

**INSIDE**



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## Hebrew Academy to purchase CH portion of Oakwood Club

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Hebrew Academy of Cleveland (HAC) will purchase the 92-acre Cleveland Heights portion of the former Oakwood Country Club from First Interstate Properties of Lyndhurst. In September 2014, HAC signed a letter of intent to purchase the property, and academy officials say they expect to finalize the acquisition within the next couple of weeks.

“This is an exciting development and I’m very pleased they are making this investment in Cleveland Heights. I look forward to their growth and bright future in the city,” said CH City Council Member Jason Stein.

The Oakwood Club, the first major Jewish organization located in Cleveland Heights, was founded in 1905 as a 159-acre golf club by prominent Jewish business and civic leaders. In 2010, the club merged with



Hebrew Academy of Cleveland’s early childhood and elementary school building on S. Taylor Road.

the Mayfield Country Club, located in South Euclid, and put its property up for sale.

First Interstate Properties purchased the 62 acres of the club that are located in South Euclid for \$1.8 million in late 2010 and developed it into retail use. Walmart closed its

store at Severance Town Center in Cleveland Heights on Oct. 15, 2013 and opened a new supercenter on the Oakwood site the next day.

First Interstate purchased Oakwood’s 92 acres in Cleveland Heights

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## Heights Libraries will restore hours to all branches in mid-May

Sheryl Banks

Thanks to the passage of its operating levy in November 2014, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library now has funding to reinstate Sunday hours at the Coventry Village and Noble Neighborhood libraries, and Friday hours at the Coventry Village Library.

Beginning Friday, May 15, the Coventry branch will reopen on Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., reinstating the Friday hours that were cut in January 2014. Beginning on Sunday, May 17, all branches will be open 1-5 p.m., reinstating the hours that were eliminated in 2009, when Ohio’s Public Library Fund was drastically cut by the state government.

“We are as delighted about this as we hope our customers are, because we know that, for many in our community, Sunday is a perfect library day,” said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. “It’s a family day, a homework day, a leisure day, a day



Beginning in mid-May, Coventry Village Library will again be open on Fridays and Sundays.

to pursue hobbies, a day to spend in contemplation, as well as a day of work. All of these activities can be made better by a trip to the library.”

Levin also is pleased the library will reopen the Coventry Village Library on Fridays. The branch was closed on Fridays in January 2014 because Heights Libraries decided to increase hours at the University Heights Library—the second most

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## Cuyahoga County selects CH and UH for master planning process grant

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cuyahoga County Council set aside \$150,000 of general funds for a Community Planning Grant program to enable the county to work with cities to replace outdated master plans. Cities that never had a master plan, or had one that was at least 10 years old, were eligible to apply.

Of 14 applicants, two West Side cities—Parma Heights and Olmsted Falls—and two East Side cities—Cleveland Heights and University Heights—were selected.

“We are very happy to have received the grant for a new master plan from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development,” said UH Mayor Susan Infeld. “I was happy to hear that Cleveland Heights also received the grant.”

Infeld said that the city of Beachwood is also developing a master plan in cooperation with the county, and that she is hopeful that this will “give the County Planning Commission a regional viewpoint of trends as they help us develop the University Heights Master Plan.”

CH Planning Director Richard Wong said that, although his staff has “looked at strategic development city-wide in 1985, 1993 and 2011, and studied citywide sustainability by auditing and rewriting much of our zoning code in 2012, I am not aware of a past master plan for Cleveland Heights.”

Glenn Coyne, executive director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, said the program has three primary goals: “to bring older plans up to date, encourage regional collaboration and focus on action

*continued on page 12*

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## Heights Community Garden Network plans for 2015 season

Joe Barbaree

The warm, invigorating days of spring might seem a lifetime away, but eager Heights community gardeners are already sowing something for the 2015 season: new, innovative ideas.

At the Heights Community Garden Network (HCGN) annual meeting—held Feb. 17 at the Lee Road Library—a dozen horticulturists representing community gardens from across the Heights laid out their individual goals, plus their hopes for larger events and new strategies to



HCGN coordinator Samantha Provencio (left) talks with a community member.

expand gardening opportunities this year. Samantha Provencio, coordinator for HCGN, commenced the meeting with a fast rundown of the organization, then opened the rest

of the meeting for a free-flowing dialogue.

Formed by now-CH City Council Member Jeff Coryell as a program of FutureHeights, HCGN connects gardeners throughout the Heights with vital resources and information. Growers swap seeds, garden designs, funding ideas, current needs, learning opportunities and, yes, manure sources. This information is placed online and shared through a weekly e-newsletter.

Provencio took over from Coryell

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**Letters Policy**

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

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**FutureHeights launches community-building initiative on April 21**

Deanna Bremer Fisher

What do you love about your neighborhood? What does your neighborhood need to make it a better place for you and your neighbors?

On April 21, FutureHeights, the nonprofit community group that publishes the *Heights Observer*, will announce a new opportunity for Cleveland Heights residents to learn more about their neighborhoods and learn how to use community resources to work collaboratively to make their neighborhoods better: the Community Capacity-Building Program.

FutureHeights will make the announcement at its annual meeting on Tuesday, April 21. Bill Traynor, a nationally known community development expert will give the keynote address.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. at Motorcars Honda, 2953 Mayfield Road. Attendees will also get a chance to see Motorcars' solar canopy installation, which the company says will provide up to 70 percent of its energy needs, and hear about other planned investments along the Mayfield Road corridor.

"Our vision is to have vibrant neighborhoods that have increased resilience through grassroots resident participation in civic life," said Richard Stewart, president of the FutureHeights board of directors. "The city faces many challenges,

but by building upon the assets we already have—including the many fantastic, talented people with diverse backgrounds who call the Heights home—we can find innovative solutions to these challenges and build the kind of community that all of us want to live, work and play in."

Last fall, CH City Council recommended the FutureHeights Community Capacity-Building Program for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for 2015.

Since then, the organization has been working hard to raise additional funds for the program, which will consist of a series of workshops and mini-sessions for residents, one-on-one coaching for neighborhood leaders, and a mini-grants program to help seed-fund neighborhood-specific projects.

The workshops will be held on Sundays, 3–5 p.m., on May 3 and 17, and June 14 and 28. Applications to participate in the program will be available at the meeting and on the FutureHeights website beginning April 15.

As part of the program, FutureHeights will hire a Community Builder, a new full-time role within the organization, who will help Heights communities identify and leverage their many assets, foster engagement of diverse stakeholders in creating thriving neighborhoods, and provide practices and tools to enable neighborhood leaders and other stakeholders to work together

on creative solutions to the problems that face them.

A partner in the organization Trusted Space, keynote speaker Bill Traynor has developed an innovative approach to place-making and community-building called Network-Centric Organizing that has been successfully implemented at Cleveland's Neighborhood Connections.

Traynor is also a partner in Neighboring First and its signature project NeighborUP America, an effort to re-claim neighboring for the 21st century and to support grassroots action to connect people across lines of difference for mutual support, empowerment and quality of life.

Traynor has 30 years of experience in community development and community organizing, working in urban areas throughout the United States.

In 1992, Traynor created Neighborhood Partners and the Neighborhood Partners Fund, which has assisted more than 200 community development efforts nationwide.

To learn more about the FutureHeights annual meeting and its Community Capacity-Building Program, visit [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org).

To learn more about Bill Traynor, visit his blog, *The Value of Place*, at [htps://valueofplace.wordpress.com](http://htps://valueofplace.wordpress.com).

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

**Neighbors and businesses grateful for restored Coventry library hours**

To the Editor:

On behalf of the many loyal patrons of Coventry Village Library we extend heartfelt thanks to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board of Directors and administration for their Feb. 16 decision to restore Friday hours to the library's schedule.

Combined with the recent restoration of Sunday hours to all branches, the Coventry Village Library will now be able to serve the community on a daily basis. This is good news for residents and also good news for the Coventry retail district, as the library plays an important role in attracting people to our neighborhood businesses.

As a cherished neighborhood institution, the Coventry Village Library is integral to the life of the community. With recent and planned upgrades to its historic building, the library has never looked better, nor been so strongly positioned in its ability to serve its patrons.

Susan Eagan  
Carla Rautenberg  
Mike McGraw  
Sarah Wean  
Steve Presser, Big Fun  
Suzanne DeGaetano, Mac's Backs

**Meet Observer volunteers and staff on April 22**

Each month in the *Heights Observer*, this column invites our readers to add their voices to this nonprofit community publication by writing the Cleveland Heights- and University Heights-focused articles they want to read, and submitting them via the *Observer's* online Member Center at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

On April 22, 6–8 p.m., *Heights Observer's* volunteer editors and part-time editorial and design staff will gather at the Bottle-House Brewery, 2050 Lee Road, for an informal meet and greet with community members who would like to know more about the *Observer*, and how they can contribute to this volunteer-written publication.

No reservations are required and the event is open to all (but you'll need to buy your own drinks).

*Observer* staff is already at work on next month's issue.

Articles to be considered for the May issue must be submitted by April 13. But don't wait that long; we publish some 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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# Efforts underway to make CH a Fair Trade Town

Laura Potter

The City of Cleveland Heights is known for being diverse and progressive, home to arts and an all-around great place to live, eat and play. With retailers throughout the Heights such as Revive, Ten Thousand Villages Cleveland, Dave's and Zagara's Marketplace, we have a plethora of fair trade items at our fingertips.

In buying fair trade, we go beyond our pride in shopping locally to also support an international mission. Buying fair trade is an easy choice to make and something that should be celebrated when so many of us do.

A group of Cleveland Heights residents, business owners and fair trade supporters are looking to take our buying power one step further and make Cleveland Heights a Fair Trade Town.

Through Fair Trade Campaigns, we are able to take the next step in our commitment to fair trade and, through achieving specific goals, become a nationally recognized Fair Trade Town.

There are five steps that must be completed for Cleveland Heights to become a Fair Trade Town: Build Your Team, Reach Out to Retailers,

Engage Your Town, Get Some Love from the Media, and Engage Your Local Government.

We have completed our first three steps with ease through fair trade retailers and community organizations that provide fair trade goods to the public.

Articles such as this and blogs from the Ohio Fair Trade Network get us the press that we need.

Finally, with support from City Council Member Jeff Coryell, we are able to get a resolution through city hall to make this campaign a reality. As Coryell stated, "The bottom line is, fair trade is all about social justice, and I regard social justice as a bedrock value for this community."

We hope that you as residents will take the time to show your support for this action in our stores and on our campaign page, [www.fairtradecampaigns.org/campaign/cleveland-oh](http://www.fairtradecampaigns.org/campaign/cleveland-oh), and that you are there to support our victory, we hope, on World Fair Trade Day on May 9.

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

# Excerpts from Observer blogs

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

**A Musical Performance: Collaborative Learning, Authentic Assessment, Opportunity to Learn**



Earlier this week my husband and I attended Reaching Musical Heights, a concert that happens in our school district every four years. It is sponsored by Reaching Heights, the nonprofit organization that promotes equity and opportunity to learn across the CH-UH school district's elementary and middle schools and that rents Severance Hall, the gorgeous, art deco home of the Cleveland Orchestra, for these quadrennial concerts to showcase our district's school music program. This year the concert happened, ironically, during the first-ever week of Ohio's PARCC (Common Core) standardized test. But the test our students took on Tuesday night at Severance Hall was different. . . .

. . . What made the evening of music especially important is that the concert presented a public school music program in a school district where the children are not affluent. Sixty percent of the students in our school district qualify for free lunch . . .

—Jan Resseger

**Richard Rothstein Tells Cleveland Audience: Public Policy Created Segregation and White Flight**



In a 2004 book, *Class and Schools*, Richard Rothstein, of the Economic Policy Institute, examined social and economic factors in the lives of children and in the community that affect the academic performance of children in school. . . .

. . . Last Friday, Rothstein presented a major address at the City Club of Cleveland. I urge you to watch his remarks in this video. Rothstein begins: "Evidence continues to accumulate that despite our often stated vows to close the achievement gap in educational outcomes between black and white students, we cannot close that achievement gap in segregated schools. Yet our schools are becoming more and more segregated over time."

For Rothstein, racial and economic segregation are inseparable. The challenges imposed by poverty are compounded when concentrated poverty in segregated schools ensures that all the children need special attention to their learning needs. . . .

—Jan Resseger

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## CH-UH school district requires scrutiny

Diane Hallum

In May 2015 we face yet another school levy, designated for "current operations."

The county auditor's website indicates that CH-UH City School District residents pay 15 different tax levies or bonds to support the district.

Of these levies, 12 are for "current operations." They total 145.14 mills and are "continuous," which means the district can continue taxing us past the levy's "end date."

The remaining three taxes are the facilities bond, a library bond, and a "forever" tax levy for building maintenance. Together, these total 149.59 millages we pay to the CH-UH City School District.

The Lakewood and Euclid school districts are similar to CH-UH in total population size, student population, and economic factors (such as poverty, incomes, etc.) Their millages: Lakewood, 123.23 (which includes its facilities bond); Euclid, 101.60.

Let's compare performance. In order of high-performing to low-performing school districts, out of a total of 610 Ohio school districts, according to the Ohio Department of Education, we have Lakewood (351), CH-UH (578) and Euclid (598).

Now, let's compare economic factors. Here are the median incomes, median home values, and poverty percentages in these three school districts:

- CH-UH: \$50,109; \$110,000; 20 percent
- Lakewood: \$36,272; \$120,500; 16.4 percent
- Euclid: \$43,218; \$68,100; 19.9 percent

So, we pay more, earn more, have lower property values, yet perform toward the very bottom of all Ohio school districts. And let's not blame performance differences on our 3.6-percent higher poverty level.

This begs the question: Since all this money we pay still puts us at the bottom in performance, how and where does our district spend the 149.59 total mills of property tax it takes from us?

In 2013, before voters passed the Master Facilities Plan, I stated my concerns about the potential use of the money for items other than schools. Well, I was correct in my

concerns.

Instead of 21st-century classrooms, an improved heating and cooling system, safer school buildings, and better access for disabled students, the first use of the facilities bond money was \$2.7 million for a football field and stadium—an item the district specifically claimed was not part of the plan.

Then, contrary to the claim by the district and the City of Cleveland Heights that both were helping Mosdos buy the Millikin building, both entities, according to city records, had actually been planning its use for housing the district's trades people. So, more bond money will be used to repair and re-purpose Millikin and not for any educational purpose.

