the Jan. 21, 2014 minutes which cite the report of the recreation committee, stating that "priority" will be given to the interests of the neighbors of this park—as it should, for a neighborhood park.

When taxpayers were presented with the purchase of the land, the mayor's vision was green space.

Until the June 2, 2014 minutes, nothing shows the change of concept from green space into an almost \$3 million neighborhood park.

On June 2, Mayor Infeld's Resolution No. 2014-12, for \$1.8 million of bonds, to be paid off with an increase in our property taxes, was placed before council to be passed as an emergency measure.

Councilman Mark Wiseman said "to his knowledge this was the first time the city has asked people to pay for the cost of the park and how the city will pay for it." He continued, stating, "none of the park meetings discussed bond, how much the bond would be, nor how much it would cost residents."

According to the minutes, "Councilman Wiseman felt the people need/ deserve some type of public meeting where they would have the chance to say yes or no. This seems sudden. . . ."

Yes, quite sudden.

Mayor Infeld is already defending herself to citizens for spending well above her authorized \$5,000 limit without council's approval. Shouldn't we address the conflicting interpretations on spending our tax dollars before we add an additional \$1.8 million in new taxes?

On July 18, the mayor told the community, "Due to the recent criminal activity in our area, the city is hosting a Community Forum on Safety." Shouldn't our city funds first be used to restore our police, fire and EMS staffing to where it was prior to our mayor taking office?

A "NO" vote in November still keeps the green space park for everyone to use. It can be adapted, over time, as Councilman Wiseman suggests.

It just won't be an almost \$3 million park to be paid for with new taxes on homeowners.

Anita Kazarian, a 31-year resident of University Heights, has been active in many of the city's volunteer organizations. She wants to hear your thoughts; write to her at [anitakazarian@gmail.com](mailto:anitakazarian@gmail.com)



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# Who should define our community?



**THE COMMON GOOD**

Susie Kaeser

Fifty years ago, the idea of housing integration was akin to a four-letter word. It was, as housing activist Kermit Lind explained to me, "a state of pathological transition."

Segregation was the reality for nearly everyone living in Cuyahoga County. Single-race neighborhoods and a lack of choice for African Americans were the cumulative outcome of federal law, lending and real estate practices, and cultural norms. It appeared to be a locked system, with no options for change. Cleveland Heights was nearly all white. Only 251 African Americans were counted among 61,831 residents in the 1960 census. Then, everything changed.

In the spring of 1964, as a matter of conscience, Cleveland Heights activists organized Heights Citizens for Human Rights to end the "whites only" real estate norm. Inspired by the civil rights movement, galvanized by the tragic death of Rev. Bruce Klunder at a demonstration challenging the construction of new schools to keep black children segregated in Glenville, Heights residents came together to face discrimination in their community.

These volunteers were creative, relentless and bold. They circumvented the system by finding homeowners willing to sell on the open market. They developed a script to address every reason given to justify segregation and used it to persuade white homeowners to welcome black neighbors. In 1967 they sponsored more than 40 living room conversations about race, fear and integration. They confronted their neighbors and realtors. They lobbied city council and rallied the community when violence was used to discourage black homeownership. These committed volunteers were not going to let someone else define their community and perpetuate a humiliating violation of human rights. It was citizen activism at its best.

This remarkable work continued for many years. By the 1970 census, there was a six-fold increase in the number of African-American residents—about 1,500. Once the community opened, additional community groups formed to support black access and challenge practices designed to destabilize the integrating community.

Heights Citizens for Human Rights, the St. Ann Audit of Real Estate Practices, the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation, the Committee to Improve Community Relations, the Heights Interfaith Council, and

the Heights Community Congress all came into being between 1964 and 1976. These citizen-led organizations made living in Cleveland Heights a real option for African Americans. They changed the fate and identity of the community. They fought for what was right. In 1976, the City of Cleveland Heights adopted a nine-point plan to support integration as a community value. In this short time integration changed from a pathology to the city's greatest asset.

After studying this remarkable grassroots effort, I am inspired and awed by how effectively citizens challenged a systemic problem. Organized, determined citizens changed cultural norms, real estate practices and the law! By speaking up, they challenged injustice and opened what had been a closed system.

Injustice has returned. Today it is the use of test scores to judge and label school districts as winners and losers. Standardized tests are not a valid tool for judging education quality. Judgment is not an effective policy for guaranteeing student learning. This system advantages homogeneous affluent communities and punishes communities like ours that embrace diversity. It encourages discrimination and segregation.

School district report cards issued by the state of Ohio are not legitimate. They do not tell what happens in schools nor do they measure what a community values. Starting 50 years ago, Cleveland Heights residents rejected segregation. Now state and federal education policies—poorly conceived and lacking legitimacy—are threatening what makes us special.

In keeping with our tradition of grassroots activism, it is time to say no to the state's obsession with judgment. Until policymakers focus on meaningful support for public education, we should define for ourselves the attributes of a good education and label as invalid the faceless mathematical construct based on multiple-choice tests.

Local action has begun and is being led by the Heights Coalition for Public Education, a coalition of residents, parents, education advocates and teachers who participated in last winter's community reading of Diane Ravitch's *Reign of Error*. The coalition will sponsor events to raise awareness of the damage inflicted by bad policy on teaching, children, schools and communities. I've added my voice to this work. I hope you will too. To find out more and add your name to the coalition's principles, visit [www.chub.net/coalition/](http://www.chub.net/coalition/).

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

BEST OF THE HEIGHTS continued from page 1

From May through August, Heights residents voted for their favorite Heights businesses in 21 categories, and the winners were announced on Sept. 23.

This year's Best of the Heights Awards program provided a change from past ceremonies and featured more of a celebration and party-like atmosphere. Instead of a stage and acceptance speeches, finalists and guests enjoyed food, drinks, conversation and music, and the winners were announced with a flourish as banners were unfurled from a balcony.

The Best University Heights Business award went to Whole Foods Market. Gigi's on Fairmount took home the title of Best New Business, edging out fellow newcomers Four and Twenty Mercantile, Sweet Melissa and Yoga Roots.

Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa won the award for Best Customer Experience, and Theo Challouf bested shop-mate and Quintana's owner Alex Quintana for the title of Best Barber.

A new category this year, Best Enduring Business—which recognized longevity in the Heights business community—featured finalists Nighttown, Brennan's Colony and Tommy's Restaurant, which won the award.

Mama Joyce's Soul Food Café won the award for Best African-American-Owned Business, and the prize for Best Home-Based Business went to Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki. Judith Eugene, founder of the Loving Hands Group, was grateful for the support she has found in the Heights community. "I grew up here and went through the school system, so just to know that I'm giving back something that people find valuable and helpful really fills up my heart," said Eugene. "Being able to connect with people and

to find what it is that people need and what they find valuable, and to hopefully be able to fill that need, is tremendously rewarding to me."

This year's Best of the Heights Awards had even more of a special meaning, as it was the 10th annual presentation of a program in which FutureHeights finds great importance.

"Recognizing and celebrating our local businesses through the Best of the Heights Awards is one way that FutureHeights acts to support and promote a vibrant local economy. These businesses are, for many of us, like home. We know the proprietors and they know their customers. It's this connection to the community that we all value and that keeps us rooted here in the Heights," said Clare Taft, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

The following is a complete list of winners and finalists in the 2014 Best of the Heights Awards:

**Best New Business**

- WINNER:  
Gigi's on Fairmount  
FINALISTS:  
Four and Twenty Mercantile  
Sweet Melissa  
Yoga Roots

**Best Place for Sweet Treats**

- WINNER:  
Sweetie Fry  
FINALISTS:  
Luna Bakery Café  
Mitchell's Fine Chocolates

**Best Live Entertainment/Music Venue**

continued on page 12

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## Heights historical photo of the month



COURTESY THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

In 1941, the Heights Theater on Euclid Heights Boulevard, in the Coventry neighborhood, advertised Humphrey Bogart's movie "The Wagons Roll at Night" on its marquee. The theater opened in 1919 and showed films up until the 2000s.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. For more information, and to view additional historical images, visit [www.chhistory.org](http://www.chhistory.org) or [www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical](http://www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical).

MUSIC HOP continued from page 1

at five Music Hop venues.

Artists taking part in this year's Music Hop include Tom Evanchuck, Oldboy, the Admirables, Ashley Brooke Toussant, Archie Green, Harry Bacharach, Cities and Coasts, Johnny La Rock, the Ageless Males and Ottawa.

"The programming is very diverse," Bonanno said. "We are offering a little bit of everything, including folk, rock, jazz, funk, hip-hop and classical. It is our hope that this event will appeal to a broad spectrum of musical tastes. We also hope that people will listen to styles of music that they wouldn't ordinarily listen to." Bonanno also said that the event will include some family-friendly options.

Performances will kick off around 5 p.m. and run until about 11 p.m. An after-party, featuring the band Commonwealth, will take place at the BottleHouse Brewery, 2050 Lee Road. The \$5 cover charge for admission to the after-party entitles attendees to sample a BottleHouse brew made exclusively for the after-party event.

In addition to the events of Oct. 11, the Music Hop will present the band These Knees at The Wine Spot on Lee Road on Oct. 15, and other

bands at The Grog Shop and the B-Side on Coventry Road on Oct. 18. Like the Oct. 11 concerts, these performances will also be free-of-charge. Artists slated to perform at The Grog Shop include Doug Wood from Cellocentric, members of Classical Revolution Cleveland, and Hybrid Shakedown.

"We wanted to expand the reach of the Hop," Bonanno said. "We wanted to grow it out so that some events take place in other neighborhoods. That way, we can ensure that we highlight other merchants and business districts, and we increase our opportunities to showcase the wealth of local talent."

On Oct. 11, free parking will be available at metered (not permit-parking) spots on the street, and in city-owned lots, in the immediate vicinity of the Cedar Lee district. Parking will also be available at the Lee Road Library, after it closes at 5:30 p.m., and at Zagara's Market-place, after its 9 p.m. closing time.

Cellar Door Cleveland, a local company that promotes artists and runs a record label, and the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District are partnering with FutureHeights on the Music Hop. The 2014 Heights Music Hop is made possible through a matching grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and by these event sponsors: Simply Charming, Motorcars, DVUV, Keller National, realtor Susan Delaney of Howard Hanna, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and The Wine Spot.

For more information about the Heights Music Hop, follow the event on [Twitter@heightsmusichop](https://twitter.com/heightsmusichop) or like its Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/heightsmusichop](http://www.facebook.com/heightsmusichop).

*James Henke, 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, and is a member of the Music Hop committee.*

# Cleveland Heights City Council

## Meeting highlights



AUGUST 18, 2014

Council Member Mary Dunbar was absent.

### Public comments

**Library levy:** Nancy Levin, director of Heights Libraries, summarized this year's annual financial report and discussed the 2.2 mill operating levy that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot. An independent library system created before 1947, Heights Libraries must raise about two-thirds of its \$8.2 million annual budget through property taxes. She noted the numerous services the system's four libraries provide to about one million visitors each year.

**Bitcoin Boulevard:** Nikhil Chand, founder of Bitcoin consultancy CoinNEO, and Adam Fleischer, owner of The Wine Spot, discussed the growing use of digital currency and the "Bitcoin Boulevard" experiment on Lee Road, which has drawn national and international media attention.

### Pension definition in city code

Council voted to clarify and explicitly define the term "pension" as used in the city's tax code in order to ensure that taxes outlined in the code are actually collected. The new section will read as follows: "For purposes of this Chapter, a 'Pension' means any amount paid to an employee or former employee that is reported to the recipient on an IRS Form 1099-R, or successor form. Pension does not include deferred compensation, or amounts attributable to nonqualified deferred compensation plans, reported as FICA/Medicare wages on an IRS Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, or successor form."

### Benefits Regionalization Program

Council approved the city's participation in Cuyahoga County's Benefits Regionalization Program, which will enable the city to obtain favorable group rates for health care benefits (major medical and prescription coverage) for its employees and their dependents. The agreement will be in effect from Sept. 1, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2016. Prior to the vote, Mayor Dennis Wilcox commented on the cost savings this measure would achieve and noted that Cleveland Heights is the first city of its size to participate in the program.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

All council members were present.

### Public comments

**Tree commission:** Resident Laura Marks, who recently attended the Ohio Department of Public Resources Tree Commission Academy, recommended the establishment of a tree commission in the city, in addition to the office of the forester. Marks also presented a petition from her former neighbors thanking the city for the new park at Cadwell and Hampshire roads and requesting that the missing sidewalk around the park be replaced soon.