And the latest misuse of bond money: a 3,100-square-foot "Gateway" to the football field and stadium.

So what about money for the actual schools?

Well, those 21st-century classrooms appear to be part of "fundraising campaigns" and not part of the facilities bond after all.

Angee Shaker, the district communications director, was quoted on Cleveland.com as saying, "The district is developing a capital campaign to raise funds for academics, programming, music, the arts and athletics." Another Cleveland.com article stated that the district has to reduce the number of classrooms originally promised because there won't be enough money.

I am disgusted by the shell game being played by the school board and the district. These "leaders" are robbing our students of the schools they promised.

We deserve clarity in how this district spends the money we give it.

I discovered that the annual audit the state performs on the district does not ensure money goes to what it was earmarked for. That audit simply ensures that there is an "approved" trail of where money goes. This means the school board must approve all redirection of tax funds away from their original, voter-approved use.

Before we go to the polls in May, we deserve an independent, objective analysis by an unbiased auditor to see if tax money is actually going to the purpose for which voters approved it. This must be an objective auditor who has no ties to anyone who works for the district or to those who sit on the board or the Cleveland Heights City Council. This auditor also should not have any ties to their spouses, children, brothers, sisters, and business or investment partners.

We deserve a true accounting before this poorly performing district gets any more money from us.

*Diane L. Hallum is director of Citizens Leadership, a group that believes a change in the status quo starts with citizens leading their officials in the right direction. The group offers factual information on CH council decisions, meets to focus on key issues that matter, and develops methods to make a change for the better. You can reach her at [dballum@earthlink.net](mailto:dballum@earthlink.net).*

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# Protect our Heights schools: understanding school funding

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

School funding in the state of Ohio is an incredibly complex issue—one that confuses even the most well-informed people. This article aims to clarify some important points as the community decides whether to support our local public schools on May 5.

**What is a school levy anyway?** An operating levy, such as Issue 2, is a request for an increase in property taxes that would be used to pay for the general operations of a school district. These tax dollars pay teacher salaries and utility bills; purchase new and replacement supplies, including technology and textbooks; and allow us to meet the many and varied needs of our diverse population of students. This is how public school districts are funded in the state of Ohio, according to House Bill 920.

**Why does our community rely so heavily on personal property taxes?** Cleveland Heights and University Heights are special communities. We value our green space and our small, independently owned businesses. Our predecessors fought against highway exits that were to be built right in our neighborhoods—something many of us are thankful for. This means, however, that we don't have the same amount of industry, with a large corporate tax base from which to draw, as some of our wealthier neighbors.

**Why do we have to approve school levies every few years?** Under House Bill 920, passed in 1976, property tax collections are frozen into place, regardless of shifts in appraisal values. This means that without new levies, today's schools would receive the exact same dollar amount they received in 1976! If districts waited to add new levies only every eight or 10 years, they would be unable to accurately set their budgets, because expenditures can vary widely over such long periods of time. Plus, homeowners would then be asked for very large increases, which they may find harder to afford than the current small requests, such as this year's 5.9 mill request—the smallest

amount in more than a decade.

**What's the difference between an operating levy and a bond issue?** A bond is a separate, specific request for funds that can be used only for construction or renovation of our buildings. The bond issue passed in 2013 cannot pay teachers or put gas in the buses. Operating levies are needed to keep the doors to schools open and the classrooms functioning at their highest potential.

**How do we know the district is doing a good job managing its funds?** There are multiple independent agencies that review how school districts manage their funds, including the state auditor's office. That office consistently ranks Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District as an excellent steward of the public's money. In 2014, *Crain's Cleveland* named Scott Gainer, CH-UH's chief financial officer, the number-one CFO of any school district, non-profit or public agency in Northeast Ohio.

**Why is it so expensive to educate students in CH-UH?** Providing high quality education is an expensive process. Our district has numerous supports in place to meet the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of our students. Our population includes a significant number of students with special needs, whose class sizes are extremely small and who may require highly specialized equipment or highly trained teachers. While only 20 percent of our community's residents live in poverty, 68 percent of our district's students receive free and reduced-cost lunch. These students may come to school academically behind or may require additional social services that are expensive, but necessary.

Our district also offers innovative programming for all students, including access to foreign languages, instructional technology, extracurricular opportunities, and nationally recognized instrumental and vocal music programs. As a community, we value the whole child and want to continue to enrich all aspects of a student's development.

**What happens if the levy fails?** The need for money will not go away. The district cut \$3 million from its budget just last year and is committed to making an additional \$500,000 [in cuts], even if the levy passes. That, coupled with \$2 million less from the state, means that there are only so many things to cut without impacting classroom instruction. That is what will inevitably happen if this levy fails. This will hurt our students and impede progress being made under the strong new leadership of Superintendent Dixon.

**Why should I vote FOR Issue 2?** Public schools matter to all of us, whether we have children or not. Every resident is impacted by the collective worth of [the public] educational system. This community is special and this community is strong. Let's keep it that way by protecting OUR Heights schools.

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a Cleveland Heights resident and the parent of two sons who attend Fairfax Elementary School. As a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry Elementary School teacher, she is proud to serve as one of three co-chairs for this spring's levy. She is joined by community volunteers Patti Carhyle of University Heights, a Canterbury Elementary School parent, and Alvin Saafir of South Euclid, whose three grown daughters attended CH-UH schools.*

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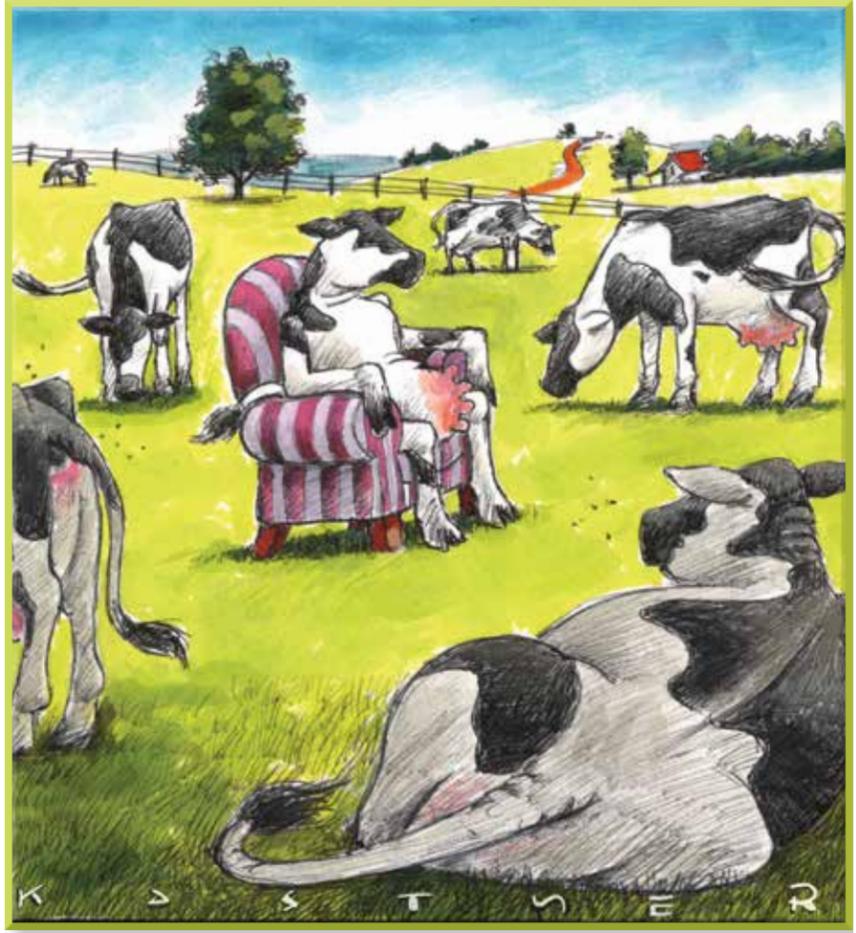


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OAKWOOD continued from page 1

for \$2.2 million in October 2011. The property is zoned residential, and the firm had said it was considering building senior housing on the site.

“The acquisition proposed by Hebrew Academy represents a tremendous vote of confidence in the Cleveland Heights area,” said Steve Hoffman, president of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, “It has the potential to maintain a significant and vital segment of the Jewish community in this neighborhood for many years to come, and should be welcome news to all concerned. It’s also a sign of confidence of Hebrew Academy’s leadership in its own future and potential for growth.”

“It’s going to be a game changer for the community at large,” said Rabbi Eli Dessler, HAC financial director. “It’s going to be transformational for our community.”

HAC, an Orthodox Jewish day school, provides a full religious and secular education from pre-kindergarten through high school. Dessler’s father, Rabbi Nachum Zev Dessler, helped found the school in 1943, and served as its dean for many years. He died in 2011.

“I worked side by side with him,” said Dessler. “He built the academy to what it is today.”

The school opened in September 1943 with a dozen or so elementary school students in the basement of the Cleveland Jewish Center in downtown Cleveland. In 1946, as enrollment grew and the Jewish population moved into Cleveland’s eastern suburbs, the school began construction of its current building at 1860 South Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights.

By 1993, HAC enrolled 800 students, and Dessler said it now educates more than 900 students in three facilities. The Taylor Road building serves boys and girls from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The Beatrice Stone Yavne High School for Girls, established in 1957, serves 155 students in a state-of-the-art building in Beachwood. Yeshiva High School for Boys, created in 1965, serves about 81 students in grades 7-12 on its Jacob Saperstein Campus in Lyndhurst.

Dessler said that HAC operates the largest Jewish preschool in Ohio, and that its students come from all over the region, including Akron. “In the last 10 years, we’ve had about

250 new students,” he said. “Many are moving in from out of state. People are settling in Cleveland because of the growth in our medical field, so they are working at University Hospitals or the Cleveland Clinic, and Hebrew Academy has a stellar reputation.”

Dessler said HAC has no plans to replace its Taylor Road facility. “Our intention is to put the boy’s school [on the Oakwood site],” he said. HAC would build a facility to house its 250 elementary school boys. “Grade one through six for sure, and we may bring over the boys from Lyndhurst—but that needs to be determined,” said Dessler. “It is going to be a boy’s campus with ball fields. We are not going to use all 90 acres, but it gives us the latitude we need and enables us to plan for the next 50 years.”

Dessler said that the academy has no specific plans for the Oakwood clubhouse at this time. The building, which sits on the Cleveland Heights portion of the property, was completed in 1931. It was designed by George B. Mayer of Charles R. Greco & Associates, the firm that designed the Temple Tifereth-Israel at University Circle and the Temple on the Heights, on Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. The French provincial-style interior was designed by Louis Rorimer, of Rorimer-Brooks Studios. During World War II, the U.S. Army’s 729th Military Police Battalion used the Oakwood clubhouse as a barracks.

Because the Cleveland Heights section of Oakwood is currently zoned residential, HAC will need to secure a conditional use permit from the city’s Planning Commission in order to build a school on the property.

As for 1860 South Taylor Road, Dessler said, “It’s the hub of our Jewish community. We are an anchor in the community—we’ve invested several million dollars in the facility, added sprinklers, built three brand-new playgrounds. We’re proud and happy that we did it. We really are committed to the Taylor Road area—not because we have to, but because we want to.”

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

## Obituaries can enlighten us



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

When I open the Sunday *New York Times*, my first stop is the obituaries. What better place to learn about the social history of our nation than from the lives of individuals honored in this section of the paper?

The first Sunday paper of 2015 included the obituary of education luminary John Goodlad, written by Tamar Lewin. I found the article irresistible, because the author grew up across the street from me in Cleveland Heights—her mother was my friend—and because Goodlad respected human diversity and advocated that children learn to read when they were developmentally ready.

To Goodlad, each child was unique. In his view, the practice of defining the typical learner by age ignored the reality that children learn in different ways and at different times. There is nothing standard about a sixth-grader, including when one will master a skill. In his 1984 book *A Place Called School*, Goodlad was critical of grouping children by age. Graded education, he wrote, is “an adult convenience for classifying, tracking, assessing, advancing and retarding the millions of students who move through it.” What a philosophical contrast to the straitjacket created for America’s public schools by today’s obsession with using tests to rank and judge children, teachers, schools and communities!

Standards and testing require children to acquire specific measurable competencies by a specific time. You are a failure if you don’t fit. These standardized outcomes ignore differences in development—not to mention differences in opportunity. One size does not fit all!

Rather than promoting more effective education, testing for accountability undermines success. It creates winners and losers instead of committed learners. By standardizing education outcomes by grade level, it ignores human diversity and sacrifices an essential education purpose: developing a curious and critical-thinking electorate of lifelong learners. It’s all wrong.

Testing as the driver of our national education policy ignores developmentally appropriate learning, undermines thoughtful teaching, and turns the classroom focus away from igniting the passions and interests of children toward performance on tests. Education for standardized test results is a dead end for the mind, for the in-

spired teacher and for meaningful and responsible participation in democracy.

Goodlad’s recognition that children can’t be forced to learn on a strict timeline resonates with my experience as an aunt and kindergarten tutor. My sister’s three sons learned to read in second, third and fourth grades—something that would define them and their teachers as failures. All of them became competent adults despite learning when they were ready, and the latest one to bloom went on to graduate from an Ivy League college!

For the last eight years I have helped kindergarteners at my local elementary school learn the sounds that go with each of the letters in the alphabet, a fundamental building block for reading. While early childhood experts say that reading in kindergarten is not developmentally appropriate, Ohio standards and the Common Core now require it. So we work with our kids.

The variation is huge. Some come unable to name any letters, and some arrive knowing them all. I’ve seen the light go on within a few weeks for some and, for others, after the whole school year. Almost everyone gets there, but those who take longer often exhibit self-doubt and fear. Kindergarteners don’t need their introduction to learning to include those emotions!

The expectation that all should be able to actually read before the end of the year is coming at the expense of developmentally appropriate free play, experiential learning and spontaneous pursuit of each child’s interests—the strategies that build a firm foundation for academic skills and the motivation to engage. They are being sacrificed to keep kids marching to the timeline defined by testing.

Testing has turned learning into a conglomeration of discrete skills that need to be measured. It is enticing to believe that by breaking learning into pieces and parts we can fine-tune the teaching machine. While I believe in high levels of achievement for all children, testing does not foster a love of learning, pursuit of big ideas or the exploration of interests—the key ingredients of engaged learning.

We need more from education than standardized achievement. Our policymakers have chosen to ignore reality to the detriment of student engagement and teacher professionalism. If only they would listen to educators!

*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.*

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COMMUNITY GARDEN continued from page 1

last year and is working to make the organization something of a force for community empowerment in the region—from beefing up online content to successful fundraising efforts with Whole Foods and rain barrel sales. She also assists a mélange of new garden projects by connecting area experts, community volunteers and funding resources. As a grower herself, Provencio sees great potential in the organization.

“Community gardens and garden spaces bring people together,” she explained. “They’re an invaluable place in a community. The demographics of who is in a garden are so dynamic and diverse—you’re putting people together in a space with a common interest and you’re knitting bonds. It makes the community so much stronger.”

As the conversation opened at

the annual meeting, all gardeners present expressed a similar conviction about these community spaces. Gardens can beautify neighborhoods and successfully utilize vacant lots, which speckle the city as reminders of the recovery still underway, but their potential extends beyond physical development.

Curt Coker, treasurer of the Montford Community Garden, finds his friends and neighbors connecting on a deeper level because of their garden. “Our community garden has been great in bringing people together,” said Coker of the new growing space that neighbors created at the corner of Montford and Windsor roads in 2013. “It gives community members a way to gather, talk and connect with one another.”

Because of this impact, Provencio wants to engage the City of

Cleveland Heights in 2015 to help identify vacant land available for use as garden projects, from food forests to perennial flower gardens.

Cleveland Heights has previously done this with the Montford Community Garden property, which the city acquired from the Cuyahoga Land Bank.

Finding available land is often the greatest difficulty for community gardeners. Gardening know-how, on the other hand, is in no short supply.

With some 16 community gardens participating, HCGN is a mecca of information for those with and without green thumbs. This gives folks new to community garden organizing—like Reverend Joe Cherry of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland—access to a vast network of area experts.

“My knowledge base has increased tremendously because of the [HCGN] meetings,” Cherry explained at the February gathering. This is particularly helpful as his church works to expand its on-site community garden into an ADA-accessible space—what Cherry believes will be the first of its kind in the state.

Ideas such as this were really the heart of the conversation at the annual meeting. Participants identified areas to target for one-time beautification projects, such as perennial gardens full of purple coneflowers

and lilies, as well as long-term funding strategies to support projects in community gardens.

But the conversation doesn’t end with the close of a meeting. Time, patience and sustained attention—virtues familiar to any gardener—are needed for these issues.

Community gardeners in the Heights are continuously identifying new approaches to garden design, planning events to reach more community members, partnerships to increase gardening in urban spaces and ways to fund projects—not to mention strategies to discourage that timeless and pesky garden conversation piece: deer.

HCGN events to look forward to in 2015 include seed swaps, workshops on community garden management, fundraisers, a discussion at Mac’s Backs on Coventry and numerous work days at gardens.

Visit [www.growingheights.com](http://www.growingheights.com) to learn more about HCGN. There one can find upcoming events, resources and a list of community gardens. Interested volunteers or community members with a garden project in mind are encouraged to contact Samantha Provencio through the website.

*Joe Barbaree is a community developer, writer and photographer originally from Appalachian Ohio now living and exploring in Cleveland Heights.*

# University Heights City Council



## Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

All council members were present.

### Law director

Council approved and Mayor Infeld swore in Luke F. McConville as the new law director for the city of University Heights.

### Home inspections

An ordinance requiring home inspections to be completed prior to transfer was presented on first reading. Eric Tuck-Macalla, building commissioner, realized that when a home was sold through sheriff’s sale there was no mechanism for requiring point-of-sale inspections. This ordinance would also be useful in cases in which a corporation purchases a home with the intention of “flipping” it.

### Community park

Council approved an agreement with Braun and Steidl Architects to design and manage construction of the City of University Heights community park for the cost of \$132,353. Two council members, Mark Wiseman and Pamela Cameron, voted no. This contract is to draw up detailed design plans for the new park so that the city can then seek bids for the actual construction. The city had received two proposals—one from Braun and Steidl and the second from Knight and Stolar. Both firms proposed a team concept, working with other firms for landscaping and engineering. The mayor, Service Director Jeff Pokorny, and City Engineer Joe Ciuni felt that Braun and Steidl’s proposal followed the specifics of the request for proposal more concisely. Councilman Steven Sims said that he would like to see more diversity in the contractors. Six other firms picked up packets but only two submitted proposals. Although the bid from Knight and Stolar was \$300 lower, it was felt that the Braun and Steidl bid more accurately reflected what the city was looking for. Wiseman asked if they could see the complete bid packets from both firms, but Councilman Phil Ertel [said he] felt that council should move forward with the vote since construction of the park is supposed to begin this spring.

### Resurfacing program

Council approved obtaining bids for the 2015 road resurfacing program with Shaker Heights. The bids will include Allison Road, which was removed from last year’s list. It was noted that curbs last 50–70 years, and that the city has been replacing curbs when needed to improve the streetscape of the city.

### SWAT team

Council approved the payment of \$10,847.25 for the 2016 EDGE agreement. This is for the

cost of the regional SWAT team, which includes three members from University Heights. The cost is prorated between the five participating cities and is based on actual costs for maintaining the team, as accounted for by the City of South Euclid.

### Senior transportation

Council approved a contract with the Senior Transportation Connection to provide rides for senior citizens in University Heights. The contract allows for 60 one-way rides per month—50 individual and 10 group rides. The individual rides are at the cost of \$25 to the city and \$3 to the passenger. The city will continue to track and promote use of the service.

### Council iPads to reduce waste

Council approved the purchase of nine iPads, keyboard folio cases, and AppleCare+, at a cost of \$5,111.46, for use by city council members, the law director and the clerk of council. This program was recommended by the Civic Information Committee in an effort to reduce paper usage and increase efficiency and organization. Council also approved a policy to assure the proper use of the tablets.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

MARCH 2, 2015

NOTE: No LWV observer was available to cover the March 2 city council meeting.

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.

## LWV needs meeting observer volunteers

Maryann Barnes

The Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Greater Cleveland has a shortage of observers to cover the University Heights City Council. Unfortunately, this shortage will prevent full coverage of all University Heights City Council meetings. If you appreciate these reports, perhaps you would like to help LWV continue this service to the community by volunteering for its Observer Corps. Observers of University Heights City Council do not have to be University Heights residents, but they must be impartial and unaffiliated with any of the council members’ or mayor’s campaigns. Observers do not participate in public comments unless authorized to do so by the League board.

More volunteers to observe the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school and library boards and Cleve-

land Heights City Council are welcome as well. To learn more, contact Maryann Barnes ([mbarnes9515@gmail.com](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or 216 321-7525).

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan and endorses no candidates, but does take positions on policy issues. It works to safeguard democracy, advocate for good government, educate voters and promote voter participation. For more information visit the Greater Cleveland LWV’s website at <http://lwvgreatercleveland.org>.

If you are not already a LWV member, please join. By joining LWV of Greater Cleveland you can also affiliate with the Heights Chapter. Membership information can be found at <http://lwvgreatercleveland.org/join>.

*Maryann Barnes is the Observer Corps editor for the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland.*

## Spring Flea Market

all proceeds benefit mission work

Friday, April 17, 9:30 - 5

\$10 admission 9:30 - 10:30, free thereafter

Saturday, April 18, 10 - 2

50% off all items all day Saturday

Clothing, Toys, Kitchen Goods, Household Items, Tools, Jewelry, Sporting Goods

Homemade Soup & Hot Dog Lunch

### Community Recycling Event

(April 18 ONLY) Bring your electronics to the north parking lot for recycling - if it has a power cord or runs on batteries, regardless of condition or working order, we will accept it! (No televisions, please)



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## Heights historical photo of the month



COURTESY CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

It's almost time for tennis again at Cain Park! The park's tennis courts were installed in the mid-1930s as Cain Park was transformed from a "wild" ravine into a place for public recreation. In the lower right corner of this photograph, from the 1940s, is a backstop for use in sandlot baseball games.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the heritage 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).

## Noble Neighborhood community assessment presentation is April 7

Brenda H. May

Students from CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) will present results of a Noble Neighborhood community assessment at the monthly Noble Neighbors meeting on Tuesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at Noble Road Presbyterian Church, 2780 Noble Road.

Eighteen students, under the direction of Mark Chupp and Nina Holzer, have focused their studies on four themes: housing, retail, safety, and children and youth. Their work is part of a larger neighborhood assessment that began in February, in which MSASS teams, in partnership with Noble Neighbors, visually sur-

veyed every property in the northeast quadrant of Cleveland Heights. Data on property use and conditions are being digitally mapped using geographic information system (GIS) technology. The full report will be available at [www.nobleneighbors.com](http://www.nobleneighbors.com) in the summer.

The results of the MSASS student work will be a valuable tool for city and neighborhood planners to identify assets and determine strategies for development, and anyone interested is invited to attend the presentation. There is a parking lot across the street from the church at the corner of Noble and Navahoe roads.

*Brenda H. May is one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors.*

LIBRARY HOURS continued from page 1

heavily used of the four branches (behind the Lee Road Library), with the second highest circulation rates and second highest population of patrons

living near, and using, the branch. In contrast, Fridays at the Coventry Village Library had the lowest circulation and visit rates in the system.

"We promised to study the results of the Friday closure and reexamine the cost and benefits after one year," said Levin. "We were able to utilize the closed time on Fridays to make additional upgrades to the branch by improving accessibility and technology, improving children's services, and ensuring the future success of Coventry."

To cover the additional hours that the branches will be open, Heights Libraries has hired four full-time youth services librarians, anticipating that customer traffic on Sundays will include high numbers of families and children.

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

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**Alice Janigro, cello**  
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# Cleveland Heights City Council

## Meeting highlights



FEBRUARY 17, 2015

All council members were present.

### New council member

After his nomination and a unanimous vote of approval, Kahlil Seren was sworn in as a member of council, filling the seat vacated by Janine Boyd. Later in the meeting, Mayor Dennis Wilcox announced that Seren would be chair of the Administrative Services Committee, vice chair for the Community Relations and Recreation Committee, and a member of the Municipal Services Committee.

### Public comments

Resident Calvin Lampkin noted that today marks the 18th anniversary of the opening of the post office on Severance Circle, which he views as a continuing affront to the neighboring residents.

### Media correction on recreation rates

An article published in the Feb. 12 edition of the *Sun Press* incorrectly indicated that the city's pending rate increases for Cumberland Pool and other recreation services were needed to fund Cedar Lee streetscape improvements. Northeast Ohio Media Group has assured the city manager that the mistake will be corrected.

### Nuisance residential properties

Council declared three residential properties to be blighted and health and safety hazards warranting abatement by demolition:

- 3347 Cedarbrook Road
- 2406 Noble Road
- 870 Selwyn Road

Council Member Mary Dunbar noted her sadness in making these decisions but [said she] was encouraged that, according to the building department's annual report, many construction permits were issued in the last year.

### CAC appointments

Council appointed Carol Ann Roe and Cory Farmer to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the term ending Dec. 31, 2015.

### Recreation programs and rates for 2015

Council heard, on first reading, recreation legislation for 2015. One ordinance would approve entertainment and recreation programs in Cain Park and other locations, and set rates and use regulations. A second ordinance would establish regulations and rates for admission for Cumberland Pool. Residents may review and comment on these ordinances before council's March 2 meeting.

### State of the city

Mayor Wilcox delivered his state of the city message. He reviewed the city's 2014 accomplishments, offering highlights from each department, and noted overall strengths and challenges. He concluded by emphasizing that Cleveland Heights is a great city, and that council will work to keep it competitive and healthy.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

MARCH 2, 2015

Council Member Jason Stein was absent.

### Liquor license denied

Council unanimously denied a request to transfer a liquor sale permit from Byou Bar

and Grill at 2573 Noble Road to K&A Entertainment at the same address. When presenting the resolution to deny, Council Member Dunbar entered into the record a letter from the police chief outlining problems at that location. The mayor pointed out that council denial of liquor license requests was unusual.

### Zoning appeals

The following requests were among those council approved for the board of zoning appeals:

- A variance to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education to permit construction of a new stadium gateway building facing Cedar Road close to Lee Road with a 20-foot rather than 50-foot setback. This is consistent with adjacent commercial setbacks. Council Member Jeff Coryell commented on the quality of the design, which includes a courtyard that will enhance the Cedar Lee commercial district.
- Also to the school district, a setback variance for the auto tech parking lot at the Delisle Education Options Center at 14780 Superior Road.

### Master plan steering committee

Council heard a first reading of a resolution defining the membership of a master plan steering committee to be appointed by council. The committee, which will comprise 11 members representing several city divisions, members-at-large, FutureHeights, the business community and the school district, will help with the city's new master plan.

### Declining crime rate

Council Member Dunbar encouraged the community to read the *Heights Observer* story on the [city's] declining crime rate, and complimented the police chief for his intelligent initiatives.

### Recreation legislation for 2015

Council authorized a variety of city recreation programs and entertainment for 2015 and the fees for accessing those programs and events. Most fees will increase by 10 percent, but [the cost for] several activities will remain the same. Access to the splash park and skate park will remain free.

Council also set the rates for use of Cumberland Pool, including pool passes, swim lessons and other activities. It set aside a limited number of passes to be sold to nonresidents.

### Julie Alandt

Mayor Wilcox thanked retiring community relations staff person Julie Alandt for her 30 years of service to the city.

LWV Observer: Susie Kaeser.

Please note: YouTube videos of Cleveland Heights City Council meetings may be accessed at [youtube.com/clevelandheightsoh](http://youtube.com/clevelandheightsoh).

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See disclaimer on page 7.

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## Coventry Village Library



CLEVELAND  
HEIGHTS  
LANDMARKS

Mark Souther

Harry Potter and his friends would feel right at home in the Coventry Village Library, a brick Tudor Revival- and Jacobean-style building that sits on a grassy slope at the corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. Designated a Cleveland Heights Landmark in 1980, the building features many historical details, including a large fireplace, Arts and Crafts tilework, and medieval-style light fixtures.

Designed by John H. Graham & Co., Architects, who had drawn plans for Fairmount Presbyterian Church and three buildings for the Laurel School nearly a decade before, the Coventry Village Library opened as the main library for Cleveland Heights in 1926. Built on land originally platted as part of Grant W. Deming's Forest Hill residential allotment, the library, along with Coventry School, were the only nonresidential structures in Deming's development.