**Law director residency:** Resident Diane Hallum referred to the appointment of Jim Juliano as a part-time acting law director, to replace the full-time law director who recently resigned, and stated that the [city] charter requires the law director to be a city resident. Mayor Dennis Wilcox said this was incorrect.

**Ward proposal:** Hallum also maintained that council members ignore her and the group she represents on many serious issues in the city. She accused council members of picking whom they will work with and not being objective. She is circulating a petition to create wards in Cleveland Heights and feels that wards would improve communications between council members and citizens. She hopes to get the proposal on the ballot for the May 2015 primary election.

### Payday loan businesses

Council repealed, with reluctance, an ordinance that had imposed a moratorium on the operation of any new business that proposed to issue "payday" loans without being licensed under the short-term loan law. The moratorium was to

last until the Ohio Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Ohio Neighborhood Finance, Inc. v. Scott*. The repeal was necessary to bring city law into compliance with the court's June 11, 2014 decision. Council Member Jason Stein expressed council's disappointment with the court decision, which, he claims, fails to protect Ohio citizens.

In response, council passed a resolution requesting that the Ohio General Assembly enact legislation subjecting payday lenders to the provisions of the Ohio Short Term Loan Act of the Ohio Revised Code, in order to regulate the issuance of payday loans and to protect borrowers from excessive interest rates. This would prohibit payday lenders from registering under the Mortgage Loan Act.

### Outstanding Citizen of the Month

Council Member Stein's September Outstanding Citizen of the Month Award has gone to Susan and Steve Paulini, who removed snow last winter for neighbors who could not do so themselves. He urges citizens to nominate their neighbors for future awards.

### Appointments

Carl Campbell Jr. and Susan Ford were reappointed to the Recreation Advisory Board, and Margaret Lann was appointed to the Landmark Commission to fill the unexpired term of Chuck Miller.

### Cedar Road paving

Council authorized application to the state of Ohio for Ohio Public Works Commission funds for the Cedar Road Pavement Rehabilitation Project, which includes the road within the city limits and is scheduled for 2017. The Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency is providing 80 percent of the cost, and this grant, if awarded, will cover 20 percent. Mayor Wilcox noted that Cedar Road will receive temporary repairs later this year.

### City water infrastructure

Council authorized an agreement with Energy Systems Group, LLC (ESG) of Newburgh, Ind., for a detailed engineering evaluation of the city's water system infrastructure in order to develop a proposed project scope designed to reduce non-revenue water loss. The city estimates it is losing 50 percent of the water it purchases from the City of Cleveland, resulting in excessive billings. ESG has proposed an agreement to perform an engineering study for \$120,000. However, this will not have to be paid unless the engineer can design an improvement plan guaranteed to create a \$250,000 first-year positive cash flow, as defined by the parties in the contract. Mayor Wilcox pointed out that this study covers the billing system as well as the hardware.

### Larry Shaw

Mayor Wilcox said that the Forest Hill Park softball complex will be renamed to honor Larry Shaw and his 33 years of dedicated service in the recreation department.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to [mbarnes9515@gmail.com](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or join through Google groups using "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

## Fall Flea Market

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Simeon Ogonda (left) with UST volunteer Chris Vilevac, who is serving as Ogonda's "community mentor" during his stay in Cleveland Heights.

## Building a city of neighbors in CH

Simeon Ogonda

Welcoming Heights is a new initiative aimed at creating a "city of neighbors" in Cleveland Heights through activities and services that promote a welcoming environment for immigrants who have made the city their home. The initiative is based in the beliefs that all humanity is connected and that people discover their humanity by sharing their unique experiences with others.

The initiative is part of an effort to assist members of the immigrant and refugee community to integrate into life in Cleveland Heights and Greater Cleveland, and also to enrich the entire community through activities in which all residents are welcome to participate. On Sept. 9, in the first of a series of meetings regarding the project, participants endorsed the ideas of establishing a "welcoming hub" in a Cleveland Heights library and possibly setting up a Welcome Wagon for new immigrants and refugees living in the community.

The welcoming hub would enable refugees to get information on various subjects and referrals to available services. The hub would also provide a place for refugees and longtime residents of Cleveland Heights to find out more about one another, through the telling of personal stories and other informal interactions or organized activities. Speaking through an interpreter, refugee Mazin Abdhussin noted that, "There are some refugees who come to the U.S. with skills that could help the community. For example, some of us know how to fix houses, so if we had the opportunity to get an old, cheap house we could fix it and live in it."

Organizations represented at the meeting included Us Together (UST), which convened and hosted the meeting, Heights Libraries, the CH-UH City School District, Global Cleveland, Reaching Heights and FutureHeights. Interested community members were also present. A committee is forming to coordinate the initiative's work and establish a connection with city government.

Anyone who would like additional information or who would be interested in attending the next Welcoming Heights meeting should e-mail [oyandosimeon@yahoo.com](mailto:oyandosimeon@yahoo.com).

UST is a nonprofit refugee resettlement agency that assists newly arrived refugees and asylees to settle in new homes, attain social services and find employment in order to become self-sufficient. UST has worked in and around Cleveland Heights since 2007 with clients from many countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

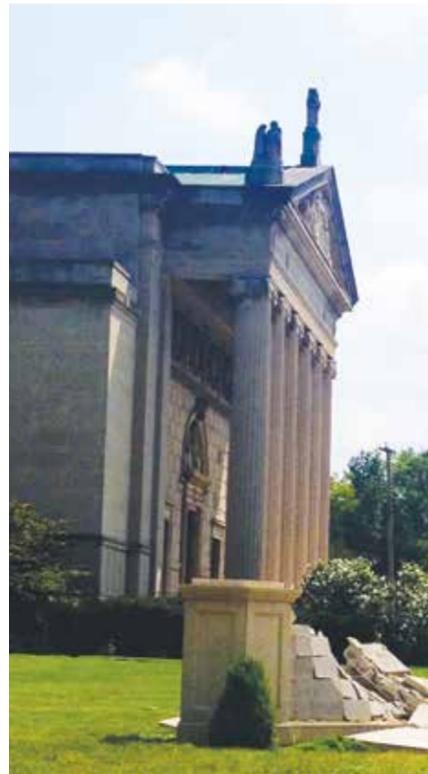
Simeon Ogonda, a fellow in the Community Solutions Program of the State Department's Bureau of Cultural Affairs, will be in town for several months to spearhead the Welcoming Heights program.

## Car accident results in destruction of church's stone sign

Andrea C. Turner

On the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 26, the Rev. John McNulty, Communion of Saints Church pastor, was working in his office when he heard a loud "bang." The source of the noise was a two-car accident at the corner of Cedar and Coventry roads, which resulted in the destruction of the church's stone sign at that intersection.

According to the police report, a female driver was driving west on Cedar Road, in the direction of downtown Cleveland, at approximately 1 p.m. She initiated a left turn onto Coventry Road, and simultaneously struck a pickup truck. That truck was driven by a man who was heading south on Coventry Road and making a left turn onto Cedar Road. The pickup truck driver, who had a green turn signal at the time of the incident, proceeded to turn left through the green light. The woman, reportedly, neglected to stop, causing the male driver to swerve his car in an attempt to avoid hitting her. His truck, however, did strike her car, then traveled approximately 25 yards and plowed into the church's concrete sign. The female



An Aug. 26 car accident destroyed the Communion of Saints Church's stone sign.

driver has been charged with "disobeying traffic."

"Two young men got the driver out of the truck, which was a blessing," said McNulty. The male driver report-

edly sustained a neck injury and was transported to University Hospitals for medical evaluation. The female driver sustained no injuries. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

Although there were pedestrians walking nearby when the accident occurred, none were struck. Following the accident, police temporarily blocked off Cedar Road to traffic.

"Luckily, it was an hour before the school dismissal," commented Kathleen Tark, a resident of nearby North St. James Parkway, referring to Communion of Saints Catholic School, located on the church's campus.

McNulty stated that there have been accidents at the intersection in the past. "It's a quick light, and there doesn't seem to be a lot of time to get through," he noted.

The rubble debris from the demolished sign was quickly cleared.

"It may take a while, but we do plan to restore the sign," said McNulty.

Andrea C. Turner owns ACT One Communications, LLC, a marketing and communications consulting firm. She is the Heights Observer e-news editor.



### "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 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 knew the place and the people really well."

"Not much has changed," adds Dottie. "We continue to enjoy the things we've always loved to do. 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!"

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## Potter Village holds sixth annual block party

David Hansen

More than 200 residents attended the sixth annual Potter Village Block Party, held on Aug. 23, on Castleton Road in Cleveland Heights.

According to the leaders of the Potter Village Good Neighbor Association, an organization of residents, it is the largest citizen-run block party in Cleveland Heights.

The 2014 block party featured DJ Freddie James; a potluck dinner; a visit by a Cleveland Heights fire truck and members of the CH Fire and Police departments; a water balloon toss and Hula-Hoop contest; face painting and bicycle decorating; an old-fashioned cake walk; line



Face painting on Castleton Road.

## CH law director will revert to part-time position

Kim Sergio Inglis

At the Sept. 2 Cleveland Heights City Council meeting, City Manager Tanisha Briley announced that Anthony Farris had “resigned his position as law director last Tuesday [Aug. 26],” and that Jim Juliano, who had served as acting law director for the first four months of 2014, “has agreed and we welcome him back to the executive team as acting law director.” Briley also stated that she planned “at a future date to ask council to confirm him as the permanent law director for the City of Cleveland Heights.”

The city released no official statement regarding the circumstances of Farris’ resignation. Asked to comment, Briley said, “Mr. Farris resigned his position and we supported his decision to do so.” She confirmed that Farris’ last day in the office was Aug. 26, and that he would continue to receive his regular salary (\$100,000 annually) through Oct. 1.

Briley appointed Anthony Farris as the city’s first full-time law director on April 23, and the appointment was confirmed by a unanimous vote of council members.

According to the Cleveland Heights City Charter, the office of law director may be either a full-time or part-time office. The law director is appointed by the city manager, and the appointment must be approved by a majority of council members. The city manager may remove the law director without the approval of council.

On Dec. 31, 2013, John Gibbon retired after 28 years as CH’s part-time law director. Two weeks prior, on Briley’s recommendation, council had appointed Jim Juliano, who had overseen the city’s civil litigation and legal matters since 1997, interim law director.

The search for a permanent replacement for Gibbon began on Nov. 1, 2013, when the city began accepting law director applications.

On April 11, 2014, the city announced that Farris, former law director for the City of Youngstown, had been selected as the final candidate for the law director position, and that it would be a full-time position. “The decision was made to hire a full-time law director to maximize accessibility, efficiency and consistency for the city,” stated Briley in the announcement.

If city council confirms Briley’s appointment of Juliano as the city’s next permanent law director, the position will revert to being a part-time one. Briley said, “While my preference was for a full-time law director it is more important to have competent and capable leadership in the role. Municipal law is a specialized area with a very limited pool of qualified candidates. Mr. Juliano has served the city well for 17 years as assistant law director, including four months as interim law director earlier this year. He has shown tremendous leadership and he will continue to be a great asset to us.”

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

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FutureHeights would like to thank the following merchants for supporting the 2nd annual Heights Music Hop on October 11.

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- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ATMA Center             | New Heights Grill    |
| The BottleHouse Brewery | Parnell's Pub        |
| Brennan's Colony        | Phoenix Coffee Co.   |
| Cedar Lee Pub           | The Social Room      |
| Dewey's Pizza           | The Stone Oven       |
| Joey's Bistro Bar       | The Tavern Company   |
| Lee Road Library        | The Wine Spot        |
| Mitchell's Chocolates   | Zagara's Marketplace |

dancing; and a raffle, with prizes donated by more than a dozen local merchants.

This year’s event organizer, Alicia Burkle, said, “It was so great to see everything come together and everyone enjoying themselves. We all worked really hard to put it together and we couldn’t have done it without the support of the entire neighborhood.”

Potter Village, located between Monticello Boulevard and Taylor and Yellowstone roads, comprises seven connected streets—Castleton, Woodridge, St. Albans, Boynton, Radcliffe, Haselton and Edison.