In 1961, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library system boasted the second highest book circulation for a city its size in the United States. The growth of the two adjacent suburbs strained the library's ability to serve public needs, so, in 1968, the library board opened a large new main library on Lee Road, demoting Coventry to branch status. The library languished after the Lee Road Library opened, and fell into disrepair.

A new chapter in the library's history began with the building's sale in 1974 to the Fairmount Center for Creative and Performing Arts, a nonprofit arts organization formed four years earlier in Novelty, Ohio. The Fairmount Center hoped to extend its reach to a larger population and used the library to provide fine arts services to the CH-UH and East Cleveland school systems, and run dance programs for Cuyahoga Community College and Lake Erie College. The center leased two main-floor rooms back to the library,



An early photo of Coventry Library, ca. 1926.

so it remained open.

Residents expressed growing dissatisfaction as library hours and services were cut. After failing to secure a long-term lease, concerned citizens, rallied by Shirley Hyatt, gathered more than 2,000 signatures on a petition in 1979 to get the library to buy back its building.

The library board, however, saw the building as decrepit and hoped to obtain federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the city to open a larger library in developer Lewis Zipkin's Coventry development across Euclid Heights Boulevard.

Two factors—CH City Council's refusal to allocate CDBG monies to the library, and the Fairmount Center's worsening financial woes—combined to persuade the board to repurchase Coventry library in 1980. That same year the library gained city landmark status.

After an extensive renovation in 1981, Coventry Village Library reopened, and its role as a center for fine arts continued. The Pottery Cooperative of the Heights Guild of Artists and Artisans (later renamed Clayworks) continues to serve as a pottery-making center. The library has continued its longtime role as a community center, offering musical and theatrical performances (including those for the deaf), poetry readings, and hosting community meetings and public lectures.

[Adapted from Mark Souther, "Coventry Village Library," Cleveland Historical, [www.clevelandhistorical.org/items/show/443](http://www.clevelandhistorical.org/items/show/443).]

*Mark Souther, a member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, wrote this article. This column is produced by members of the CH Landmark Commission, to highlight historically significant buildings in Cleveland Heights, and share its mission of preserving and protecting buildings, works of art and other objects of historical or architectural value to the community.*

## Heights milliner delights hospice patients with hat presentation

Laurie Henrichsen

There are hats and then there are hats.

Hats make a statement, and the statement that milliner Cynthia Marek Lundeen's hats made at a recent event at the David Simpson Hospice House was fabulous.

Lundeen not only gave a presentation on the romance and history of hats, she brought a collection of her elegant couture designs. Two of the hats, a pink and black, and a white and black feathered one, graced covers of special Kentucky Derby issues of the magazine *I Am Today's Woman*. The slide presentation included an image of a creation that won first prize at the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest.

As she led staff, volunteers, patients and family members through a slide show of hats in history—including tidbits from the 1700s and 1800s—a parade of participants modeled her creations. Two lucky volunteers got to wear the hats featured on the magazine covers.

The idea for the presentation came about when hospice staff admired the hats decorating the room of one of Lundeen's family members at hospice house, said volunteer service manager Lori Scotese. The David Simpson Hospice House, which is a facility of the Hospice of the Western Reserve, is located at E. 185th St.

"We are so grateful to Cynthia for offering this wonderful program," Scotese said. "It was great fun to model many of Cynthia's stylish creations and to learn more about the history of hats. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

"It was an honor to do something in return for the remarkable care hospice provides," Lundeen said.

Lundeen, who lives in Cleveland Heights, said her interest was not born of fashion, but arose from her lifelong interest in history. She grew up fascinated by hats in a time when they began to fade from style. She wants to share the joy of fine millinery with others.

While her hats may be called art, they are also architectural wonders of wiring and structure which support these large and lightweight creations.

The hat designer makes hats for special occasions, such as wed-



Cleveland Heights milliner Cynthia Marek Lundeen talks about the romance and history of hats at David Simpson Hospice House.

dings, and for gentlemen, too. She's authored a book, *The Victorian and Edwardian Ladies' Guide to Business and Millinery Style Book with Observations for the 21st Century*.

For more information on Lundeen's creations, visit [www.cynthias-centuries.com](http://www.cynthias-centuries.com).

Founded in 1978, Hospice of the Western Reserve has grown to be a nonprofit agency offering one of the largest community hospice programs in the country. Its services go beyond typical hospice care to serve the most vulnerable, including children with life-threatening illnesses, grief support and crisis response for local schools, and specialized end-of-life care for the most complex cases. For information call 800-707-8922 or visit [www.hospicewr.org](http://www.hospicewr.org).

*Laurie Henrichsen is public-media relations manager at Hospice of the Western Reserve.*

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## Annual Reaching Heights Adult Spelling Bee planned for April 15

Lisa Hunt

How well can you spell? You are invited to come and find out at the Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee. The 24th annual edition of this campy yet competitive community event takes place April 15 at 7 p.m. at Cleveland Heights High School. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Unlike the youth version, this spelling bee is a team event. Three spellers work together to write down the letters in the word given to them, and then send a teammate to the microphone to read out the team's best guess. Teams are encouraged to dress in costumes that represent their company, school or organization, or other fun themes. This year the organizers look forward to welcoming returning competitors such as the Ms. Spellers (Roxboro Elementary and Middle school PTAs), the Episco-spellians (St. Paul's Episcopal Church), and Upper Case (Case Western Reserve University), who come to this seriously fun competition dressed in graduation caps and gowns.

This annual collaborative event



helps support Reaching Heights programming for public education. Each three-member team pays a \$500 entrance fee and is encouraged to solicit additional support from friends, neighbors and co-workers to win the title of Fundraising Champion, a title held for more than 10 years by the Upper Case team of professors.

On the evening of the bee, Alvin Saafir will be honored with this year's Friend of Public Education Award. A longtime advocate of the CH-UH schools, Saafir served on the team that led Issue 8r, the successful facilities bond campaign. Saafir currently serves as the operating levy co-chair and was a Reaching Heights board member and treasurer for three years. He and his wife are parents of three

Heights High graduates.

The Cleveland Orchestra boasts the Bee's most successful team. OOPS, short for Orchestral Orthographers Prognosticate Success, was co-champion in 2010 and 2012, and sole champ in 2006 and 2007. The Know Knothings, representing the Cleveland Heights High School PTA, are the defending champions. They won the 2014 Bee with the word, "dieffenbachia." The winning team receives a prize package and has its team name engraved on the coveted big plastic bee trophy. There is also a sweet prize and trophy for the Best Cheering Section. Join in the fun, invite others to come and cheer on your team, win a raffle prize, learn a ton of new words, and support Reaching Heights.

For more information about Reaching Heights, and this event, visit [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org).

*Lisa M. Hunt is assistant director of Reaching Heights, a graduate of CSU, and proud mother of two CH-UH students, Brycen and Jordan. She believes in the city of Cleveland Heights.*

## Jazzercise classes benefit food center

Mary Beth McCann

At their annual fundraiser, Jazzercise class participants from Cleveland Heights and South Euclid contributed more than 230 pounds of food and \$800 in cash to the Heights Emergency Food Center, and raised another \$1,350 for LifeAct (formerly the Suicide Prevention Education Alliance), which offers suicide prevention programming at area high schools.

Each year, the Jazzercise classes nominate organizations for the fundraiser, and select the two that receive the most votes as beneficiaries.

Class members raised money during each class by contributing to have a favorite routine added to the exercise set—or to have a less-than-favorite routine thrown out.

Food donations were encouraged through an attendance game in which class participants could win gift certificates to local shops when they brought in food to donate.

Over the past several years, Jazzercise of Cleveland Heights and South Euclid has raised more than \$26,000 to benefit local organizations.

For more information about Jazzercise in the Heights, call 440-655-5394.

*Mary Beth McCann is a certified Jazzercise franchisee who has taught in Cleveland Heights for more than 25 years.*

## Caregivers workshop begins in April

Karen McKeehan

Caring for a family member or friend with memory impairment can be stressful and challenging. Fairhill Partners, in partnership with Stanford University, is enrolling participants in a workshop and research study to determine the effectiveness of the new Building Better Caregivers workshop. One of the free workshops will take place at the CH Senior Center on Tuesdays, 1-3:30 p.m., April 7 through May 12.

The workshop uses Stanford's evidence-based self-management model to help those caring for people with Alzheimer's, dementia, or other memory-related issues learn to break the stress cycle; manage the care partner's difficult behaviors; communicate better with family, friends and medical team; get help; and take better care of their own health.

Workshops are facilitated by trained caregiver leaders.

Workshop participants are required to be part of the study. For general information about participants' rights, call 866-680-2906.

In addition to the Cleveland Heights site, workshops also will be held at Fairhill Partners, 12200 Fairhill Road, Cleveland, beginning in April. Learn more and register by calling Fairhill at 216-421-1350, or e-mail [programs@fairhillpartners.org](mailto:programs@fairhillpartners.org).

Fairhill Partners, incorporated in 1989, connects people to opportunities for lifelong learning, intergenerational relationships, and successful aging.

*Karen McKeehan has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1989. She works for Fairhill Partners, a nonprofit helping older adults.*



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—Cleveland Heights resident Marilyn Cunin

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A longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, Marilyn was never far from home. "I had a good experience and would recommend Bruening to anyone," she says, "but I certainly was tickled to go home when my stay was over!"

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# Discover migratory birds with Julie West



**CREATIVE NEIGHBORS**

Peggy Spaeth

I lived in northern Ohio for more than three decades oblivious to an amazing natural wonder that literally flew by my eyes if only I knew where to look: the spring migration of North American wood warblers. The first that I saw of the colorful species in 1989, a Yellow Warbler, weighs less than half an ounce yet can fly nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico at night, while we sleep.

Each May since then, I have joined people from all over the world at Magee Marsh, a refueling habitat for migrants before they cross Lake Erie to their Canadian breeding grounds. Magee Marsh is 100 miles west of Cleveland, but if you walk around the Shaker Lakes once or twice a week in May, you can see the same 30 warbler species that stop at Magee.

And even better, you can see these tiny colorful birds up close in the hands of Julie West and Gary Neuman, who each spring at The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes capture, band and release the migrants. For more than 15 years they have banded 101 different species of birds, including orioles, sparrows, catbirds, wrens, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, woodpeckers, wood warblers and vireos. Their work continues migratory bird studies that have been ongoing for almost 50 years at the Nature Center.

The banding project emphasizes the importance of mini-habitats, such as Shaker Lakes. When West recaptures a Magnolia Warbler in the same season, she can measure how the bird has been refueling (building up its fat stores) for the next leg of its migration. West points out that “this is a place they stop to find food, shelter and water.” Recaptures also demonstrate site fidelity and longevity. West recalls one song sparrow banded on her very first day that she recaptured for seven subsequent years. Every year this same bird came back to “this very special place” to find a mate and raise its young.

West credits her interest in the natural world to a North Olmsted childhood spent roaming the woodlots, ponds and creeks around her house. Her parents were involved in scouting and family camping vacations all over the U.S., including a 10-day wilderness canoe trip they took when she was 12. “You don’t realize till you’re older that not everyone is doing these things!” West commented.

West had a long career with the phone company, and has a degree in math and secondary education and an executive masters’ of business administration. Her interest in nature reasserted itself when first Neuman, then she, took a bird-watching class with the now-defunct adult education program offered by the CH-UH Board of Education in the 1980s. Their knowledge deepened through naturalist-led walks, travel and observation. Since retiring in 2000, West, a Cleveland Heights resident, is ever-busy with birding, banding, travel, family, and volunteering with the Rotary Club.

West earned a banding certificate from the Institute for Bird Populations in 1996, and then volunteered on weekends with Mark and Julie Shieldcastle of Black Swamp Bird Observatory, to earn her banding permit. She provides her banding data—which includes bird gender, age, weight and wing length—to Shieldcastle, who reports it to the Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland.

West finds “peace, solitude, and renewal in nature” and says “birds are

my window on the world.” Their presence or absence is a portal into habitat health, whether in the city or woodlot. She marvels that “a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flies across the Gulf of Mexico for 18 hours, twice each year of its life. A Blackpoll Warbler jumps off in New Jersey and flies over the ocean until it gets to South America.” Migration is miraculous for its own sake, yes, but also because, as entomologist Doug Tallamy writes, “Humans cannot live as the only species on this planet because it is other species that create the ecosystem services essential to our survival.”

Learn more from West about the natural wonder of bird migration in our own neighborhood at the following programs at The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes:

- Audubon Spring Bird Walks, Sundays, April 12 through May 17, 7:30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot. Light refreshments and networking immediately following. Binoculars available for use with ID. Free
- Bird Banding, Mondays, Wednesdays



Julie West

and Fridays, April 20 through May 25, 7-11:30 a.m. Free.

- Beginning Birding Techniques, Thursday, April 30, 6-8 p.m. Julie West will instruct beginning birders of all ages on how to use binoculars and a field guide to identify birds, followed by a short walk to practice what is learned. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them; a limited number will be available for loan. Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

*Peggy Spaeth writes about Heights residents and their impact locally, regionally and worldwide.*

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# Noble neighborhood home and yard sale is set for April 26

Brenda H. May

Noble Neighbors will present its first Noble Community-Wide Home and Yard Sale on Sunday, April 26, from noon to 5 p.m. The organization's website, at [www.nobleneighbors.com](http://www.nobleneighbors.com), has an interactive map showing the locations of event activities, along with information on parks, the neighborhood library, schools, community institutions, gardens and business districts. For the event, residents are being encouraged to host yard sales and coordinate with neighbors on their streets or in their apartment buildings to create hubs of activity. Several locations will feature street performers and bake sales.

Noble Road businesses will host sidewalk sales and offer special deals. Local institutions will open their doors for visitors. The Home Repair Resource Center will offer presentations on the many ways it can help homeowners keep their houses in good condition, and the Cleveland Heights Police Academy will host demonstrations of its K-9 unit and its higher tech (but less lovable) equipment. The police academy's building, a former fire station that also houses

some museum exhibits, will be open for tours.

Visitors to the home and yard sale will also get to see the many community gardens in the neighborhood. Among them will be the Woodview Hope Garden, a major donor to the Cleveland Food Bank; Oxford Garden, the oldest in the area, which is soon to be home to a display of edible permaculture; and the new and beautifully landscaped Montford Garden. Neighborhood churches will host festivities, including a bake sale put on by children to support a Liberian school.