It is named after the Potter family, who ran a large dairy farm on the property in the early 1900s. Horace and Florence Potter, both 1898 graduates of the Cleveland Institute of Art, were jewelers who began making jewelry in their chicken coop.

In 1921 they employed jeweler Louis Mellen, and incorporated the Potter Studio in 1924. In 1928, the Potters opened a store at 10405 Carnegie Ave., which continued to operate in that location until 2004. Mellen, who managed the store, became a partner in Potter & Mellen, which was well-known throughout Cleveland for fine jewelry, silverware, artwork, china and glassware.

After the Potters sold their farm in 1923, the property was developed into a residential neighborhood.

David Hansen is a member of Potter Village Good Neighbor Association.

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# 90-year-old resident begins a new chapter

Brady Dindia

Local author Lois Jeavons grew up in Shaker Heights during an era one often thinks about while driving down the tree-lined roads of our local communities. Having lived much of her life in Northeast Ohio, she has insight into a period of history in which this region experienced some of its lowest lows and highest highs.

A graduate of Hathaway Brown, Jeavons left the Heights for Smith College, where she studied English and creative writing under Mary Ellen Chase, a well-known New England author.

Thereafter, her life took a more traditional path of doting mother and supportive wife. But her love of writing never waned and, in later years, she attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she reconnected with the novel she had started years before and began to flesh it out.

Celebrating the novel's completion and her 90th year, Jeavons introduced her book, *Manners, Morals and Myths*, to family and friends. In this historical novel, readers meet the people who populated the ballrooms and exclusive clubs of early 20th-century Cleveland—those who founded and supported the city's rich and vibrant cultural life.

Some of them were not as upstanding as they pretended to be. Nonetheless, they provided Cleveland with museums, hospitals, universities and



Lois Jeavons

a world-class orchestra. Set in one of America's most beautiful suburbs, the novel takes the reader into a gracious, white-gloved bygone time. For many, it will revive old romantic memories. Others will catch a glimpse of a world they will never know.

Jeavons took 25 years to complete her book, delayed by personal challenges over the years. After the death of her husband, she found writing to be a solace and a welcome distraction and she persevered until she finished her novel. In response to requests from many of her readers, Jeavons is currently working on a sequel.

Everyone has fascinating stories to tell, and Jeavons recommends writing as a way to activate brain cells and remain alert as we age. Recalling these stories and organizing them into readable form can be energiz-

ing for aging minds. She urges seniors to hone their writing skills in creative writing workshops whenever possible.

Jeavons currently lives with her grandchildren in University Heights for half the year, and with her daughter in California for the remainder of the year.

Paperback and digital copies of *Manners, Morals and Myths* can be purchased through her website, [www.loisjeavons.com](http://www.loisjeavons.com), through online retailers, and by request from Mac's Backs on Coventry Road.

Brady Dindia, a nine-year resident of University Heights, is Jeavons' granddaughter, and the layout and cover designer of Jeavons' novel.

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## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

Councilman Phil Ertel was absent.

### Meritech contract

The Meritech contract for professional services for computer support, network security and upgrades remained tabled. Law Director Thomas Coyne said he has found nothing improper pursuant to Ohio laws, but out of precaution council has asked Coyne to verify the RFP process. [The contract was questioned because the assistant to the director of finance is the sister of the sales representative for Meritech.]

### Technical Assistance award

Council authorized an agreement with Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for technical assistance and project development. The city had applied for a grant from the Livable Cities Initiative, to provide pedestrian improvements for Warrensville Center Road and Cedar Center. Instead of the grant, NOACA awarded a technical assistance award, providing planners to work with city staff on suggested improvements. There will be three planning meetings and two public meetings with NOACA.

### Vendor contracts

A motion was presented to approve vendor contracts. Law Director Coyne explained that council was being asked to approve these contracts because the purchases were not made through a competitive bid process but might exceed the mayor's \$5,000 spending limit over the course of a year.

Vice Mayor Susan Pardee noted that the finance committee was considering non-operational vendor contracts and compiling a list of approved operational vendors. She would like to finalize the committee's proposed action at its next meeting on Sept. 18. Council had voted previously for the mayor to continue business as usual until the finance committee could complete its findings.

Coyne said that although council had

indicated that bills could be paid, there is no language in the charter that distinguishes one type of expenditure from another, or verbal agreements from written agreements. He said the \$5,000 limit, set 30 years ago, was much lower than spending limits in other cities. Mayor Infeld felt that if council was going to closely scrutinize her expenditures she wanted to follow Coyne's recommendation that any expenditures potentially exceeding the mayor's spending limit be approved. Councilman Mark Wiseman disputed the greater level of scrutiny saying that this issue had resulted from council's request to see the actual contracts that the mayor signed with Braun & Steidl, which significantly exceeded the \$5,000 limit and were signed contracts, and that council's question had nothing to do with the daily operating expenses. Council approved Councilwoman Nancy English's motion to table the motion until a later meeting.

### EMS staffing

Fire Chief Douglas Zook reported that he changed the EMS staffing levels in April after spending two months reviewing the current system, to provide greater efficiency and safety. [He said] having three EMS personnel was one person too many for most EMS calls, and one person too few for major calls. The safety concern comes from having someone scheduled for hours when they are not needed. Extra help is only needed if a person is in full cardiac arrest or if there is a major traffic accident. Four people are optimal for a fire engine so putting a third person in the ambulance takes [him or her] away from the engine. This trial program is based on his observations.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 8.

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# Ben Faller is new HRRC director

Becky Stager

After an extensive search, the Board of Directors of the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has selected Benjamin D. "Ben" Faller as the new executive director of the Cleveland Heights-based nonprofit organization.

A resident of Cleveland and a native of Northeast Ohio, Faller has served as staff attorney and chief housing specialist for the Cleveland Housing Court since 2009, working to expand the court's problem-solving programs and engaging in outreach and policy work on housing and property issues.

"Home Repair Resource Center is an organization that I have admired for some time, and I am very excited to be to be coming on board," Faller said. "I look forward to the opportunity to work with the staff, board, and supporters of HRRC to serve and empower the community and to grow the organization."

According to Shouresh Amir-Tahmassebi, HRRC board president, "HRRC is pleased have found a director with Mr. Faller's experience and credentials. He is very familiar with the housing climate here in Greater Cleveland and the problems that our clients face. At the same time, he knows the nonprofit sector and embraces the challenge of growing community support for



Ben Faller is the new executive director of Home Repair Resource Center.

HRRC."

Faller previously worked for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland on housing issues and operated his own small business as a general contractor, specializing in residential remodeling. Faller is currently an adjunct professor of law at Case Western Reserve University, where he teaches courses in community development and mediation. Faller also serves as the board chairperson for Larchmere Porchfest.

Faller was introduced to the community at HRRC's clam bake fundraiser in September. For information on HRRC, visit [www.hrcc-ch.org](http://www.hrcc-ch.org) or call 216-381-6100.

*Becky Stager has been HRRC's home repair education coordinator since 1989. Visit [www.hrcc-ch.org](http://www.hrcc-ch.org) or call 216-381-6100 for more information on programs and services.*

BEST OF THE HEIGHTS continued from page 7

**WINNER:**  
Nighthtown  
**FINALISTS:**  
Cain Park  
The Grog Shop

**Best Customer Experience**  
**WINNER:**  
Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa  
**FINALISTS:**  
Simply Charming  
Phoenix Coffee

**Best Pizza**  
**WINNER:**  
Dewey's Pizza  
**FINALISTS:**  
Marotta's  
Geraci's Restaurant

**Best Bar, Pub or Tavern**  
**WINNER:**  
Brennan's Colony  
**FINALISTS:**  
The BottleHouse Brewery  
The Tavern Company

**Best Healthy Eats**  
**WINNER:**  
Tommy's Restaurant  
**FINALISTS:**  
Aladdin's Eatery  
Stone Oven

**Best Automotive Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Washington & Lee Service  
**FINALISTS:**  
Bryan's Marathon  
Motorcars  
Simon's Automotive

**Best Home-Based Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki  
**FINALISTS:**  
Simple Hands Studio

**Best Carryout Only**  
**WINNER:**  
Pizza Bogo  
**FINALISTS:**  
On the Rise Artisan Breads  
Mama Joyce's Soul Food Café  
Richie Chan's Chinese Restaurant

**Best Hairstylist**  
**WINNER:**  
Shawn Paul Gustafson, Shawn Paul Salon  
**FINALISTS:**  
Ryan Simmons, Abstract - A Hair Salon  
Chanelle Truitt, Studio Taylor

**Best Barber**  
**WINNER:**  
Theo Challouf, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa  
**FINALISTS:**  
Alex Quintana, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa  
Adam DiDomenico, Adam's Barber Shop

**Best Family-Friendly Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Tommy's Restaurant  
**FINALISTS:**  
Brennan's Colony  
Dewey's Pizza

**Best Curb Appeal**  
**WINNER:**  
Anatolia Cafe



The Yoga Roots team. Yoga Roots was a finalist in the Best New Business category.

**FINALISTS:**  
Bremec's Garden Center  
Gigi's on Fairmount  
Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki

**Best Clothing-Related Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Revive  
**FINALISTS:**  
Avalon Exchange  
Blush Boutique

**Best African-American-Owned Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Mama Joyce's Soul Food Cafe  
**FINALISTS:**  
Angie's Soul Café  
Digizoom Media  
S.O.F.E. Whole Foods Grill  
Soles In Sync

**Best Pet-Related Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Coventry Cats  
**FINALISTS:**  
Dogtopia  
Mandel Veterinary Hospital  
Rainbow Veterinary Clinic

**Best Enduring CH or UH Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Tommy's Restaurant  
**FINALISTS:**  
Brennan's Colony  
Nighthtown

**Best Food**  
**WINNER:**  
Anatolia Cafe  
**FINALISTS:**  
Lopez Southwest Kitchen & Tequila Saloon  
Pacific East Japanese Restaurant  
Tommy's Restaurant

**Best University Heights Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Whole Foods Market  
**FINALISTS:**  
Bialy's Bagels  
Geraci's Restaurant  
Pizzazz On the Circle

**Best Cleveland Heights Business**  
**WINNER:**  
Brennan's Colony  
**FINALISTS:**  
Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki  
The Wine Spot  
Tommy's Restaurant

*Daniel Budin is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.*

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Trick-or-treaters participate in the 2013 Candy Crawl on Lee Road.

## 10th Annual Online Auction supports FutureHeights

Daniel Budin

FutureHeights is accepting donations for its 10th Annual Online Auction, which serves as a major fundraiser for the nonprofit organization.

The auction supports the efforts of FutureHeights to create a stronger community in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. FutureHeights engages volunteers to help produce the *Heights Observer* community news; provides fiscal agency to various neighborhood-based groups; hosts numerous community-building events and activities, such as the Best of the Heights Awards and the Heights Music Hop; and presents community forums, tours and speakers.

An online preview begins Oct. 11, and bidding begins Nov. 21 at [www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights](http://www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights).

"The auction provides Heights residents and others a convenient way to purchase items from local merchants while supporting their local community," said Clare Taft, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors. "Bidders will find products and services from well-known Heights merchants, as well as items from local artists and home-based businesses that they may not be as familiar with. They will also find unique items from cultural institutions, getaways and items from other cool places."

"Donors to the auction not only help support the work of FutureHeights," added Taft, "but also gain visibility for their businesses, which is especially important before the upcoming holiday shopping season."



Each item is featured on its own dedicated webpage with a link to the donor's website. Individuals can also donate items.

Taft said that items that have sold well in past auctions include: dining certificates; sports and entertainment tickets or packages; beauty and spa services; food, wine and gourmet items; products and services for the home and garden; trips and getaways; fitness and wellness packages; and unique experiences, including tours and behind-the-scenes or VIP access to places not accessible to the general public.

All donations are tax-deductible, all bids are placed online, and all items sell to the highest bidder on Dec. 7.

Once the winning bidders are confirmed, winners can pick up their items from the FutureHeights office, 2843 Washington Blvd., Suite 105. Gift certificates can be mailed to the winning bidder upon request. Any shipping charges incurred will be paid for by the winner.

To donate an item, visit [www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights](http://www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights), or contact the FutureHeights office at [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org) or 216-320-1423.

*Daniel Budin is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, a member of FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of its auction committee.*

## Cedar Lee Kids' Candy Crawl is Oct. 24

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The fourth annual Cedar Lee Kid's Candy Crawl will be held on Friday, Oct. 24, 5-8 p.m.

Every year since the inaugural event in 2011, the number of children participating has doubled from the previous year.

This year, organizers expect about 1,000 kids in costume to come trick-or-treating between the doors of the Cedar Lee Theatre and the Lee Road Library.

Each of the participating businesses will display an orange "Official Candy Crawl Stop" poster in its window.

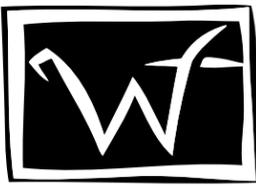
"I created this event as a way for myself and the other merchants to give back to the families in our community," said Shawn Paul Gustafson, owner of Shawn Paul Salon. "After all, our fiercely locally minded community is the reason that all of us merchants are here and able to keep our doors open. It was also important to me that the children of the Heights get to experi-

ence a wonderfully magical night in the Cedar Lee."

Gustafson said that, as the event has grown, he has begun to think about the best way to keep it going. "That's why this year's event will be hosted by FutureHeights in partnership with the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District," he said. "Working together, these two organizations can ensure the future of this fabulous event for years to come."

Gustafson said he is looking forward to this year's Candy Crawl. "I'm thankful for every merchant that has opened their doors and pocketbooks to give out candy to the kids, and of course to every family who has taken their kids out, regardless of the weather, to celebrate this delightful holiday with us," said Gustafson. "This year's crawl is going to rock!"

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



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## IPM trip stirs memories of Sister Kazel

Carol Pearson

As a Beaumont School student, Alyssa Bovell had learned about Sister Dorothy Kazel, an Ursuline nun who taught at the school before undertaking missionary work in El Salvador, where she was murdered in 1980. Bovell's August trip to the Central American country, with International Partners in Mission (IPM), drove home the impact of Kazel's sacrifice.

"To be there, to hear about the history of El Salvador and the civil war and see the challenges that people are still facing today, there aren't words to describe that," Bovell said.

A resident of South Euclid, Bovell began a two-year fellowship at IPM's Cleveland

Heights headquarters after graduating in May from the University of Dayton with a major in international development and political science.

IPM, which celebrates its 40 anniversary this month with a series of events, is a nonprofit agency that provides seed money, training and technical support to small-scale, community-based programs—Project Partners—in 25 countries, primarily in Central America, Africa and India.

The trip to El Salvador was one of IPM's immersion experiences—short-term travel opportunities in which participants visit Project Partners and experience their way of life.

Bovell said the experience made her feel that she has come full circle since her high school days. "It was a sign that I'm on the right path. I had more respect for Beaumont and [its] mission of educating women for life, leadership and service."

Sister Kazel began her tenure in El Salvador before the civil war began, preparing for Mass, developing lay leaders and teaching childcare. After war erupted in 1977, she tended to victims, refugees and the bereaved. Though her life was in danger, she refused to leave. She and three other churchwomen were murdered on Dec. 2, 1980.

Their bodies were placed in shallow graves, where a memorial and chapel now stand. The IPM group traveled in a van to the site in La Paz, where they held an informal service joined by members of the community.

"I appreciated the work that (Sister Kazel) did and the fact that she gave her life to do it. But it wasn't until I was able to see that site and be in the country, and not only see the challenges they're still facing, but the optimism for the future and appreciation for the work that is being done, that [it was all] brought home for me," Bovell said.

Currently, Bovell is helping prepare for IPM's 40th anniversary with its annual dinner celebration "Namaste! One Night for One World," as well as a series of public presentations that will be held in Greater



Alyssa Bovell in El Salvador for IPM's immersion experience program.

Cleveland Oct. 12-17. Namaste, on Oct. 16, will feature music and food from around the world, and in attendance will be IPM Project Partners and international experts on development and sustainability.

The October events include appearances by Dorothy Nyong'o of Kenya, a director of the Africa Cancer Foundation and mother of Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o, and Rick Steves, host of public television's "Rick Steves' Europe" and best-selling author of travel guidebooks.

Nyong'o will provide the keynote address on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m., at Notre Dame College, 1857 Green Road, South Euclid. She will discuss challenges facing girls and women in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the state of Kenya's healthcare system.

On Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m., Steves will appear at the Breen Center for the Performing Arts, 2008 West 30th St., Cleveland, with a presentation titled "Travel as a Political Act," reflecting on how a life of travel can be a force for peace and understanding in the world.

For more information about IPM, and to purchase tickets for IPM's upcoming events, visit [www.ipmconnect.org](http://www.ipmconnect.org) or contact Raluca Besliu at [rbesliu@ipmconnect.org](mailto:rbesliu@ipmconnect.org) or 216-932-4082.

Carol Pearson is a freelance writer and IPM volunteer.

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**WHEN** Wednesday, October 29th • 5-7 pm

**HALLOWEEN GAMES** — 5:00-7:00 pm  
India Community Center

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**BALLOON CLOWN** — 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
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**CUP CAKE DECORATING** — 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
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**THE WRIGHT-REYNOLDS PROJECT** — 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
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## Author of 'Uppity Women' to speak in Cleveland Heights

Loretta Dahlstrom

Lisa M. Wolfe, professor in the Endowed Chair of Hebrew Bible at Oklahoma City University, will be at Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, from Oct. 17-19. A native of Stow, Ohio, Wolfe also teaches at Saint Paul School of Theology.

On Friday evening, Oct. 17, Wolfe will meet with junior and senior youth to explore the topic "Get Ready for Ministry." Her Saturday workshop, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, will discuss "Judith and the General's Sword: The Difference Between Self-Defense and Revenge." The story of Judith is one of the lesser-known tales from the Apocrypha. Like Esther and several other biblical books, Judith raises the issue of violence. Is violence ever appropriate? How can the Bible be our conversation partner on this topic?

On Sunday, Oct. 19, Wolfe will preach at the 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m. worship services at Church of the Saviour. Her topic will be "Naomi and the Immigrant," based on Ruth 1:1-22. The sermon will be broadcast on Sunday,

Oct. 25 at 6:30 a.m. on WDOK Radio 102.1 FM, and at 10 a.m. on WHKW radio 1220 AM.

Wolfe received her Ph.D. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Northwestern University in 2003, and her M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton in 1996. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 2000.

In 2010, Living the Questions released her Bible study DVD "Uppity Women of the Bible: Ruth, Song of Songs, Esther and Judith."

Wolfe is currently working on a book project about Ecclesiastes. She and her husband, Fred Mischler, and their two children live in Oklahoma City.

The series of events, offered by Church of the Saviour, are free and open to the public. No advance registration is necessary.

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



Lisa M. Wolfe

# St. Alban's Church labyrinth garden welcomes all

Anna Risch

The sign at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Edgehill Road reads: "Labyrinth. Garden. All Are Welcome."

It is a high-traffic area for runners and cyclists, elderly couples, moms with strollers, and students. Until April, it was an empty, grassy triangle in front of St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

That's when Agape members Jessica Miller and Josh Handley attended a workshop on straw-bale gardening at a local plant store. They dreamed up a way to construct a straw bale garden in the form of a labyrinth that would incorporate food, beautification, sacred space and a community project. Agape is the young adult community at St. Alban's.

"We got pretty excited about the idea of a low-maintenance garden," said Handley. "We thought that building a labyrinth out of the bales would make it something that we'd be more likely to spend time working on. And then we thought we could use it to become a more visible part of the neighborhood."



A Cleveland Heights family searches for the geocache log at the center of the labyrinth.

"Straw-bale gardening," said Miller, an environmental educator at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, "involves planting or seeding plants directly into conditioned bales where their root systems expand

and thrive in the decomposing straw medium. We constructed our labyrinth garden to explore straw-bale gardening not only to produce an edible crop, but also to facilitate community, bring beauty and curiosity into our neighborhood, and to provide a peaceful and centering reflective space to walk, sense, and partake."

The labyrinth caused a stir on the street with drivers calling out, "Why are you watering that hay?!" or "How long have you been lost in that maze?!" After planting the seeds, which were started inside under grow lights, it wasn't long before the labyrinth looked less like a hay maze and more like a lush garden.

Neighbors are encouraged to reap the harvest as they walk by: the

bales are overflowing with vegetables, herbs and flowers—basil, strawberries, cucumbers, kale, okra, broccoli, a variety of squashes and peppers, and hundreds of grape tomatoes.

The space continues to grow. At the center of the labyrinth, a glass-topped box holds poetry, information and centering prayer, seeds and found objects. A notebook in the box holds messages from visitors who have reached the center, such as "It's my first weekend in Cleveland and I feel SO welcomed! Thank you!"

Other stamps and signatures record those who have discovered this registered geocache site. Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunt game using GPS devices. Participants navigate to a site, like this one, and then try to find the geocache container hidden there.

Children from nearby Roxboro Elementary School learned how vegetables are grown and helped plant and water at a St. Alban's back-to-school event in August.

The success and momentum of the labyrinth project inspired the Heights Community Garden Network to request a workshop on straw-bale gardening, which St. Alban's hosted in early September.

*Anna Risch is a member of Agape, the (mostly) young adult community at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. She received her B.A. in English in 2012, and now works as administrative coordinator of Greater Cleveland Congregations. She's been a resident of the Heights since March 2014 and plans to stay.*

## Cedar Fairmount to hold Halloween festival Oct. 29

Kaye Lowe

Corn stalks, pumpkins, apples, the sound of crunching leaves—and ghosts, goblins and witches with brooms—are all signs that fall, and Halloween, is in the air. On Wednesday, Oct. 29, 5–7 p.m., the businesses of Cedar Fairmount will fill their stores with fall decorations and treats for young and old.

Children and adults are encouraged to come in costume, and there will be a costume contest for children at the India Community Center at 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for Most Original, Scariest and Funniest costumes.

Children (and goblins) will be able to play Halloween games, provided by members of the Cleveland Heights Church, at the India Community Center from 5–7 p.m.

Other activities taking place throughout the Cedar Fairmount district include appearances by a sketch artist and balloon clown Rita Mc-

Closkey, cupcake decorating at Luna Bakery Café, and a performance by The Wright-Reynolds Project—a group of Cleveland Heights musicians—at Buffalo Wild Wings. Trick-or-treaters will be welcome at all businesses that display pumpkin signs in their windows.

Restaurants will offer food specials beyond the 7 p.m. close of trick-or-treating, and the Freddy Cole Quartet will perform two shows at Nighttown, at 7 and 9 p.m.

The Cedar Fairmount Halloween/Fall Festival is sponsored by City Architecture Inc. and the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Halloween will not be scary in the Cedar Fairmount district—it will be a fun time for all. For more information, call 216-791-3172 visit [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org).

*Kaye Lowe is executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.*

## Literary event to benefit women's educational nonprofit

Ellen Bartz

Maria Doria Russell, an award-winning novelist and scientist, will be the featured local author at the third annual "An Afternoon With . . ." literary event and dessert reception, on Saturday, Nov. 1. The event, hosted by the Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O. International, a philanthropic educational organization, will take place at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd., at 2 p.m.

Russell is the author of *Doc, Dreamers of the Day, A Thread of Grace, Children of God, and The Sparrow*. In addition to being a novelist, blogger and poet, she is also a wife, mother and dachshund lover, who holds degrees in cultural, social and biological anthropology. Russell was born in suburban Chicago and currently lives in Cleveland.

Russell will read from her work, field questions, and sign books. A reception with light refreshments will follow the program. Russell's books will be available for purchase through A Cultural Exchange, a local nonprofit organization that promotes multicultural educational programs.

Tickets to the event are \$15 and benefit P.E.O. International's scholarships, grants and awards for the educational advancement of women. For more information, visit [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org). To purchase tickets, contact Jan Hornack at 440-442-5631 or [jkhornack@gmail.com](mailto:jkhornack@gmail.com).

*Ellen Bartz is the vice president of P.E.O. Chapter 2 and a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights. She works as an occupational therapist at the Monarch Center for Autism, a division of Bellefaire JCB, and enjoys reading books by local authors.*

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## Seek out fun and educational bus tours this fall



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

The cooler temperatures of fall make this a great time of year to get outdoors and do some exploring. Bus tours are a wonderful way to see new places without the concern of driving or parking. You can even

go with a group of friends for a fun outing together.

The SELREC (South Euclid-Lyndhurst Recreation) Program offers two interesting fall tours for active older adults: an Act Like a Kid Again tour on Oct. 24, which includes stops at an ice cream factory, candy store, fruit farm and a glass-blowing factory; and a trip to the Hartville Flea Market on Nov. 14. Trips depart from the Hillcrest and Warrensville YMCAs. For more information, call 216-382-4300.