The April 26 event also will showcase homes of various styles and ages—most of them in good to great condition—for sale across the neighborhood. Visitors will see the kid-friendly spaces scattered throughout the area at school playgrounds and athletic fields, city parks, local churches, and the Noble Neighborhood Library. The library was recently renovated and redesigned to support students, early literacy activities and neighborhood events.

The home and yard sale is part of a strategy to boost home sales and values, and to tell the story of the Noble neighborhood, which encompasses the parts of Cleveland Heights north of Mayfield and east of Taylor Road.

Noble Neighbors is working to make its part of town even more friendly, safe and attractive.

Noble Neighbors has partnered with Sherry Callahan of Howard Hanna, Helen Hertz of Re/Max and Keith Kiefer of Keller Williams, who are coordinating agent efforts for the real estate portion of the home and yard sale. Interested agents can contact any of them to learn about participating. Open-house hosts can sign up by April 10 to list open houses on the Noble Neighbors map.

*Brenda H. May is a leader of Noble Neighbors, a group working to help the neighborhood thrive.*

MASTER PLAN *continued from page 1*

plans that have a strong potential for implementation."

Coyne said that the county is interested in assisting with master plans because each community can use the planning process to establish priorities for investments in transportation, land use, recreation, infrastructure and other facilities. The plans also provide a wealth of information and maps that help guide future development and redevelopment.

"Having an up-to-date master plan is an important criteria when a community is considering rezoning decisions and development proposals," said Coyne. "When projects cross boundaries of two or more communities, having a consistent set of recently updated master plans will encourage regional collaboration and increase the likelihood of implementation."

Wong said that Cleveland Heights has been working on increasing connections with University Circle, and that the fact that University Heights was selected provided an "interesting opportunity," particularly with areas such as the Cedar Taylor Business District, Cedar Road, and Washington Boulevard. Wong noted that the master plan would look at the entire city, and that sustainability will be inherent in all aspects of the plan.

County planners will lead the preparation of the master plans, working with staff and leadership in each city. "We recommend—but do not require—a local steering committee to help guide the development of the master plan," said Coyne.

County staff will meet with each steering committee at key points throughout the process to provide interim results and recommendations. "Once the plan is completed, the steering committee can serve as advocates for the implementation of the master plan," said Coyne.

While University Heights has not yet determined the makeup of its steering committee, CH City Council passed a resolution on March 16 authorizing the creation of an 11-member committee to oversee the process. All members must be city residents and will be appointed by council.

The CH committee will comprise three residents at large; one member each of the Planning Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, Recreation Advisory Board and Commission on Aging; a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors; one representative of the interests of the educational community; and one representative of the business community.

Committee members will serve for the duration of the process of drafting the master plan, which is expected to take 8–12 months, and all members will serve as volunteers. Tanisha Briley, CH city manager, said the city would use its normal application process to solicit candidates for the three at-large positions.

While city staff will be charged with the plan's implementation, Wong said, "It also is important to include residents and businesspeople. It is likely that specific target areas will need more information from the people in those particular areas since they know more about their neighborhood than we [do]. Residents' and businesses' participation and support will result in a plan that is broad-based, too."

CH Mayor Dennis Wilcox said, "Council is looking forward to this opportunity to take some of the major planning accomplishments, such as the Strategic Development Plan and the Sustainable Zoning Code, and apply them in a more comprehensive fashion to connect the city with Northeast Ohio's growth and development and make us a more attractive place in which to live, work and play."

"We are especially looking forward to working with Cleveland Heights and University Heights simultaneously," said Coyne, "since they share their school system and are collaborating on the Cedar Taylor Commercial District, among other joint efforts. Hopefully, some of the recommendations will be shared in both plans and assist in advancing this collaboration."

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

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## Spring fundraiser at Bremec supports HRRC

Rebecca Stager

As residents head back outdoors this spring, they can benefit Cleveland Heights's nonprofit Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) by shopping for lawn and garden supplies at Bremec on the Heights Garden Center, 13410 Cedar Road, between Wednesday, April 22, and Tuesday, May 5.

When shoppers present one of HRRC's vouchers at the register, Bremec's will donate a portion of that

purchase to HRRC.

Shoppers can clip the voucher on page 8 of this issue of the *Heights Observer*, or visit [www.hrhc-ch.org](http://www.hrhc-ch.org) to print out a voucher.

HRRC trustees and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and provide assistance during both weekends of the fundraiser.

*Becky Stager has been HRRC's home repair education coordinator since 1989.*



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# CH's St. Baldrick's event raises more than \$100,000

Mark Gallagher

The Cleveland Heights Community Center was abuzz on Sunday, March 15—abuzz with generosity, kindness and courage. More than 165 men, women, boys and girls shaved their heads to raise money for St. Baldrick's, the national foundation that funds more childhood cancer research than any other organization in the world, except the U.S. government.

This year's local event, now in its fourth year, was held in memory of Rebecca Meyer of Cleveland Heights, who died from a brain tumor on her sixth birthday last June. It also was held in honor of Roxboro Middle School student Garrett Gulden, who recently finished cancer treatment, and Fairfax Elementary School second-grader Austin Gallagher, a two-time survivor of kidney cancer.

Shavees from Shaker schools, CH-UH schools and Gesu School, among others, competed against, and cheered on, one another during an afternoon of marathon head-shaving. Team Fairfax—25 current Fairfax students and one teacher—raised the most money, bringing in more than \$32,000.

The event also featured girls and women who raised money for St. Baldrick's, but then cut eight or more inches of hair to donate to one of several wig-making charities. At least eight girls and women took advantage of that option, and 10 opted for the full shave. Among them was 6-year-old Ruthie McFarland, who shaved in memory of her best friend, Rebecca, and was joined by her mother, Lisa

Feinberg, father, Ned, and 4-year-old brother, Malcolm.

Local resident Nancy Levin said, "Cleveland Heights and University Heights are communities built on love, mutual support, caring for our struggling friends, and joining together in hope for a day when cancer will not ravage our dearest ones. This is the message we are teaching our kids!"

An emotional highlight came early in the day when two Shaker boys shaved their heads just hours before their father's funeral. Ronan (9) and Rory (5) Feldman were joined by their sister, Shannon (7), who cut and donated her hair in a tribute to their father, Dan, a 2014 St. Baldrick's shavee, who died due to a brain tumor.

Top fundraiser Braedan Gallagher, a fifth-grader at Fairfax Elementary School and six-time shavee,

said, "I used to feel like I couldn't do anything about cancer. But now that I do St. Baldrick's, I know that I'm helping to find a cure."

His mother, event organizer Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, said that she is honored to bring this event to this community and is humbled by the enthusiastic response it has received. "My son Austin is alive today not because he was strong, which he was, and not because he was loved, which he was, but because of advances in medical research. I will keep fighting this fight until all parents can say the same thing."

The March 15 event raised \$102,000 and will continue to collect donations through the end of June. To learn more or to make a tax-deductible gift, visit [www.stbaldricks.org/events/clevelandheights](http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/clevelandheights).

Mark Gallagher is a longtime resident

of Cleveland Heights and the father of two sons who attend Fairfax Elementary School. As a seven-time St. Baldrick's shavee, he is now a Knight of the Bald Table.



Roxboro Elementary School student Griffin Gulden, of University Heights, with his father, George, before shaving his head in honor of his brother, Garrett.



The Radivoyevitch family: Cody, Kirsten, Schuyler and Evan.



Local hair stylists from Shawn Paul Salon, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa, Abstract A Hair Salon, and Edge Hair Studio volunteered for the event.



The Gallagher Family: Austin, Mark, Krissy and Braedan.



Team Fairfax, which comprised 25 current Fairfax Elementary School students and one teacher, raised the most, bringing in more than \$32,000.



Team Gesu.



Cleveland Heights City Council member Jeff Coryell with Malia Lewis.



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# got syrup?

# Reaching Musical Heights concert was inspirational

Krista Hawthorne

The power of high-quality music education was evident at Reaching Musical Heights, held Feb. 24, at Severance Hall. This quadrennial concert of student musicians from the CH-UH City School District was a remarkable celebration of our talented and hardworking students, their music teachers, our schools, and our community.

Dress rehearsal and performance took place on the same day, so when school was closed due to frigid early morning temperatures, the planning committee held an emergency meeting with the music directors and district administrators and quickly rearranged the event. Rehearsals were condensed, transportation was mini-



The Elementary School Honor Choir from Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District performing in Reaching Musical Heights at Severance Hall on Feb. 24.

mized, snacks were provided, changes were communicated to parents of all 559 students and the show went on.

Singers from all seven elementary schools lifted their voices and moved in unison to fun choreography. Instrumentalists and singers came together

from both of our middle schools in an honors chorus and honors orchestra to perform as they will when they get to high school. Heights High Symphonic Winds played a piece with complicated brass parts. The high school's A Capella Choir sang a moving version of the early American folk song "Shenandoah," and then student conductors led the next two choral selections.

The high school symphony played a movement from Stravinsky's *The Firebird* that featured a bassoon soloist. A recent Heights High graduate, the award-winning gospel singer Geoffrey Golden, returned from Morehouse College to accompany a gospel ensemble on the piano and to sing a solo.

The Jazz Ensemble played at the pre-concert reception, the choral department's Men's Barbershoppers sang on stage, and a harpist played in the ticket lobby. A combined choir with pit orchestra opened the show with "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat," from Frank Loesser's *Guys and Dolls*.

The event included a pre-concert benefit reception to raise funds to support Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp, Patti-Jackson Music Lesson Scholarships, and other music programming. The concert was funded by the residents of Cuyahoga Country through a Cuyahoga Arts & Culture grant, generous individual donors and family foundations. A DVD of the event is available from Reaching Heights for \$10. Send your request and a check made out to Reaching Heights, to: Reaching Heights, 2843 Washington Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 44118.

To volunteer, donate, or learn more about Reaching Heights, visit [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org).

Krista Hawthorne is the executive director of Reaching Heights.

# Coventry Village Library to unveil new children's area

Sheryl Banks

The Coventry Village Library will unveil its redesigned children's area, called the Shire, at a grand opening on Saturday, April 18, 1-5 p.m. The free, all-ages event will feature refreshments, storytelling by children's authors Mary Lee Corlett and Tricia Springstubb, and a chance for kids to try out new early literacy activities and toys in the newly renovated space.

At 1 p.m., Springstubb, a Cleveland Heights resident, will read from her two new books, *Moonpenny Island* (illustrated by Gilbert Ford) and *Cody and the Fountain of Happiness* (illustrated by Eliza Wheeler).

At 2 p.m., Corlett will read from her book *Belle's Wild Ride: The Artful Adventure of a Butterfly and a Cabbie*, which features a fast-paced journey through the Cleveland Museum of Art's most famous artworks. Local artist Sophie Cayless illustrated the book.

The library received a \$4,000 grant from the Hershey Foundation in 2014 that was used for the development of the Shire, the opening of which will mark the first time the Coventry Village Library has had an enclosed, designated space for small children.

It will feature 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 Pat Gray, Coventry Village Library manager. "Our new playroom will give members of our community a fun and easy way to achieve it."

The playroom adds to Heights Libraries's roughly \$150,000-worth of improvements at its Coventry branch over the past year, including new carpeting for the entire building, roof repair, and lighting.

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

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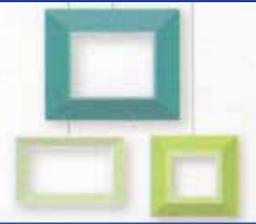
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# Young local dancers perform with Cleveland Ballet April 17

Andrea C. Turner

It's every young ballet student's dream to perform on a professional stage with the best talent the ballet world has to offer. That dream is becoming a reality for nine local dance students from the Heights area, as they prepare to perform in a Cleveland Ballet production, *Classic. Elegant. Timeless.*, on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m., at Playhouse Square's Ohio Theatre.

The young dancers are students of the School of Cleveland Ballet. Gladisa Guadalupe, once a principal dancer for the Cleveland Ballet under Dennis Nahat, and former artistic associate of the Cleveland San Jose Ballet, founded the school in 2001, following the ballet company's departure in 2000.

The school, formerly the Cleveland School of Dance, was originally located on Lee Road, near Mayfield Road, in Cleveland Heights. As the school grew, it relocated to 23030 Miles Road in Bedford Heights. The school now has 75 students from all over Northeast Ohio, and educates young dancers in classical ballet training and provides intensive instruction in



COURTESY ANDREA C. TURNER

School of Cleveland Ballet students from the Heights area will perform at Playhouse Square's Ohio Theatre on April 17. Pictured (from left): Tristan McCoy (on stool), Isabel Mearini, Anna Donsky, Anna Rose, Devyn Eting and Milana Mudra. Not pictured: Judea Lowe and Lillian Opsitnik.

the highly structured and disciplined techniques of ballet.

Guadalupe spent part of her career studying with legendary ballet figures, such as George Balanchine and Mikhail Baryshnikov. In 2013, she started a pre-professional company of dancers ages 14-19, known as the

Cleveland Ballet Youth Company (CBYC).

The April 17 performance features local dancers Anna Donsky, Devyn Eting, Judea Lowe, Tristan McCoy, Isabel Mearini, Milana Mudra, Lillian Opsitnik and Anna Rose, many of whom started in the school's Tiny Ballerina program, learning basic terminology, music and movement and self-discipline.

Highlights of the evening include performances by the CBYC and world-renowned guest artists Carlos Lopez and Adiaris Almeida, dancing the White Swan pas de deux from the ballet *Swan Lake*, with musical accompaniment by Cleveland Orchestra concertmaster William Preucil. Lopez is ballet master of the American Ballet Theatre Studio Company. Almeida is a former principal ballerina with Cincinnati Ballet and first soloist with Boston Ballet.

Live music on stage is provided by the Cleveland Ballet Orchestra, under the direction of Cleveland Orchestra assistant concertmaster Alexandra Preucil. Guest choreographer Robert Wesner, co-founder and artistic director of Neos Dance Theatre, will present a new world premiere,

choreographed for the CBYC.

"Our desire is to fill the void left by the departure of Cleveland San Jose Ballet, and to re-introduce Cleveland audiences to the beautiful and powerful art of ballet," said Guadalupe, who also serves as artistic director for the new Cleveland Ballet. "This performance is the key to re-establish the Cleveland Ballet as the city's very own resident professional ballet company."

Tickets can be purchased through [www.playhousesquare.org](http://www.playhousesquare.org) or by calling 216-241-6000 or 866-546-1353. There will be special pre-show activities for child ticket holders, ages 5-14, 5:30-6:30 p.m., and VIP ticket holders are invited to a post-performance reception at Bin 216 Wine Bar to mingle with dancers and musicians, while enjoying cocktails and light refreshments.

For more information on the new Cleveland Ballet, visit [www.clevelandballet.org](http://www.clevelandballet.org).

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



CARINA LITTLEJOHN

ESK U9 team members (back row) Marcus Holland, Eric Madureira, Alijah Littlejohn, Baxter Paulini, Harlan Williams, Gabe McKay, Coleman Paulini, Coach Paul Eyre, (front row) Egan Haas, Charlie Roberto, Shamus Kirk, Jack Keller and Johan Guy.

## Eastside Kickers U9 boys take 2nd place in national championship

Diane Roberto

Competing in the National Indoor Soccer Championship Feb. 27 through March 1, in North Olmsted, the Eastside Kickers (ESK) U9 team had a fantastic run and finished in second place.

The all-boys team has 12 members, nine years old and younger, who live in Cleveland Heights (10 players), University Heights (one player) and South Euclid (one player).

Playing against top club teams, including teams from West Virginia and Illinois, the ESK boys finished first among the U9 teams in the group stage, with a 3-0 record. They eventually lost 3-6 in the finals, to the Juniors FC team from Chicago.

"It is absolutely remarkable that our local boys made it in the finals of this prestigious tournament," said Paul Eyre, who is the ESK U9 coach, as well as the Heights High Girls' Varsity

Soccer coach. "Their accomplishment highlights the quality of soccer being played by the grade school boys and girls in Cleveland Heights. We are so proud of all of our teams and the 250 youngsters in the ESK soccer family."

ESK is a nonprofit, community soccer club dedicated to the development of young players on the East Side of Greater Cleveland. ESK is recruiting new players, girls and boys, ages 7-13, for the upcoming 2015-16 season. Assessments will be held Wednesday, May 20, at Denison Field, 5:30-8 p.m. Visit the Eastside Kickers Soccer Club Facebook page or [www.eastsidekickers.org](http://www.eastsidekickers.org) for more details.

Diane Roberto is a Cleveland Heights resident and an ESK soccer mom. She's a graphic designer and on the design team of the Heights Observer.

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# Heights High spring concert features two senior soloists

Florence D'Emilia

When cellist Alice Janigro and harpist Celia van den Bogert take their bows on Friday, May 1, they will be continuing Heights High's 86-year Senior Soloist tradition. Janigro will perform Edward Elgar's contemplative and elegiac *Concerto in E minor for Violoncello and Orchestra*, and van den Bogert will perform Maurice Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro for Harp and Chamber Orchestra*, a work that displays the expressive range of the harp. Music Director Daniel Heim will also conduct the Heights High Symphony in Antonin Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance, Op. 48, No. 8 in G minor*.

The program also includes Brett Baker conducting Symphonic Winds in Masamich Amano's *Concerto Grosso*, featuring the Sax Pistols, a chamber ensemble Baker has



Heights High senior soloists Celia van den Bogert (left) and Alice Janigro will perform at the May 1 concert, accompanied by the Heights High Symphony.

been working with for three years. Symphonic Winds will also perform Samuel Hazo's *Stella Maris* and Chris Bernotas' *Momentum*.

Heights High's spring season also includes a performance on Wednesday, April 29. Concert Orchestra performs Ottorino Respighi's *Ancient Aires*

and *Dances*, arranged by J. Brubaker, and J.L. Molloy's *The Kerry Dance*, arranged by L. Conley. Concert Band and Symphonic Band will perform Shirley Miller's *Forge Ahead*. All three ensembles combine for Alexandre Desplat's *Godzilla*, arranged by M. Story.

Concerts on Wednesday and Friday evening will be preceded by Chamber Ensemble performances, 6-7 p.m., in the Heights High Social Room. The ensembles, ranging in size from two to six students, are coached by professional musicians throughout the school year.

The April 29 and May 1 concerts, which begin at 7:30 p.m., take place at the school's Dina Rees Evans Performing Arts Center. Tickets, \$3 for students and \$5 for adults, are available the day of the show.

The Heights High Instrumental Music Department's 2014-15 season concludes with Jazz Night on Friday, May 8.

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

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# Exchange year in Japan provides global perspective

Cathan Bricker

Heights High senior Emoni Brown-Bey returned from an 11-month American Field Service (AFS) foreign exchange experience in Japan in mid-February, and sophomore Molly Fleischer left for Japan in early March.

Brown-Bey's exchange year was "an amazing experience," she said, as she returns to Heights High for a final semester before graduating.

During Brown-Bey's time in Japan, she lived with a host family in a small rural community and attended high school. She learned to speak Japanese, make sushi, ride a public train and budget her own money. She saw Mount Fuji, visited Tokyo Disneyland, hiked in the mountains and toured historic Shinto shrines and beautiful gardens.

While many things are different in Japan, she said she also experienced many of the universal themes in human life—family love, teenage friends, food and art.

Her host family comprised a mother, father, teenage brother and sister, and seven dogs. "My family was wonderful and helped me so much," said Brown-Bey.

She found school life in Japan very different from her experience here. Students wore uniforms, and part of their responsibility was to clean the school at the end of the day. Also, students stayed in one classroom while teachers moved to each classroom.

While she enjoyed her time in Japan, Brown-Bey said she is happy to be home. These days, she is busy



AFS exchange students Molly Fleischer (left) and Emoni Brown-Bey.

with schoolwork, family and friends. "I am very grateful to my family, AFS and the school for supporting me in this journey," she said. "I came home with a deep love and appreciation for my country and city."

In the fall, Brown-Bey will attend the University of Illinois in Chicago, where she plans to study engineering.

Fleischer was excited to embark on her own cultural adventure in Japan—a place that has fascinated her for years. She said she had been looking forward to participating in an AFS exchange since middle school. "I am really excited about being in a new community and speaking a new language," said Fleischer. Her host family, who lives in a small rural town, comprises a mother, father, 12-year-old child and three adult children who live on their own.

For information about hosting an AFS student or sending a student on an AFS exchange, contact Carla Bailey at seabail@aol.com.

*Cathan Bricker is the communications administrative assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

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## Trout in the classroom lets kids take a journey with the fish



Trout eggs on day one.

Amy Fischer

Picture about 100 fish eggs arriving by overnight express on a petri dish. What could come of this?

Rainbow trout, actually. They will grow in a fourth-grade classroom at Communion of Saints School in Cleveland Heights, but the experience will enrich the whole school.

Trout in the Classroom is an environmental education program for students in grades K-12. The students will raise the trout from eggs. They will test the water quality of the tank daily, while learning about stream habitat, ecosystems and conservation. At the end of the school year, the trout will be released in a state-approved stream or watershed.

Teacher Megan Wiggins prepared her students for the arrival of the tank and the fish. "I have talked so much about the tank, my voice is gone," she said. "They are incredibly excited about this

experience. As you can imagine, the whole school is talking about it."

At the school's open house for Catholic Schools Week, Wiggins' classroom was the most visited. Parents and students alike wanted to check out the setup.

Trout in the Classroom comes to the school through the efforts of Kevin Lynn, a member of the school advisory committee. Lynn sought funding for the program and found a generous donor. The Emerald Necklace Chapter of Trout Unlimited donated \$1,000 to acquire the tank, the all-important chiller, the filter, insulation, breeder baskets and a water chemistry testing kit. The chiller must keep the water between 51-56 degrees Fahrenheit at all times.

Currently, the eggs are growing in breeding baskets and the tank is encompassed in a dark foam cover. There are cut outs through which the eggs can be viewed. The chiller is quiet so it doesn't disturb the classroom. Each day, students record the activity of the fish, measure the water quality and wait. For these students, this experience will be the beginning of a great relationship with the water, our ecology and our responsibility to it.

*Amy Fischer is a member of the School Advisory Committee at Communion of Saints School, formerly Saint Ann, located at 2160 Stillman Road, Cleveland Heights. For more information call 216-932-4177 or visit [www.communionofsaintsschool.org](http://www.communionofsaintsschool.org).*

## Heights High students learn to use discussion to address racism

Joy Henderson

Cleveland Heights High School students in the Lessons of the Holocaust class and Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) club have been engaging in candid conversations about identity and the role of race in society. These conversations have been happening in the classroom, during meetings and at five facilitated discussions with other students and adults.

Mark Sack teaches the Lessons of the Holocaust class and David Peake is the MSAN club advisor.

On Feb. 23, the students attended a YWCA-sponsored "Time to Talk" event at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland. The forum participants included more than 300 adults from Cleveland-area businesses and organizations, seven students from Heights High and seven students from Shaker Heights High School.

Junior Easton Figueroa thought that the approach of talking about race issues can help eliminate racism. "It was good to really listen to others

and to make sure that everyone was heard," he said. "That discussion was really important and I think it can lead to real change."

The forum attendees ate lunch and viewed a short documentary on the history of integration and race issues in Cleveland. The keynote speaker for the forum was Dr. Akram Boutros, president and chief executive officer of the MetroHealth System. Boutros told the story of his life as a teenager and immigrant. He talked about being bullied because of his dark skin and poor English language skills.

He explained that he was able to avoid a path of delinquency and trouble because others offered him "a break." Boutros encouraged audience members who hire employees to not focus on what others look like and to give people a break that could change the course of a person's life.

The last part of the program was a facilitated table discussion that focused on how individual views on race are formed.

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



The 2015 Heights High Swim Cadet officers begin their performance at this year's Swim Cadet Show.

## Swim Cadets show made a big splash

Joy Henderson

The 2015 Heights High Synchronized Swimming Swim Cadet Show (March 5-7) featured 13 student-choreographed routines by the club's 16 members, including the routine performed by club officers Maya Hubbard, Arden Dyer, Sarah Lentz, Julianna Clark and Grace Pepler (left to right in the photo above).

This year's show was the last one that will take place in the current pool. Beginning this June, the school will be closed for two years while the building

is renovated. Students will attend school at the Wiley campus, and will return to the high school at Cedar and Lee roads in the fall of 2017.

The 2015 show's theme was The Golden Years and included songs from previous shows. The traditional candle-lit finale number featured alumni on the pool deck. The Swim Cadet club is the longest continually operating club at the school, dating back to the early 1940s.

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

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# Middle schools compete in Regional Science Olympiad

Cynthia Barnes

Roxboro and Monticello middle schools represented the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District in the Regional Science Olympiad at Case Western Reserve University on Feb. 21. Roxboro's team placed eighth in the event, earning the team a spot in the state tournament, to be held April 11 at The Ohio State University in Columbus. This will

be the fourth time Roxboro Middle School has qualified for the state tournament. Monticello Middle School's team of intrepid scientists competed among 25 of the best teams in the state, earning 19th place overall.

*Cynthia Barnes is the public relations liaison in the Communications and Community Engagement Department at the CH-UH City School District.*



Monticello Middle School team members. Front row: Adele Dooner, Zeldia Thayer Hansen, Vincent Bellini, Nareus Hardin and Grant Gober; Middle row: Miranda Wyse, Suvedini Ainkaran, David Adams, Joshua Wendorf, Leela Rajeswaran, Patrick Dooner; Back row: Sarai Truitt, Andrew Moore, Chantee McMillan, Maria Tarnay, Emily Cassidy and Riannon Kuntz.



Roxboro Middle School Team A & B members. Team A: Judea Lowe, Erykah Hawkins, Rohan Bruce, Georgina Jolivette, Ava Collyer, Sammy Stawovy, Sylvie Crowell, Emma Hodges, Isabel Baker-Smith, Benjamin Reider, Deckard Manne, Trevion Johnson, Hale Tobin, Glennis Covault and Peter Bambakidis, with Jessica Gross and Emma Quill as alternates. Team B: Madalyn Shelt, Nathan Henninge, Ethan Quill, Sydney Ball, Monay David, Sana Fatima, Arden Lindberg, Sylvia Snow-Rackley, Audrey Huang, Lisa Ware, Claire Hall, Nathan Keller, Emma Vail, Greyton Manne and Lukas Chew.

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights



FEBRUARY 17, 2015  
All board members were present.

### The superintendent's goals

Superintendent Talisa Dixon presented an update on her areas of focus, which include:

- Clear goals and benchmarks
- Evidence and proof that benchmarks are being met, as demonstrated by collected data and recommendations
- Accountability and responsibility to students and parents
- Sustainability, meaning that resources and staff development would be available
- Equitability for any group of students

The district maintains the following programs:

- K-5 primary program, which is a plan where students achieve to read at grade level
- International Baccalaureate
- Title I program, which is schoolwide
- Advanced Placement
- Gifted and Talented

Dixon addressed the board's various questions, including whether students are learning, how learning can be measured, and what can be done for students who are learning and those who are not.

### IT update

**E-rate:** E-rate is a funding program for school technology administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), an independent, not-for-profit company designated by the FCC. USAC will provide funding or reimbursement for items in e-rate categories. The district will apply for e-rate funds in 2016, but there is no guarantee they will be available. Based on funds leftover or reimbursed in 2009 and 2011, this approach is enabling the district to provide every elementary classroom with new high-speed cable and wireless access points by September 2015, as well as new wireless access points at Monticello and Roxboro middle schools by July 2016. Further planned upgrades at the middle schools include network infrastructure and select cabling only, due to projected renovations. E-rate monies will be important for renovations in the high school. Upgrades to Wiley during the facilities renovation include high-capacity cable and new wireless access points.

**New technology pilot program, which includes:**

- Selecting a cart system and piloting devices to deliver Netbooks to classrooms daily for the high school. Chromebooks and Dell 330 series notebooks have been tested for daily instruction since August 2014. The staff favors Chromebooks, which are cheaper.
- Rolling out new instructional devices for the 2015-16 school year for middle school students, including a pilot laptop cart program for seventh and eighth grades. A device enrollment program must be implemented to keep stolen iPads under district control.
- Upgrading computer labs in the elementary schools. Cost-effective methods to add iPads for instruction will be investigated.

**Technology device forecast:** The five-year forecast for future IT needs includes a compre-

hensive budget that will continue to be refined but is now about \$2.9 million.

**Next steps:** The next steps include completing the device forecast, planning and budgeting for e-rate improvements, working to finalize the device forecast and budget, and evaluating future technological needs for facilities at the new high school in 2017.

*LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.*

MARCH 3, 2015

Board Vice President Ron Register and Board Member Eric Coble were absent.

### Public comments

Realtor school ratings: Martha Goble, director of Heights Community Congress (HCC), and Ralph Day, HCC volunteer, reported that HCC is currently researching a realtor practice, where some widely publicized real estate listings have begun to include color and number codes which rate the public school that is closest to each individual house in the listing. Criteria by which schools are rated are not stated, but ratings given to schools in the CH-UH district have been uniformly low. The ratings are created by an organization called Great Schools, which is connected to a California venture capital firm that promotes charter and online schools. HCC is concerned that such a practice could result in community resegregation and has requested information from Great Schools about financial gain associated with its provision of ratings. HCC is holding a panel discussion and forum on the topic the evening of April 24 at the Lee Road Library. The event is free and open to the public. HCC asked the district to provide a panel member and assist in communicating the event, and is also seeking partners in addressing the issue.

### Wiley construction work

The board approved additional electrical work at Wiley, which is necessary for Heights High's temporary relocation to Wiley. The work includes security camera relocation, wireless relocation and public address system adjustments. Bidding for kitchen equipment, fencing and landscaping is pending. Photos showing facilities work are on the district website.

### Testing concerns

Responding to a query from Board President Nancy Pepler, Superintendent Dixon stated that testing is overshadowing teaching and learning. She wants the district to streamline testing by focusing on high quality, appropriate assessments that inform teachers about students' current needs so they can adjust classroom teaching to meet those needs. A forum/work session on testing will take place in April. Pepler expressed board support for the concept.

*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 7.

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# Heights High class connects with Ebola workers in Africa

Cynthia Barnes

“You never know what will happen when you send a thank you note,” said Heights High English teacher Courtney White. In December, three of her classes sent thank you notes to Ebola medical workers in Africa, thanking the caregivers for their service and asking about their motivation to do the work.

White sent the letters to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and never expected to get a reply from busy medical crisis workers.

Then, on Feb. 9, said White, the most amazing thing happened. “We received heartfelt notes from the CDC Ebola Response Team in Sierra Leone—written on the back of a big Ebola incidence map.”

So far, 30 members of the CDC team have sent notes thanking the students for their encouragement, and a CDC representative told White that letters with more in-



Students in Courtney White’s English class (from left) Nataysha Brown, Maci Grice, Deonte Martin, Ta’ron Wright, Qiasia Price, Will Moreland and De’shon Knotts.

depth answers to student questions are coming soon.

“The students were so excited to read the notes from Africa,” said White. “It made the work of the medical team so real and connected us to our reading.”

The project began in the fall, when the spread of the Ebola virus was in the news. Students read articles about the disease and discussed the medical response in Africa and the U.S.

The thank you notes were the service project aspect of the lesson, and incorporated language arts skills connected to the course.

Student Nataysha Brown said, “I think that the Ebola medical workers in Africa are like soldiers,” and was thrilled to see that one of the replies answered her question about how the workers harness the courage to serve as Ebola caregivers. Addressing Brown’s question, Barb G. responded, “How do we have indomitable spirit to do this? It is really the people of Africa who should win an award

for that! The people who live here are poor financially but very rich in indomitable spirit!”

Deonte Martin was impressed that the team members had time to write to the class. “Just learning more about their day-to-day life is interesting,” he said, “and it made the lives of people so far away seem more real.”

Ta’Ron Wright identified with the caregivers’ desire to serve others. He is in the criminal justice program at Heights High and said, “It’s important to show our gratitude to people who are serving others.”

Cynthia Barnes is the public relations liaison in the Communications and Community Engagement Department at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

## Behind the scenes with Heights High’s head custodian

Joy Henderson

*A conversation with Dennis Dadich, head custodian, Cleveland Heights High School:*

**What we do:** There are two teams in our department—maintenance and cleaning. The maintenance staff includes three custodians, two laborers and one utility tradesman, who work in two shifts, maintaining and repairing equipment in the building. We operate and maintain the heating system with five boilers. We maintain and repair just about everything in the building: doors, windows, floors, walls, plumbing, furniture, electrical and the swimming pool. In the winter, snow removal is a big part of our job.

The cleaning crew includes 14 staff members who work in two shifts to keep our building safe and looking good. During lunch periods, two cleaners help students keep the cafeteria and social room looking good and, when not in the lunchroom, they clean the hallways and any section of the building that needs attention. The evening shift cleans every classroom, office and hallway.

**A few numbers:** The department is responsible for maintaining and cleaning 249 rooms in more than 400,000 square feet of floor space. We also maintain many heating



Heights High tradesman Greg Jakab repairs a classroom heating unit.

and cooling rooftop units and exhaust fans.

**Strength of the team:** Our six-member maintenance crew can fix almost anything. Together we have quite a bank of skills. When we get in a real jam, we call the tradesmen crew—they have even more specialized skills. Our cleaning crew is so important to student achievement. Considering that we have a very old building, they do a great job of making it look good.

**Thoughts on a new building:** I can’t wait to be in a new building! This building is old; we never know what will break. So much of our time is spent on emergency fixes. It will be nice to just focus on maintenance and not the emergency situations when something big breaks.

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

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# Taking the embarrassment out of using a hearing aid



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) estimates that 30 million Americans age 12 and older have some level of hearing loss in both ears. As age increases, so do the percentages of people with hearing loss: 33 percent of those age 60 and older, and 50 percent of those age 85 and older, have some degree of hearing loss.

Symptoms of hearing loss include having trouble hearing on the phone, not being able to focus on a single conversation in a noisy room, frequently misunderstanding what people are saying, and needing to turn up the volume to hear the television. Hearing loss often occurs gradually, making it hard to notice the difference from

one day to the next.

Among adults age 70 or older who could benefit from using a hearing aid, fewer than one in three has ever used them. The Hopkins Hearing Center at Johns Hopkins University speculates that older adults may feel embarrassed about not being able to understand conversations. They may be hesitant to wear bulky hearing devices because they don't want others to know they have hearing loss. They may even consider themselves to be "abnormal."

In truth, hearing loss is completely normal. It is a very common part of the aging process, just like getting gray hair. "Everyone with an active full life will experience hearing loss to some degree," said Glenn Harbold, Shaker Heights resident and managing partner of Zounds Hearing in Mayfield Heights (216-377-3250). "Normal sound exposure over time naturally breaks down the hair follicles in our ears, leading to hearing loss."

Zounds Hearing makes easier-to-use hearing aids at relatively low costs. Its devices help remove background noise and help to make sound clearer. It holds 57 patents for its hearing device designs. Said Harbold, "We make it easier for people to hear better."

Hearing aids today are smaller and less obtrusive than they were in the past. Their performance has also increased, they are easier to program and adjust, and some even have rechargeable batteries and remote control operation. Competition in the industry has also caused prices to go down, making hearing aids more affordable.

It is a good idea to get your hearing checked at least once a year, just as you would your eyesight, even if you are not experiencing hearing loss. This will give you a baseline by which to measure future test results. Then, you can make your decision based on fact, not supposition. Many places, including Zounds, offer hearing tests

at no cost, and no prescription is required.

Dr. John Kandare, Zounds audiologist and a native of Cleveland Heights, recently worked with a Cleveland Heights senior who had never worn a hearing aid before. She led an active lifestyle but was struggling to hear in certain environments. "She is doing great now, and is hearing much better in group settings," said Kandare.

Healthy hearing is an important part of healthy aging. Hearing loss can often lead to withdrawal, isolation and depression, adversely affecting a person's physical and mental health. Maintaining your hearing can help sustain an active, normal lifestyle.

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

**April 2:** Paul Marasco, staff scientist in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute's biomedical engineering department, will describe his work—funded in part by a \$2.5 million award from the U.S. Defense Department's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—to develop prosthetic limbs that feel and function like natural limbs, via technologies in sensory integration.

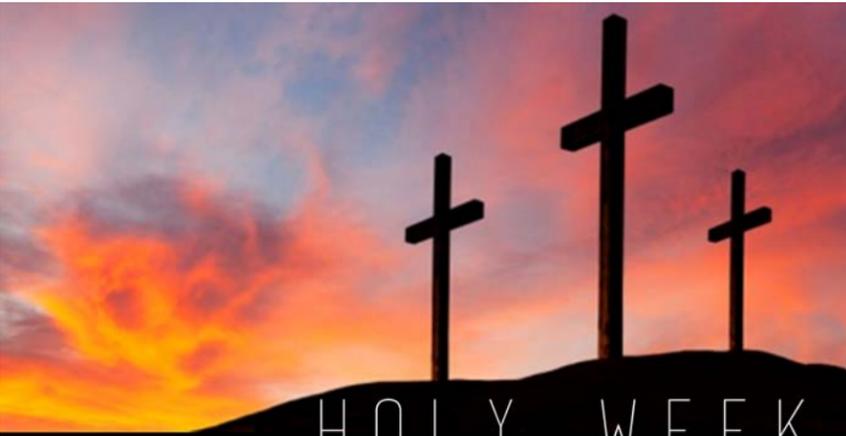
**April 9:** Chris Haff-Paluck, director of community programming for the Cleveland Institute of Music, will introduce six outstanding students, skilled on piano, violin and cello,

who will perform selections from Debussy, Beethoven, Rachmaninov and Mendelssohn.

**April 16:** Stephen Crowley, professor of politics at Oberlin College and chair of Russian and East European studies, will discuss "Russia, Ukraine and the West: Causes and Consequences of Conflict." He'll explore initial provocative events, motivation, and the best Western response.

**April 23:** Kelly Falcone-Hall, chief executive officer of Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), will describe its work to collect, preserve, and share items and information related to the history of Northeast Ohio. The oldest existing cultural institution in Cleveland, WRHS will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2017.

**April 30:** Laura Neill, executive director of Ohio Light Opera, will present glorious clips from the best of traditional operetta and musical theater, as she unveils the lineup for its 37th festival season this summer, June 13 to Aug. 8, at the College of Wooster.



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

**Palm Sunday, March 29**  
 Worship at 8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 6:30 p.m. Catalyst

**Holy Thursday, April 2**  
 12:00 p.m. Chapel service with Holy Communion  
 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service with Holy Communion

**Good Friday, April 3**      **Holy Saturday, April 4**  
 7:00 p.m. Service in the Great Hall      7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday, April 5**  
 Glorious Easter worship and Holy Communion at 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Dr. Charles D. Yoost, Senior Pastor, preaching *The Best News Ever!*  
 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Shaker Nature Center  
 6:30 p.m. Catalyst

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# Lee Road Art Gallery fills its schedule

Julia Murphy

Located in the west building of the Lee Road Library, the Lee Road Art Gallery is identifiable by its glass walls, track lighting and smooth cement floors. But that's not what customers notice when they walk in; they notice the art. The gallery has featured a new artist or group show every month for the past year and a half, and already has exhibitions planned through November of this year.

Kate Atherton's hand-drawn and digitally colored portraits showed whimsical vignettes of recognizable historical, literary and artistic figures. Reaching Heights had its first Exceptional Arts Exhibition here, featuring student artists with disabilities and learning differences. Kelly Tooman shared her photographic journey through France in a show called From Normandy to Paris.

"One of our goals is to provide resources for our communities to share



An exhibition at the Lee Road Art Gallery.

their stories and guide community conversation. The art gallery offers a unique way for this to happen," said Kim Denero-Ackroyd, the library system's deputy director.

This summer and fall, in addition to exhibitions by local artists and students, the library plans to try something different in the gallery. A group of library staff has taken inspiration from the Oak Park (Illinois) Public Library's Idea Box, a glass-walled room where they create a new

dynamic, participatory environment every month.

"We're planning an interactive, immersive installation for the month of July around the summer reading theme of Superheroes," explained

Sheryl Banks, marketing manager. "The goal is to create an environment where visitors can come, interact, and leave their own mark, maybe through a post-it wall or image log of some sort."

Another interactive installation is planned for October, to be inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, which will be the theme of a series of programs this fall.

For more information about the Lee Road Art Gallery, including how to apply to exhibit in the gallery, visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) or call 216-932-3600 ext. 1250.

*Julia Murphy is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.*

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



FEBRUARY 16, 2015  
All board members were present.

### Friday hours restored at Coventry Village Library

The board passed a resolution to restore Friday hours (9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) to the Coventry Village Library as of May 15. The passage of the library levy in November 2014 makes this possible. A full-time youth services associate position will be added to the library staff and almost \$300,000 has been invested in improvements to the building.

### Clayworks to continue at Coventry Village Library

The board approved a continuation of its license with Clayworks for use of part of the Coventry Village Library. Clayworks will remove its kiln from the boiler room and will vacate a storage room and the telephone room. Because of the reduction in space, the license fee will not increase. Clayworks will plan a display at the Lee Road Library in addition to its other community activities.

### Balanced scorecard

The Balanced Scorecard Measures of Success for 2014-15 focused on the 16th annual Poetry Slam, with 100 attendees; partnership with Church of the Saviour's Breath Respite program for special needs children; Noble Neighborhood Library's beginning readers storytime; and continued planning for renovations to the University Heights Library.

### Library spring newsletter available

Sheryl Banks, marketing manager, announced that the spring 2015 edition of the library's newsletter *Check Us Out* is in the mail to every household in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

### Friends activities

Louisa Oliver, president of Friends of the Heights Libraries Board, encouraged library board members to join Friends and to attend the Feb. 22 fundraising event at The Wine Spot. Friends is sponsoring a film at the International Film Festival, but the name of the film could not be released as of the date of the meeting.

### Countywide summer reading program

All public libraries in Cuyahoga County are meeting to plan, develop and evaluate a summer reading program that will reduce the loss of learning growth that most students experience over the summer. The program will focus on math, reading and exploration of cultural assets. A grant application will be made to United Way to cover evaluation planning. Common marketing materials will be shared.