The City of Beachwood has two local tours planned for seniors—a trip to Severance Hall on Oct. 31, and one to the Palace Theatre on Nov. 12, for a presentation of “Newsies.” Call 216-595-3733 for information. Trips depart from the Beachwood Community Center.

Mayfield Village Senior Services offers a Progressive Wine Tour with Fall Foliage on Oct. 22. Call 440-919-2332 for information.

The Community Partnership on Aging, located in South Euclid, offers a Dec. 13 trip to a Christmas concert at Severance Hall. Earlier trips in October and November are in the planning stages, but are not yet scheduled. Call 440-473-5138 for information.

Lolly the Trolley offers daily sightseeing tours of Cleveland on charming red buses designed to look like streetcars. The tours are narrated, and provide interesting facts about the city. Most tours are one- or two-and-a-half hours long and depart from the Nautica Powerhouse in the Flats. The one-

and-a-half hour Holiday Lights tour in December includes a stop at the house that was featured in the movie “A Christmas Story.” For more information, call 216-771-4484 or visit [www.lollytrolley.com](http://www.lollytrolley.com).

Lakefront Lines operates one-day casino tours to Horseshoe Casino in downtown Cleveland. The closest departure location is the WalMart located at 6594 Mayfield Road in Mayfield Heights.

The company also offers day trips to casinos and racetracks in Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia, New York and Canada. The closest departure location for those destinations is the Lakefront Lines Garage at 13315 Brookpark Road. Multi-day trips are also available. Call 216-267-8810 for more information.

Please note that you do not need to be a resident of the above-mentioned cities to go on these trips. Registration deadlines can be as much as two months in advance of the trip date, so call early to reserve a spot.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center also offers bus trips during the year, although none are scheduled at this time. You can check back at a later date by calling 216-691-7377.

*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.lovinghandsgroup.com](http://www.lovinghandsgroup.com). She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or [judith@lovinghandsgroup.com](mailto:judith@lovinghandsgroup.com).*

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## 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](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205 or send an e-mail to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

**Oct 2:** Sarah Ryzner, director of Thriving Communities Institute for Western Reserve Land Conservancy, will discuss the institute's work to preserve essential community assets, such as clean water, working farms, wildlife areas and parks, to ensure a quality of life that attracts and retains a great diversity of residents.

**Oct. 9:** Robert “Bob” Brown recently retired as director of planning for the City of Cleveland. An advocate for the importance of streets, sidewalks, intersections, parks, and other types of shared urban space, he'll share his prescription for improving the quality of life in Greater Cleveland.

**Oct. 15:** Jessica Ferrotta, Lake Erie Conservation Coordinator for the Ohio Sierra Club, will describe how she works to protect the earth's wild places, promote the responsible use of its ecosystems and resources, and educate and enlist others to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.

**Oct. 23:** Carolyn Warner is, by her own account, “fortunate and privileged to be a dual instrumentalist [piano and violin] in the service of [the] great” Cleveland Orchestra. She'll recap her so far 35-year career with the orchestra, including some memorable musical highlights, and also talk about her work teaching and coaching young musicians.

**Oct. 30:** Marie Kittredge, retired executive director of Slavic Village Development Corp., is now project manager and civic liaison for Opportunity Corridor—the 3.2-mile link connecting Cleveland's I-490 to University Circle. She'll talk about the project, which is intended as a catalyst for economic improvements, and how it will help create jobs in some of Cleveland's poorest neighborhoods.

# St. Paul's youth choristers perform in England

Andrea C. Turner

This summer, six young choristers from the children's and youth choirs of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights traveled to England to sing in a medieval cathedral.

Maddie Gillooly, Sam Mitchell, Cecilia Payne, Erin Ptacek, Faith Shook and Anna Turner joined choir members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Akron, to sing at Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire from July 28 to Aug. 3. Four of the choristers—Gillooly, Mitchell, Payne and Turner—are Cleveland Heights residents. Ptacek lives in Lakewood, and Shook resides in South Euclid.

Daniel Fortune, organist and choir-master at St. Paul's, Akron, extended an invitation to Richard Nelson, organist and children's and youth choir director at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, asking Nelson to identify young singers to help fill in treble voices for Akron's men's and youth choir trip. The six who went were able to commit to the required rehearsal schedule, travel timeline and fundraising.

The choristers rehearsed with the Akron choirs for a full year in preparation for singing at Ely Cathedral for a week of Choral Evensongs and a Sunday Eucharist service—part of the cathedral's visiting choir program. One special performance took place in the Lady Chapel, the largest chapel attached to any British cathedral. Garrett Law, St. Paul's (Akron) assistant organist and choirmaster, served as the tour's accompanying organist. Law is also an undergraduate student at the



St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Cleveland Heights) choristers Anna Turner, Erin Ptacek, Cecilia Payne, Sam Mitchell, Faith Shook and Maddie Gillooly sang Choral Evensong at Ely Cathedral in England.

Cleveland Institute of Music.

Four of the six choristers were accompanied by their parents for some or all of the trip, but the two older singers, Payne and Gillooly, traveled overseas with only chaperones.

"At first I had my doubts on whether or not I would enjoy myself," said Payne, a sophomore at Cleveland Heights High School, "but the kind community of St. Paul's (Akron) really welcomed me and the other choristers in with open arms." Payne celebrated her 15th birthday one day after the choir visited the Harry Potter Studios in London. She had the honor of opening the welcoming doors to Hogwarts School, from the original movie set of the blockbuster series.

"Before the trip started, I was a bit nervous," Gillooly, a 14-year-old freshman at Cleveland Heights High School, said. "Even though we had tons of rehearsals together, I felt as though I didn't quite know the Akron choir kids. On one of the first days I sat next to one

of them and struck up a conversation. Almost ironically, we became friends due to a shared music taste."

In addition to rehearsing and performing in Ely daily, the choir traveled throughout southeastern England, including London and Cambridge, by coach, the London Underground (Tube), and on foot.

"We saw so many beautiful churches and interesting historical sites such as the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace, all while spending time together and being a family," said Gillooly.

The Tower of London displayed a stunning art installation of ceramic red poppies pouring over the sides of the castle walls into its moat, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Britain's involvement in World War I. Each poppy represents a British military fatality from the war.

Other trip highlights included visits to Burghley House, touted as England's greatest Elizabethan house; Hampton

Court Palace, home of King Henry VIII and other royals; Warwick Castle, a 1,100-year-old medieval castle with live entertainment and demonstrations; Duxford Royal Air Force Museum, home to an original Concorde transatlantic jet; and the American Memorial Cemetery, an homage to the American Allied soldiers who fought in World War II.

The uniqueness of the trip was not lost on the younger travelers.

"It was such a great experience singing in Ely Cathedral at a young age," said Anna Turner, a sixth-grader at Roxboro Middle School. "I loved sightseeing. Westminster Abbey was amazing!"

Sam Mitchell, a sixth-grader at Ruffing Montessori School, summed up his experience, saying, "We were exhausted by the time we got home, but we loved every second of the trip!"

Turner and Mitchell, Middlefield Road neighbors, were accompanied by their younger siblings, Henry Turner, 9, and Luci Mitchell, 8, on many of the sightseeing outings.

The public is invited to hear the choristers sing together on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 6 p.m., at a Choral Evensong service at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. For more information, visit <http://trinitycleveland.org/choral-evensong/>.

Andrea C. Turner owns ACT One Communications, LLC, a marketing and communications consulting firm, and is the Heights Observer's e-news editor. She and her husband, Mark Turner, traveled to England to accompany their children on the choir tour.

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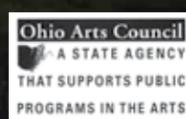
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## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



AUGUST 18, 2014

James Posch, board president, and Ron Holland and Jeffrey Eummer, board members, were absent.

### Communitywide reading program

On the Same Page, the communitywide reading program, kicks off Sept. 17 at the Cedar Lee Theatre with a showing of the movie "Smoke Signals," [based on a short story] by author Sherman Alexie. His book, *The Absolutely True Story of a Part-time Indian*, contains themes of poverty, identity, race and friendship, and inspired fall programming that includes a debate about the Indians' mascot Chief Wahoo.

### Meeting room policy changes

The board approved policy changes, effective Jan. 1, 2015, involving meeting room use. For a personal celebration, the reservation must be made by a resident with a CLEVNET library card in good standing. The room deposit fee has been raised to \$100 from \$50. Sunday hours for personal celebrations will be 1:30-4 p.m.

### Board resignation

The board accepted the resignation of Board Member Jeffrey Eummer, who is moving out of the district, and thanked him for his service to the library.

### Retirements

Two staff members will be retiring: Circulation Services Supervisor Mary Murphy, who has spent 23 years of her 30-year career with this library, and Adult Services Associate Chris Sheppa, who has been with the library since 1989, serving as outreach specialist.

### Book Bike award

The Ohio Library Council's Innovation Award for 2014 goes to the library's Book Bike program and will be presented at the annual convention in October.

### July public service highlights

- LaBena Fleming of the Hospice of the Western Reserve presented the first of two programs on end-of-life issues; this one focused on dementia.
- The Cleveland Institute of Music and Maggie Kinney offered the Instrument Petting Zoo where children could see, hear and touch different orchestra instruments.
- A representative from the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services came to the University Heights library on July 30 to tell community members about county services.
- Youth Services Associate Mary Susan Delagrange, along with Librarian Lauren Saeger and Marketing Manager Sheryl Banks, used the puppet stage in the story time room to present Picnic with Puppets to 45 children and adults.
- The Coventry Village Library youth services division "hatched" and released the first monarch butterfly of the season. Resident Carol Laursen provided the caterpillar eggs for the project.
- The training services department presented a new class, Creating a Brochure in Word.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 8.

## Library commits to early literacy with grant for Coventry

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received a \$4,000 grant from the Hershey Foundation to be used for the creation of an early literacy playroom at its Coventry Village Library. The development of the space, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014, will mark the first time the Coventry branch has had an enclosed, designated space for small children.

"Coventry has a long tradition of excellent and well-attended story times, but families often don't stay as long as they could because the children's area has always been in the middle of the adult quiet reading area," said Pat Gray, Coventry library manager. "With a new, enclosed space for young children, families can relax, read a story and talk while their children engage in enriching play with puppets and other literacy-based toys."

The literacy playroom will add to the library's roughly \$150,000-worth of improvements at the branch this year, which include new carpeting for the entire building, roof repair, remodeling of the new children's room and new indoor and outdoor lighting.

Coventry's literacy playroom will be similar to the literacy playroom in the Noble Neighborhood Library, with items like a puppet theater, a play kitchen, colorful and comfy reading chairs, alphabet-focused toys and kid-sized book displays, all designed to encourage young children to engage in the five fundamental activities that

build early literacy and get kids ready for kindergarten: singing, reading, writing, talking and playing.

"Early literacy, which basically means getting kids ready to learn, is a crucial goal that Heights Libraries shares with parents, caregivers, schools, and other community organizations," said Gray. "Our new playroom will give members of our community a fun and easy way to achieve it."

"Young children learn by playing," said Brian Hare, Heights Libraries youth services manager. "Books are important, but so is imaginative, hands-on, tactile play, and this new space at Coventry library will give children plenty of it. Boredom won't be an option."

In addition to toys and books, the new space will also have a design theme that will appeal to little ones and their caregivers, based partly on the artwork from "The Lord of the Rings" films by John Howe. Furniture, colors and other fixtures will create the feel and appearance of a cozy hobbit hole.

The Hershey Foundation, based in northeast Ohio, supports schools, museums, cultural institutions and other nonprofits that provide programs for children that improve quality of life, enhance learning and provide cultural experiences that expand understanding of the world.

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

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## What's going on at your library?

Heights Libraries is a proud supporter of Octavofest, the annual Northeast Ohio-based celebration of book-related arts. This month, the library offers hands-on classes, lectures, tours and more, to extol the glory of the written and spoken word in its many manifestations. Find more at [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org).

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400  
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m.

*Cedar-Coventry Author Series: Emerging Notable Author Kevin Keating.* Kevin Keating's debut novel, *The Natural Order of Things*, and the stories contained within have received much critical praise. Robert Olen Butler called it "a dark and utterly compelling work with an unnervingly resonant vision of our present age. Excellent work by a fine young writer." The book follows several students, teachers, employees and priests at a Jesuit boys' school as their stories weave in and out of one another's. Meet the author and hear him read from his riveting novel. Marian Morton, John Carroll University professor emeritus and local history writer, will join Keating for a conversation about the novel. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600  
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.

*Words as Ritual.* Throughout the ages, letter combinations, alphabets, chants and talismans have been intimately woven together to provide protection, offer guidance, and turn desires into reality, in both religious and secular settings. Discover the history of the methods various cultures have used to tap into the magic of words. This program is part of the Octavofest celebration.

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665  
Monday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

*Poetry Palooza.* Children in grades K-5 can learn to express themselves by exploring the vast world of poetry through crafts and activities inspired by various styles of verse. Registration began Sept. 29.

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700  
Sunday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m.

*Travel Tales: Tea in the Sabara.* Travel lovers unite—and share stories of an unforgettable meal, a hidden gem of a neighborhood, a surprising interaction with locals. Join like-minded wanderers in this program led by Tammy L. Currier, designer and former travel editor.



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## Library offers arts program for special needs children

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is starting a new arts and crafts program at the Lee Road Library specially designed to accommodate children with special needs and their caregivers.

“We’ve noticed that we don’t see these children very often at the library,” said Kornela Bogdanowicz, the Heights Libraries youth services librarian who developed the programs. “This could be due to the fact that until now we haven’t had programs for them, or it could be because they see the library as a place where you have to be quiet at all times and they don’t think they would fit in. We want to show that there’s a place for them here, regardless of their needs and abilities.”

Bogdanowicz said she realizes “special needs” is a broad term, and emphasizes that “anyone can come, whether their child has autism, a developmental delay, ADHD [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder], ADD [attention deficit disorder] or an emotional disorder.”

Bogdanowicz has designed the program to be more comfortable for special needs children than typical art and craft programs by limiting the number of child participants to 10, requiring the

attendance of a caregiver, and setting up the room in a way that will create a comfortable space for the kids.

This includes dimmer lighting, space for kids to go if they get overwhelmed, and plenty of room to move about, play with toys and do whatever they need to do to feel comfortable. Therapists and family members are also encouraged to attend with the children.

In addition to providing a fun program, Bogdanowicz wants to provide a place for families of kids with special needs to get together, get to know each other and foster friendships and support. Participants are encouraged to socialize and play with toys after the program.

The program will be offered twice for different age groups. The Oct. 18, 10 a.m. program is for children ages 5–8, and the Nov. 15, 10 a.m. program is for children ages 9–12.

Registration is required, and opens two weeks before the programs. Visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) or call 216-932-3600 for more information and to register. The Lee Road Library is located at 2345 Lee Road.

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

## Mark your calendars for fall Friends events



Four current and past Friends presidents at the 2013 annual meeting (from left): Adaora Schmiedel, Louisa Oliver, Sharon Richardson and Anne Cook.

Louisa Oliver

Heights residents are invited to join the Friends of Heights Libraries for two special October events, and for the Friends’ fall Mega Sale.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, in cooperation with FutureHeights and Reaching Heights, the Friends will co-host the semi-annual Welcome Home gathering for Heights residents, this time featuring a panel of Heights authors. Participants include poet George Bilgere, youth author Tricia Springstubb, novelist Thrity Umrigar, and rock biographer James Henke. Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate Kathleen Cerveny will moderate. Join us at Nighttown from 2–4 p.m. to celebrate our community. Refreshments will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. Everyone is welcome, and new residents are especially encouraged to come, meet neighbors, and learn what makes living and working in the Heights so special.

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Heights Libraries will be held on Oct. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. The meeting will be followed by the Indigenous People’s Read-In, co-sponsored by the library and the Friends, to celebrate the works and voices of indigenous peoples. Bring a short selec-

tion written by an indigenous person to read, or choose a reading from those that will be available. Or come simply to enjoy and learn from hearing the voices of Native Americans or other indigenous people. Refreshments will be available.

The read-in is one of several fall events that are part of On the Same Page, an “initiative designed to foster communitywide and personal connections through literature.” This fall, the entire community is invited to read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. For a full schedule of events, visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org).

Looking ahead to Nov. 6–9, make note of the Friends Fall Mega Book Sale—bigger than ever, and just in time for holiday shopping. Preview night for Friends members will be Thursday, Nov. 6, 5–9 p.m. That evening, Friends members are admitted to the sale for free; all others pay \$10, and become Friends members. The sale will continue Friday, Nov. 7 through Sunday, Nov. 9, and will take place in the Lee Road Library’s first-floor meeting rooms.

*Louisa Oliver is president of the Friends of Heights Libraries. She was the director of Heights Parent Center before it became Family Connections, and is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.*

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# Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights



AUGUST 11, 2014

[Joint meeting with CH City Council]  
Council Member Mary Dunbar was absent.

## Facilities update

The Heights High stadium project is on-time and on-budget, and will be completed at the end of the month.

The high school building schematics and designs are almost completed and all major relocation decisions have been made.

Wiley [Middle School] will be vacated this year and then prepared to receive the high school students next year. Monticello and Roxboro [middle school] classrooms are being prepared to receive all middle school students this school year. New parking areas have been established at Roxboro. The Heights Youth Theatre has been moved from Wiley to Monticello Middle School.

Plans for disposition of the vacated schools were mentioned. It was too early in the renovation process, so discussions were limited and no decisions could be made.

Council assured the school board that parking across from the high school is ample and RTA is cooperative in providing students with transportation.

## CH development, tax abatement

City council is considering an income tax levy. Tax abatement issues were discussed in regard to bringing new business into the city. The board will be kept informed. The \$2.7 million expansion of Motorcars Honda service center will entail no tax abatement. Council mentioned other new business development ideas and discussed a partnership with University Circle enterprises.

## Crime and safety issues

The schools and the city are meeting on safety policies for the schools. The Cleveland Heights police data collection and analysis system has been updated to gather more statistics on security. The roles and relationships of the school district security personnel and the city police were discussed. Police monitor designated neighborhood areas to ensure that students don't loiter for extensive periods. Schools have set up mentoring programs. A city-run diversion program for juvenile offenders is in place. The police are posted at various schools after the school day so a security presence is visible to both prevent crime and promote a sense of safety.

## Next joint meeting

The board and council will meet again on Oct. 14.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

AUGUST 19, 2014

All board members were present.

## Facilities work session

Representatives from BSHM Architects presented an updated plan for the redesign of Heights High, reflecting changes made in response to suggestions and concerns expressed by the board, staff and community members. The architects said they are getting closer to achieving the goals requested by various working groups. A representative from Ozanne construction said his firm will come up with a cost estimate for implementing the plan that fits the budget.

Heights High's original façade will once again be visible from Cedar Road with the removal of the science wing, added in 1959. New wings will be constructed off the building's east and west sides, which will complement the historic architecture. There will be four floors but five levels, with windows on every level. Ramps will be used only where necessary and some of the original stairwells will remain. There will be fewer classrooms than in the current structure, but more common spaces, circulation space, resource areas, a teachers' area, and conference rooms. Music areas will be clustered together, and open performance space will be added as backup for when the auditorium is in use.

The existing auditorium and art space will remain as they are. They are larger than required by the Program of Requirements, and result in the plan having more square footage than can be supported by available funds. Therefore, square footage will have to be eliminated elsewhere. Designing some spaces to serve multiple purposes could achieve this goal.

The main student entrance will be on the east side of the building and accessible from both Cedar Road and Washington Boulevard. There will be a "tower entrance" on the Cedar Road side. Security will have views of multiple entrances.

Board suggestions included skylights, replacement floor tile similar to the original, a pleasing façade toward Washington Boulevard, and restoration of the original architectural grandeur.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

All board members were present.

## Career Tech Education (CTE)

CTE is offered in a consortium with Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights high schools. The 13 programs offered include

audio engineering, manufacturing tech, pharmacy tech, marketing, cosmetology, criminal justice, digital electronics, automotive tech, and more. Heights High usually has about 300 11th- and 12th-grade students enrolled in CTE—a low number compared to other districts. Staff is investigating areas of low enrollment and recommends cutting three engineering offerings and adding culinary arts/hospitality. Board President Ron Register questioned cutting engineering due to the current emphasis on STEM. Both engineering and culinary arts are high-cost programs. Other preliminary recommendations include marketing CTE to students more effectively, removing stigmas associated with career tech, surveying student interests, educating guidance counselors on the value of CTE to students, promoting CTE in middle schools, placing students appropriately, and making better use of available funding. The board discussed the need to decide on offerings in the near future, to design the appropriate facilities needed. A culinary arts program, for example, requires a large and specialized area. The newest iteration of the facilities design will be shown at the Sept. 16 board meeting. Stephen Shergalis, director of business services, advised a careful perusal of the design for the CTE space at that time.

## Early College Program

The Early College Program, a partnership with John Carroll University (JCU), exposes to the college experience 14 Heights High

11th- and 12th-grade students who are enrolled in it. Students attend JCU in the morning and Heights High in the afternoon, and community service is required.

## Visitors' center at Heights High stadium

Board Member Eric Silverman suggested using the \$650,000 from the sale of Millikin School on a visitors' center at the renovated Heights High stadium, which would include concessions, restrooms, and a guest locker room. He stated that it would use a capital asset for another capital asset, and could kick-start a fundraising drive for the entire high school facility. Board members praised the idea but expressed reservations about spending the entire proceeds on one non-academic project; budget issues have created other areas of need. Board Member Nancy Pepler noted that the idea would save the district \$400,000 in temporary structures. At the suggestion of Stephen Shergalis, the board directed staff to develop a plan for a visitors' center and its cost in the context of the entire project, and incorporating the Millikin proceeds into the decision-making process.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 8.

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# CH-UH district steps up recycling efforts

Deanna Bremer Fisher

At the Heights High football season home opener on Sept. 13, volunteers were stationed near new recycling and trash bins, encouraging attendees to recycle and reduce the amount of litter around the field.

The initiative is one of two ideas promoted by the Sustainability Working Group (SWG), a group of sustainability-focused residents that was formed during the district's school facilities planning process, which the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is now implementing. In addition to a more comprehensive recycling program, the group also recommended that the district engage in a solid waste audit, a free service provided by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

According to Athletic Director Kristin Hughes, the athletic department is partnering with SWG and the Heights High Environmental Club to educate fans and encourage recycling at all games and contests. Dubbed the Tiger Nation Game Day Recycling Challenge, the initiative includes placing recycling bins throughout the new stadium and inside the lobby of the South Gym, stationing volunteers near the bins to help fans dispose of waste and recyclables appropriately, and public address announcements at all sporting events.

"We have never initiated a recycling program in the past at these events," said Hughes. "So while I cannot give you a specific amount [that was recycled] I know it was more."

Joan Spoerl, a member of SWG and one of the organizers of the effort, said that the idea to promote recycling at athletic events came about after the district decided to install artificial turf on the new field. "The field is made out of a non-renewable resource, but this recycling effort helps mitigate some of the negative effects of this," she said. "The field will break down over a period of 10 years, and the plastic from the field will go into our watershed as it breaks down, and end up in Lake Erie. If we can educate our community and contribute less plastic pollution in the future, this would help mitigate the effects of the field."

Spoerl said that she and other SWG members thought the results of the effort were mixed. "We feel like this is a good beginning," she said, "but we still have lots to do."

Laura Marks, also an SWG member, agreed. "We collected a lot of trash and recyclable material from spectators that otherwise would have been strewn on the ground," she said. "We diverted a lot of recyclable material from the landfill. We also reduced the amount of time and effort grounds crew and custodians needed to spend cleaning up afterward. Most importantly, we made recycling and proper trash disposal visible."

But, she sees the importance of changing the culture in the district. "Heights High is an educational facility; we need to teach responsible behavior, such as cleaning up after yourself."

The district has three more home games during its regular season—Oct. 4, Oct. 25 and Oct. 30—and plans



Glenn Odenbrett collecting in the stands.

to have volunteers stationed at those games. Similar initiatives are planned for other district sporting events.

SWG has urged the school district to increase awareness of recycling in order to design for sustainability as the school buildings are remodeled and rebuilt as part of the districtwide facilities process.

A solid waste audit for all of the district's buildings will begin with the elementary schools. The audit will involve collecting, sorting and weighing a representative sample of each school building's trash. On the date of the school's trash sort, custodians will collect one-day's worth of trash from the cafeteria and classrooms. Volunteers will open a sample of the bags and sort the trash into several categories: paper cartons (milk cartons and juice boxes), cardboard, mixed paper,

metals and cans, plastics, glass, food waste, food-waste packaging, and other. The sorted piles of waste will each be weighed, as will all of the bags of trash.

The data will show how much waste is created by each school, and how much of it can be recycled. Once the district has a benchmark for each building, its staff can work with members of SWG, PTAs and other community groups to implement strategies to encourage more recycling and less waste. As part of the process, the district will conduct a follow-up audit to measure progress.

The district is looking for volunteers from the community to help with the waste audit and Game Day Recycling Challenge. The waste audit for elementary schools will take place on the following dates, 2:30-5:30 p.m., in the school's gymnasium: Oct. 2 (Boulevard); Oct. 28 (Gearity); Oct. 29 (Noble); Oct. 30 (Oxford); Nov. 18 (Canterbury); Nov. 20 (Roxboro); Nov. 21 (Fairfax). To volunteer for either initiative, contact Angee Shaker in the district's communications office at a\_shaker@chuh.org or 216-371-7131.

"I am grateful for every small and large change-for-the-better the district has incorporated into operations and the building design," said Marks. "I have hopes we can do more because the Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents are amazing."

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



A pre-match photo of the Beaumont and Heights High girls tennis teams.

## Beaumont coach starts new tradition

Nicole Pellechia

In the world of high school girl's tennis, the teams representing Beaumont School and Cleveland Heights High School have always had a bit of a rivalry. In the spirit of competition, Mike Pellechia, Beaumont tennis head coach, started a yearly tradition to make the rivalry a little more interesting.

The "Golden Racquet" now serves as a trophy for the winner of the yearly match between Beaumont and Heights High. The winner—and racquet recipient—keeps it for an entire year, and is required to bring it to the rivalry match the following year.

"I wanted to spark up a stronger rivalry between the two schools, and give my girls something to look forward to and work for," said Pellechia, "I made up the tradition, and I plan on

talking about it and drilling it into the girls' heads until they consider it to be important."

The racquet—an actual, functioning tennis racquet painted gold—was introduced during the 2013 season and first went to the Beaumont team. This year, Heights High's 3-2 victory over Beaumont on Sept. 12 meant they took home the racquet for the first time. The racquet will stay with the Heights High team until the two schools meet again during the 2015 season.

"Hopefully, this tradition will carry on for many more years, even after I retire," said Pellechia. "I think it's a fun, new tradition that promotes friendly competition."

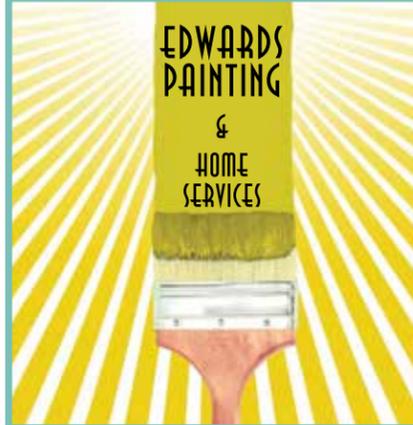
Nicole Pellechia is Mike Pellechia's daughter. She earned a B.A. from Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.



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# Elvis and the Russians vs. the New Math



**SONGS AND STORIES**

David Budin

Two things happened to me in school in October 1957 that altered the course of my life. They were different, unrelated things, until they came together several years later.

First, I should say that every teacher I had, all the way through Coventry Elementary School, had been born around the turn of that century, 1900, and most, probably, in the 1890s. You know Western movies and cowboy TV shows? That was the 1890s. Just for a reference point; and just for some background.

Here's more background: 1957 was the peak of the first wave of rock music, with hit records by rock pioneers including Elvis Presley, the Everly Brothers, Little Richard, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran, Fats Domino, Ricky Nelson, the Coasters and others. In about three years, that era would end, with Presley in the Army, Holly and Cochran dead, Berry and Lewis ostracized due to scandals involving underage girls, and Little Richard finding religion (for a while). Rock wouldn't be revived until the Beatles hit the scene in 1964 (in the U.S.).

The year 1957 was also the height of the Cold War, when we were all afraid of "the Russians"—whoever they were. Why were we mad at them? And who were they? I mean, other than all of my father's old relatives and . . . oh, wait, maybe that explains it.

So one day in October of my third-grade year, my teacher and some old guy I'd never seen before pulled me out of class (I guess they were doing this with all the kids) to tell me this: "You're good in music and writing, so you're not good in math and science."

That was confusing to me, because I was fascinated by math and science. I guess it was part of some sort of Cold War calculation by which they tried to sort out all of us millions of Baby Boom kids. But I said, "OK," and from that moment on I never did well in math and science. Because they told me I wouldn't. So I didn't bother trying. Even though I was interested in both of them.

The good news is that I always did well in music and writing. Which I would have, anyway.

Jumping ahead to the eighth grade, I was still thinking that college might be a possibility, even though I knew I was



That's the jacket. But that's Elvis, not me, in 1957.

going to be a professional musician and that college would just slow me down. But, still, I thought it might be useful in some way. I knew that in ninth grade there was this subject called algebra and that it was math and it sounded scary. So I shocked my parents by asking if I could take algebra in summer school between eighth and ninth grades. That way, I figured, I could take it for no credit, learn it, and ace it in ninth grade, for credit.

I took the summer school class and loved it. I got an A in the class—for no credit. Then in the ninth grade, they switched to something called New Math and I didn't understand one thing about the way they taught algebra. I failed the class and never thought about college again.

That's the first thing. The second thing is that every year, Coventry School presented a Halloween-day all-school assembly that was a talent show. That year, 1957, I entered, lip-synching (which wasn't a term yet; it was called pantomiming) an Elvis Presley record.

I already had a sport jacket that looked something like one that Elvis wore in some pictures I'd seen. And I already had a guitar. My mother helped me draw sideburns on my face. I got up in front of the whole school and did my Elvis impersonation.

I vividly remember seeing the horror on all of the teachers' faces. That told me that I was doing it right. It was the happiest moment of life, up to that time. And it solidified the decision I'd made when I was three to become a performer when I grew up. From that point on, that's all I ever worked on and worked toward. And that's what I have done in my real life—performing. And writing.

Teachers and parents: You never know how you may be influencing your kids. It may be opposite of the way you intend to. But that might be OK.

*David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Live, an author, and a professional musician and comedian.*

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## Steve Cagan: activist photographer



CREATIVE  
NEIGHBORS

Peggy Spaeth

When Cleveland Heights photographer Steve Cagan says he is socially engaged, it doesn't mean that he shoots weddings, nor does it mean that he is a documentary photographer. Cagan is an artist who is engaged in social issues—an activist photographer. He stands on the shoulders of sociologist Lewis Hine (1874-1940), who used photography to influence child labor laws, W. Eugene Smith (1918-1978), who turned an unflinching eye on war and disease, and the Worker Photography Movement of the 1920s and '30s.

Perhaps his current project with artist Mary Kelsey, "Gold Mining in El Chocó, Colombia," explains best what it means to be a socially engaged photographer. In 2003, Cagan's friend, activist Rev. Bob Begin, invited him to the first anniversary of a massacre in Colombia, promising that his spirits would soar in spite of the grim occasion. Cagan was uplifted by the resiliency of the survivors, who confronted tragedy and change through community organizing.

Returning to Colombia most years since, Cagan became aware of the ruin-

ous activity of mechanized gold mining in El Chocó. He asked the community how he could help and, recently, with Kelsey, began to create artistic materials useful to their effort. Funded by a Kickstarter campaign, they have traveled there twice together. Residents have told him he is the only one who comes back.

It is vitally important to Cagan that his art practice is based on a relationship with a community and responsibility to that community. "It makes it important to get it right," he said. "You're talking about people's lives." A blog about the project can be found at <http://elchocomining.tumblr.com/>.

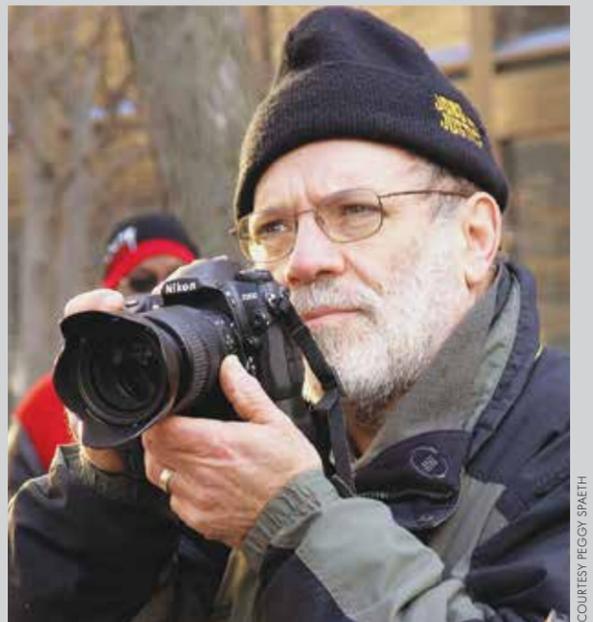
Cagan and his wife, Beth, native New Yorkers, came to Cleveland in 1970 to work for the New University Conference, a left-wing faculty organization he describes as "an adult SDS." At the time, he was on an academic track to teach English and history, but he began working as an organizer while always looking for a way to be an activist photographer.

He worked with people to resist the factory closings that eliminated thousands of jobs in the 1970s, and to protest the Vietnam War. More recently, he has shined a light on issues such as housing discrimination and refugee families from Nepal. His goal: "To make an artistic contribution to movements that are trying to change things for the better." He commuted to Rutgers University in

New Jersey to teach photography for eight years, and taught the "difference between being part of social change as an artist versus using politics as grist for the mill of art."

The roots of Cagan's outlook on life lie with his left-leaning parents who "taught values, not political positions." They taught him to be on the side of the poor, against racism, and for peace and democracy, and to express those values in what he did.

Another value his father passed on was appreciation for the natural environment. Although Cagan was brought up in the Bronx and Brooklyn, his father grew up fishing and hiking in Glens Falls, N.Y. Steve and Beth Cagan, who had both lived in New York apartments, had always enjoyed camping and hiking, and, in the 1990s, became more serious about birding, wildflowers and trees. Today, Cagan is an expert birder, and their Cleveland Heights garden has evolved from vegetable garden to perennial garden to a completely native habitat. When Cagan first proposed going native, Beth asked, "But will it be pretty?" Cagan would love to give a series of talks on native plantings with



Steve Cagan

that question as the title.

"Mechanized Gold Mining vs. Rainforest Cultures in El Chocó, Colombia" will open Oct. 9 in the Campbell Gallery at Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, at Euclid Avenue and East 18th Street. There will be an opening reception and illustrated talk by Cagan and Kelsey at 4 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through the end of the year.

"Bird Portraits" by Cagan will be on display at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, N.Y., Nov. 14 through Jan. 4.

*Peggy Spaeth was the founding director of Heights Arts. Currently she is imagining and exploring new projects.*

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## HEIGHTSARTS



## Heights Arts unveils ninth season of 'Close Encounters' chamber music concerts

Mary Ryan

Heights Arts has announced the 2014-15 lineup for its "Close Encounters" chamber music series, held in a distinctive array of locations in Cleveland Heights, Midtown, and downtown Cleveland.

The four Sunday afternoon concerts present classical music performed by arguably the world's most renowned local musicians—members of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Isabel Trautwein, a Cleveland Orchestra violinist and "Close Encounters" artistic director, engages her colleagues and other professional musicians to design their own programs, ranging this year from baroque to bluegrass. Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate and Cleveland Arts Prize recipient Kathleen Cerveny will recite poems created in response to select musical offerings during the series.

In collaboration with The Music Settlement, area public schools and private teachers, Heights Arts also presents two master classes in its gallery at 2175 Lee Road on Feb. 8 and April 12, led by musicians from the "Close Encounters" music series. Master classes are free and open to the public, and feature students of various levels who have been recommended by their teachers. Students and one parent are given complimentary tickets to the "Close Encounters" concert the following week.

"These concerts are an opportunity to experience chamber music as it is meant to be: up close and in spectacular chambers," said Trautwein. "I am especially pleased with this year's lineup. From baroque to bluegrass, from an old warehouse to a shiny glass pavilion, these concerts will be a special Cleveland experience. Adding the free gallery master classes, which provide talented students an opportunity to perform for top professionals, further demonstrates how Heights Arts connects artists to their community and makes life richer and better for all."

The series opens on Sunday, Nov. 2, with the Factory Seconds Brass Trio presenting "Second to None." Cleveland Orchestra musicians who serve as second players in their sections bring the sonorous sounds of brass music from several centuries to an elegant Tudor mansion in Cleveland Heights.

Works by Bach, Bartók, and the Beatles inspire the Sunday, Feb. 15,

"Break it Down" concert, featuring violins, viola and cello. Using words and music, the artists explore how the basic elements of rhythm, harmony and color can describe the full range of human emotion. "Break it Down" takes place at a state-of-the-art photography studio located in historic Midtown.

On Sunday, April 19, Sextets of All Sizes performs in a renovated stable in Cleveland Heights' Herrick Mews. Concert highlights include "Transfigured Night," an early romantic work by Schönberg, and Dvořák's "G-major String Quintet," featuring the string bass.

Academy of Bluegrass in the Fields presents "Cleveland Orchestra Members in Disguise" for the finale to the "Close Encounters" series on Sunday, May 17. Five musicians of the Cleveland Orchestra, with extreme but little-known bluegrass talents, perform a program of light classical and traditional bluegrass favorites on fiddle, mandolin, saxophone, guitar, string bass, viola and cello—all on a downtown Cleveland rooftop with 360-degree views.

Subscriptions for the "Close Encounters" series, as well as single concert tickets, are available for purchase



"Close Encounters" musicians (from left) Jeffrey Zehngut, Katherine Bormann, Amy Lee, Tanya Ell, Isabel Trautwein, Yu Jin and Sonja Braaten Molloy.

through Heights Arts or online beginning Monday, Sept. 22. Discounted student tickets are available, with proof of enrollment, in person at Heights Arts gallery.

Pre-season series subscriptions are \$180, general public; \$140, Heights Arts members. Individual concert tickets are \$50, general public; \$40, members. Advance ticket purchase is necessary, as seating is limited. All concert venues

are wheelchair-accessible.

Heights Arts is funded through the AHS Foundation; Cuyahoga Arts & Culture; the Jean, Harry, and Brenda Fuchs Foundation; and the Ohio Arts Council. Funding for free and discounted tickets is provided by the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

Mary Ryan is a staff member of Heights Arts.

## CityMusic season includes two Heights concerts

Eugenia Strauss

CityMusic Cleveland, a Cleveland Heights-based chamber orchestra, launches its 2014-15 season this month. It will feature performances of both classic orchestral and contemporary works, with soloists including saxophonist Timothy McAllister, whom the composer John Adams called "the best in the world," and violinist Adele Anthony, winner of the Nielsen Competition.

CityMusic will perform two concerts, on Oct. 19 and Dec. 4, in the Heights. For a full list of performance dates, times and venues throughout Greater Cleveland, visit [www.citymusic-cleveland.org](http://www.citymusic-cleveland.org). All concerts are free, and free-will offerings are appreciated.

The season begins Oct. 15 through 19, when CityMusic performs the Cleveland premiere of Dorman's "Saxophone Concerto," along with works by Mozart, Haydn and Dvořák. The latter composer's "Wind Serenade"

will feature members of the orchestra's woodwind and brass sections as soloists. On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 4 p.m., the concert will be performed in University Heights at Church of the Gesu, 2470 Miramar Blvd.

CityMusic's winter concert, to be performed Dec. 3-7, will mark the Cleveland premiere of "Misa Criolla," a popular work by Argentinean composer Ariel Ramírez that will feature South American instruments and the choir of Cleveland's La Sagrada Familia Church. Principal bassoonist Laura Koepke will perform Mozart's "Bassoon Concerto." Peter Bennett, a Cleveland harpsichordist and conductor, will conduct this concert series, which will take place in Cleveland Heights on Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m., at Communion of Saints Church, 2175 Coventry Road.

March 12-15, CityMusic will present the Cleveland premiere of composer Arvo Pärt's "Symphony no. 4," an important new work for orchestra that has had few American performances to

date. Other works on the program are Nielsen's "Violin Concerto" and Grieg's "Pier Gynt Suite."

CityMusic Cleveland continues its commitment to education and outreach with an innovative project May 28-30. In collaboration with Project ACT (a program of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District that deals with homeless students and their families), Bellefaire JCB (a University Heights-based organization whose services include a homeless and missing youth program) and the City Club of Cleveland, the orchestra will perform a concert titled "Wishes and Dreams," featuring a children's chorus and chamber orchestra. This new work is based on the stories of homeless children living in Greater Cleveland.

For a more information, visit [www.citymusiccleveland.org](http://www.citymusiccleveland.org).

Eugenia Strauss is executive director of CityMusic Cleveland.



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# Cedar Lee Theatre premieres bitcoin film

Michael Kinsella and Adam Fleischer

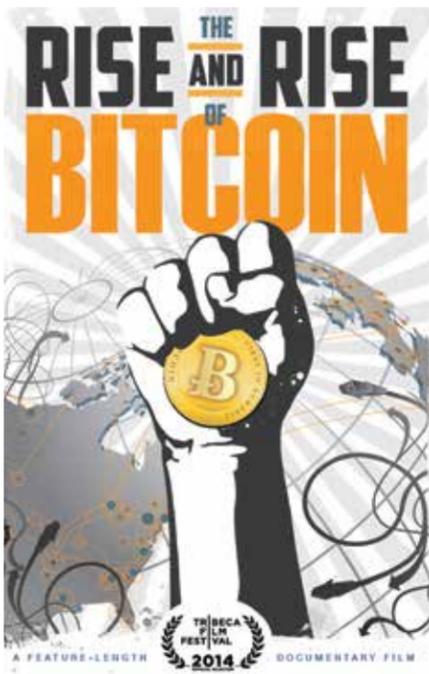
On Friday, Oct. 3, Bitcoin Boulevard US businesses along Lee Road will host the worldwide release of the documentary "The Rise and Rise of Bitcoin" at the Cedar Lee Theatre. Distribution rights to the film were purchased by Los Angeles-based Gravitas Ventures, which recently opened an office in downtown Cleveland.

"The Rise and Rise of Bitcoin" follows the stories of digital currency entrepreneurs and startups that are helping shape this emerging technology. The film will open with a red carpet event, including a Q&A with the movie's participants and production team. There will be pre- and post-parties hosted by Lee Road merchants, and incentives at the various Bitcoin Boulevard US participating retailers throughout a week of screenings.

Cleveland Heights resident Nikhil Chand, founder of CoinNEO, successfully led merchants in the Cedar Lee district in becoming Bitcoin Boulevard US, the nation's first organized business community accepting bitcoins as a form of payment from customers. Bitcoin Boulevard US has drawn attention from local and national media, including *Newsweek*, NPR, Fusion TV, and the *Plain Dealer*.

Bitcoin Boulevard US continues to attract new visitors to Lee Road. Chand explained, "Gravitas had no prior relationship with Bitcoin Boulevard US when it decided to acquire this film. Coincidentally, its president, Michael M. Murphy, is a former Northeast Ohio resident who has chosen to reinvest in our city by moving his family and his offices from Los Angeles to Cleveland. Our efforts have united around Bitcoin, and we can't imagine a more appropriate place on earth for the launch of this compelling film to take place."

Bitcoins are digital currency units, transmitted over the stateless and global Bitcoin payment network. The Bitcoin network validates all transactions of bitcoins, eliminating the need for third-party private banking institutions. Businesses pay between zero and 1 percent for Bitcoin transaction fees, and have the option to settle Bitcoin revenues in dollars, bitcoins or a percentage of both. Since May 1, Cleveland Heights merchants continue to see direct revenues driven from Bitcoin



transactions and are optimistic that revenue will continue to grow as more merchants adopt the technology.

The Oct. 3 event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a pre-party and informational talk—"Bitcoin 101"—at The Wine Spot, then moves on to the Cedar Lee Theatre for a red carpet at 6 p.m. The film starts at 7:05, and is followed by a post-party at Parnell's Pub at 9 p.m.

The film will be screened throughout the week. Go to [www.clevelandcinemas.com](http://www.clevelandcinemas.com) for details. Merchant incentives will also be offered between Oct. 3 and Oct. 9. Mention Bitcoin at the Katz Club Diner when you order a dinner burger and receive a complimentary house-made dessert or shake. Any payment method will be accepted.

Order French fries or ice cream at Sweetie Fry, and show your movie stub or pay with bitcoins to be entered in a raffle to win 25 free scoops. Show your ticket stub and purchase a beverage at The Wine Spot to receive 25 percent off a cheese plate.

Show your ticket stub or mention Bitcoin at Parnell's to receive \$1 off beverages. Mention Bitcoin at Revive to receive 10 percent off apparel and another 5 percent if you pay with bitcoins. Mitchell's Fine Chocolates will give you a 5 percent discount for showing a ticket stub or paying in bitcoins.

To learn more about Bitcoin technology and Bitcoin Boulevard US, go to [www.coinneo.com](http://www.coinneo.com) or [www.bitcoinboulevard.us](http://www.bitcoinboulevard.us).

*Michael Kinsella is a member of the Future-Heights Board of Directors. Adam Fleischer is the owner of The Wine Spot.*

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# Quintana's set to expand on Taylor Road

Richard Stewart

Alex and Dawn Quintana, owners of Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa, are embarking on the next step in their entrepreneurial journey, inspired by a desire to provide superior customer service in a more comfortable environment, while growing their business.

They recently closed a deal to purchase the building that formerly housed AJ's Beauty Salon, conveniently located next door to their current space at 2200 South Taylor Road, and are set to more than double the size of their spa, from 900 to 2,000 square feet.

"We wanted to expand our business because we have some great new and exciting services that we're going to offer. We were kind of getting to the point where we were using every inch of the space we have," said Dawn Quintana. "We're excited for our staff because some of them have been with us for more than a decade."

After completing 10,000 Small Businesses, an assistance initiative launched by Goldman Sachs, last year, the Quintanas launched a growth plan that included adding services and expanding capacity. After long considering expanding their current building, and looking at a few other potential locations in the area, they agreed to purchase the 2190 South Taylor Road building from owners Perry and Anita Wence, who operated AJ's Beauty Salon for more than 20 years. To the Quintanas, it feels like they've come full circle



Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa will expand to the building next door this fall.

because they considered buying the very same building prior to 2003, when they moved into their current location. The timing wasn't right then, as the couple was pregnant with one of their two children at the time. Their patience paid off as they now plan their expansion into the adjacent building.

"We can reach deeper into our passion for the beauty industry," Quintana explained, as she reflectively sat in the front of new space, which is currently undergoing extensive renovations. "One of our goals is to excel in the customer service experience and that, I think, will be the biggest challenge for us."

The company takes its commitment to service seriously, as evidenced by the fact that the business won Best Customer Experience in the FutureHeights 2014 Best of the Heights Awards.

The expansion of Quintana's fol-

lows recent efforts to improve the Cedar Taylor Business District. The district has faced challenges in recent years, but has become organized around the formation of the Cedar Taylor Development Association that is seeking federal Community Development Block Grant funds to make streetscape improvements and spur further development.

"It's exciting for Cedar Taylor," said Kevin Smith, who owns a commercial building in the neighborhood and has been active in organizing the business district. "Dawn and Alex have consistently shown a commitment to the neighborhood and this is further evidence of that."

After having informally surveyed a few regular customers, the Quintanas realized that what customers really wanted was an upscale, all-day luxury spa experience. As a result, they decided to convert

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[www.qbds.net](http://www.qbds.net)

a spa treatment room in the new building into a shower/locker room. They're also investing in custom-made, brown leather, heated chairs with massage capability based on feedback from customers and staff that the pedicure benches weren't as comfortable as they could be.

"Sometimes getting customer criticism is a blessing," said Quintana.

Ample parking for the business has also been an issue, so major renovations to the rear parking lot are underway to create a spacious new lot with handicapped parking space. They also plan to add a rear patio.

The Quintanas have strengthened their commitment to the Heights. They recently enrolled their two children in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district and say they're in it for the long haul.

"We're trying to build a cornerstone in the community," said Quintana.

While no opening date has been announced, the Quintanas expect to open the expanded space this fall.

*Richard Stewart is the owner of Digizoom Media and a vice president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.*

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