### Highlights of the January public service report:

- The Art Study Group attended a docent-led tour at the Cleveland Museum of Art, looking at works involving warfare, including the Civil War, which was a theme of the library's winter quarter programming.
- In "Clevelanders in the Civil War," Marge Wilson of the Civil War Roundtable looked at famous and not-so-famous local citizens who participated in the "War of the Rebellion."
- Clayworks offered a free class for school-age children, Creating with Clay: Winter Wonderland.
- At University Heights Library, Valerie Vinson, outreach educator for the Seidman Cancer Center at University Hospitals, presented two one-hour programs on cancer prevention.
- "Big Chuck" Schodowsky opened the University Heights Library Senior Happenings speaker series for 2015. The Cleveland television personality spoke to 23 attendees about his life and career and showed clips from the "Big Chuck and Lil' John Show."
- Peggy Hull, youth services associate, visited Roxboro Middle School with prizes for students who could identify silhouettes of characters from children's fiction.
- Librarians Jessica Robinson and Lauren Saeger began a quarterly Family Fun Night program with games, arts and crafts.

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 7.

## Brennan's Colony

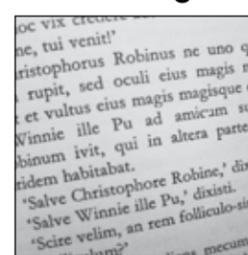
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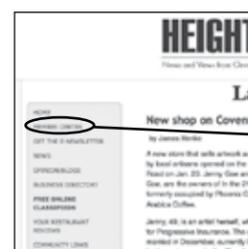
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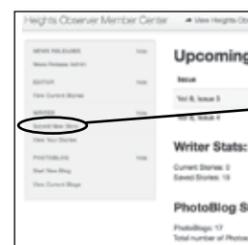
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4. **Reward yourself**; you're about to be published. We'll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.



# Heights Arts brings art, poetry and music together in six lively April events

Mary Ryan

Community arts events are flourishing at Heights Arts this April, with the presentation of a new Cleveland Heights poet laureate, three musical performances, and its popular exhibition talk, Ekphrastic: Artists Talk + Poets Respond.

On Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m., the community is invited to join an evening of conversation with Daniel Levin, associate professor of photography at Cuyahoga Community College and guest curator of Impermanence, on view at Heights Arts through April 18. Showcasing the works of 11 respected Cleveland photographers, Impermanence celebrates Cleveland's changing urban landscape through pairs of photographs showing the same view of a site at different historical times. Levin and exhibition photographers will discuss "rephotographic survey," the concept and process behind Impermanence, as well as the stories

behind the creation of their images.

In a twist on the standard curator's talk, Heights Arts also invites regional poets to respond to the works on view as part of the evening. Hear from incoming and outgoing Cleveland Heights Poet Laureates Meredith Holmes and Kathleen Cerveny, plus poets Bunny Breslin, Diane Kendig, Robert McDonough, Jill Sell and Catherine Wing, who will read original poems created in response to the photographs in the exhibit. A reception will be held prior to the talk, and all are invited to come early and enjoy refreshments while viewing the exhibition.

On Monday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., the City of Cleveland Heights and Heights Arts will welcome its seventh poet laureate, Meredith Holmes, and thank outgoing Poet Laureate Kathleen Cerveny, during a presentation at Cleveland Heights City Hall. Both poets will speak at the event, which is open to all.

In collaboration with The Music Settlement, area public

schools and private teachers, Heights Arts presents a master class performance in violin on Sunday, April 12, 10 a.m., in its gallery. Led by Amy Lee, violinist and associate concertmaster with the Cleveland Orchestra, the performance/class will feature violin students in grades 6-12. The public is invited to attend this free performance.

For fans of contemporary art music, Heights Arts will host a free performance by NO EXIT in the gallery on Friday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. NO EXIT members are Nick Underhill, piano/composer; Nick Diodore, cello; James Rhodes, viola; Cara Tweed, violin; Sean Gabriel, flute; Luke Rinderknecht, percussion; Timothy Beyer, artistic director/composer; James Praznik, associate director/composer; and Eric M. C. Gonzalez, assistant director.

On Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Heights Arts presents Kathleen Cerveny's farewell reading as outgoing poet laureate.

Accompanying her is Jeanne Marie Beaumont, Cerveny's mentor from the University of Southern Maine, Stonecoast Creative Writing Program.

On Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m., Amy Lee will lead a sextet of Cleveland Orchestra musicians in "Transfigured Bass," the third Close Encounters chamber music concert. Performed in a historic, renovated stable in Cleveland Heights's Herrick Mews, the concert will include "Transfigured Night," an early romantic work by Schönberg, and Dvořák's *G major String Quintet*, featuring the string bass. Sextet members are Lee and Isabel Trautwein, violins; Yu Jin and Aaron Mossburg, violas; Keith Robinson, cello; and Kevin Switalski, bass. Seating is limited and tickets are available in advance only, at Heights Arts gallery (2175 Lee Road, 216-371-3457) or online at [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org).

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization.

## Cain Park announces 2015 schedule

James Henke

The Beach Boys, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, Livingston Taylor and Richard Marx are among the artists who will be performing at Cain Park this summer. And, once again, the park will offer a variety of free events throughout the summer, and will also present the Cain Park Arts Festival the weekend of July 10.

This year's season will kick off on June 11, with the musical *Godspell*. This version is co-directed by Ian Wolfgang Hinz and Joanna May-Hunkins. It features such songs as "Day by Day," "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" and "Learn Your Lessons." The show will run through June 28 at the Alma Theater.

The summer concert series will also commence on June 11 with a performance by trumpeter Chris Botti in the Evans Amphitheater. His album *Impressions* won a Grammy Award for Best Pop Instrumental Album in 2013.

The following week, on June 18, Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin and the Jammin' Divas will perform in the Evans Amphitheater. The next night, two bands from the '60s—Herman's Hermits and Gary Lewis and the Playboys—will also perform in the amphitheater.

Other shows include the Preservation Hall Jazz Band on June 25, Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn on June 26, the Beach Boys on Aug. 1, Richard Marx and John Waite on Aug. 8 and Southside Johnny on Aug. 15.

In addition, the park will present Jazz in the Afternoon shows on June 14 and 21, July 26, and Aug. 2 and 9 at the Alma Theater. Those shows

are all free. On June 28, the 37th Annual Workmen's Circle Yiddish Concert will take place in the Evans Amphitheater. Admission to that event is also free. And the free Tuesday Chamber Music Series will take place on July 14, July 28, Aug. 4 and Aug. 11 at the Alma Theater. On Aug. 2, the park will present a free performance by the Singing Angels in the amphitheater.

Cleveland Heights residents will be able to purchase tickets for the 2015 season beginning on May 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Cain Park ticket office. Everybody else can start purchasing tickets the following weekend, on May 30. More information is available at [www.cainpark.com](http://www.cainpark.com).

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.

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# Meredith Holmes is CH's new poet laureate



Meredith Holmes

Mary Ryan

The City of Cleveland Heights and Heights Arts will welcome its seventh poet laureate, Meredith Holmes, and thank outgoing Poet Laureate Kathleen Cervený, in a special ceremony on Monday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Cleveland Heights City Hall. The community is invited to attend and hear both poets speak.

Holmes served for one year as the first Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate in 2005, and will serve her second one-year term, 2015–16. Her poems have been published in journals including, most recently, *Flyover Country Review*

and *Literary Mama*. Her poems have also appeared in several anthologies, including Garrison Keillor's *Good Poems for Bad Times*; the Kattywampus Press collection *While You Were Sleeping I Dreamt a Poem; Awake at the End*, published by Heights Arts and Bottom Dog Press; and the upcoming *How Higher Education Feels*, edited by Kathleen Quinlan. A book of Holmes' poems, titled *I'm Not From Here*, is due out in 2015.

"I have this sense of déjà vu, but I'm just as pleased to serve Cleveland Heights and Heights Arts as the seventh poet laureate this time as I was the first time," said Holmes. "I am looking forward to working on the wonderful Ekphrastic series established by Kathleen Cervený. I'm also excited to be working with a new director in a new gallery, but one thing remains the same—this city's commitment to the arts."

Initially established by Heights Arts with the approval of the City of Cleveland Heights in 2005, the position of Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate was created to celebrate poetry and bring it to the public life of the city and to all the community's

residents. Cleveland Heights is the first Ohio city to establish the office of poet laureate.

Kathleen Cervený served as the sixth poet laureate, 2013–15, creating the innovative community programs Poetweet and Ekphrastic. She is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art (B.F.A. 1969) and of the University of Southern Maine Stonecoast Creative Writing Program (M.F.A. 2014).

Her poems have appeared in the Southern New Hampshire University Journal *Amoskeag*, the e-journal *Shaking Like a Mountain*, and in journals published by Pudding House Press, among others. Most recently, a poem

of Cervený's was selected for inclusion in an anthology published by Future Cycle Press, *Poems for Malala Yousafzai*.

Since 1991 Cervený has been the director of arts initiatives for the Cleveland Foundation, the country's first community foundation. She is the 2014 recipient of the Robert P. Bergman Award from the Cleveland Arts Prize.

For more information about the City of Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate program, visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org) or call 216-371-3457.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization.

## Making miracles from Fascinating Rhythms

Jennifer Abelson

For more than a century, The Music Settlement has continued to grow its programs to anticipate and meet the needs of the Heights and Greater Cleveland communities.

You can help support The Music Settlement by attending its Fascinating Rhythms gala on May 2. Proceeds from the gala also will send promising student musicians to Boston, for five weeks over the summer.

Most of the students participating in the summer program are musicians in J@MS (Jazz @ The Music Settlement), a unique jazz program for young adults ages 12–18. Students in the J@MS program study in a half-day immersion program to achieve their musical goals.

The Music Settlement's partner in this jazz program is Berklee City Music Network, which has given more than \$110,000 in scholarships to students at The Music Settlement to enable them to attend the five-week, Boston-based summer program.

Curtis Warner, executive director of Berklee City Music, explained that this partnership is a natural one, built on mutual admiration: "The Music Settlement mirrors City Music core values: respect, excellence, access, diversity and innovation."

In fact, 27 Greater Cleveland J@MS students, from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, have received full \$5,000 scholarships to attend Berklee City Music Network's summer program. The Music Settlement also awards scholarships to help cover the cost of room and board. Many J@MS students apply for this prestigious program each year. Most of them cannot afford it without financial assistance.

Two Heights High students who recently attended the summer program are Simon Mastri and Kymeron Carter. Carter is now a sophomore attending Berklee on a full scholarship, and said, "I never would have had this opportunity to attend Berklee College of Music if it wasn't for Mr. Leegrand



Saxophonist Bill Pierce of the Berklee College of Music will headline The Music Settlement's gala on May 2.

[J@MS program director] telling me to fill out the Berklee City Music Summer Scholarship form."

Warner said, "The scholarships that Berklee and The Music Settlement can provide, especially to those who are possibly from an underserved community or from a challenging lifestyle, introduce these high schoolers not only to an early campus experience but also to another student that they may not have been able to meet. It can change their perspective about the world."

The Music Settlement's gala, Fascinating Rhythms, will be an eclectic musical evening. Attendees will feast on three sumptuous courses by Bruce Sternberg of Around Downtown Catering, and listen to headliner Bill Pierce, saxophonist and woodwind department chair at Berklee College of Music. A deejay will continue the music at the gala after-party, and guests will have the opportunity to dig deep and participate in the silent auction.

Above all, the gala is an opportunity to give, so that increasing numbers of student musicians will have a chance to reach and surpass their music goals, go to college, succeed in music, and live meaningful lives suffused with creative expression. Tickets are available online at [www.themusicsettlement.org/gala](http://www.themusicsettlement.org/gala).

Jennifer Abelson is a writer for *The Music Settlement*.

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Adam Kukuk,  
Director of Music

# Heights High has 'really changed'— right?



## SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

In a few weeks, I'll be standing on the stage of the Heights High auditorium. I appeared on that stage about 40 times while I was attending the school, in the late 1960s, usually performing music. This time I won't be performing; I'll be giving monetary awards to two graduating seniors who have excelled in music and the visual arts.

I have done this almost every year for the past decade, awarding the Friends of Cain Park Scholarship for Excellence in the Performing and Visual Arts to students who have not only excelled in their respective artistic areas, but have also decided to continue their studies of those fields in college, and are planning to use their skills and talents in their careers, often as a way to help others.

I've been a member of the Friends of Cain Park's board since the group's inception in 1991. I've served as the board's president for the past 20 years, having been elected to the position at the only meeting I've ever missed. (So let that be a lesson to you about why it's good to always attend your

organization's meetings.)

The connection between Cain Park and Heights High is strong: Cain Park was started, as a park and as an arts center, in 1934 by Dr. Dina Rees Evans, who was a teacher and drama director at the school from 1930 to 1958. Heights High's auditorium, the Dina Rees Evans Performing Arts Center, and Cain Park's main performance space, the Evans Amphitheater, were both named in her honor.

While it's true that appearing on that stage in my youth provided great training and rare opportunity, it's actually more gratifying to stand on it now, presenting awards and rewards to these students, who, obviously, represent hope for the future. In fact, the entire annual Senior Awards Night is always extremely gratifying, seeing the tremendous and numerous accomplishments, in so many diverse areas—academics, arts, community interest, and others—of a large number of graduating seniors.

Seeing this always makes me wish that all these people I hear from could be there with me—these Heights High alumni who have moved away, to anywhere from Solon and Beachwood to California and Arizona, who, when they hear that I still live in Cleveland Heights, never miss that opportunity to tell me how much the school has "changed."

I run into them at various events and I see them on Facebook groups related to Cleveland Heights and Heights High. They say those words, exactly: "The school has really changed." And they say, "When we went there, it was a really good school." They make other, similar comments. A lot of similar comments.

What they really would like to say, if they weren't such cowards, is: "I see that there is a very large African-American population at Heights High." That's what they mean when they say it's "changed." And that's why they assume that the school has gone downhill, academically. I look at their Facebook profiles and at what they have posted—a lot of racist material, some subtle, some not.

I try to tell them that the school hasn't really changed that much, though it may look a little different. I tell them that both of my kids went all the way through Heights (and not all that long ago), and that while they were Heights students, for eight consecutive years, I did volunteer work there in many areas. I tell them that my daughter-in-law teaches there; and that she and my son are both coaches of sports teams there. I tell them that I still attend football games and choir concerts there.

I tell them that when I first

started volunteering, it did seem a bit scary, but that I quickly realized it wasn't because I was in the midst of hundreds of black teenagers, but, rather, that I was, simply, in the midst of hundreds of any kind of teenagers. And then I further discovered that everything that goes on in the halls of Heights High is almost exactly the same as what went on when we were there. And that every kid I encountered was exceedingly polite to me (which was kind of disappointing to me, in a way—because I think it was, in part, due to their belief that I was really old).

But these people—who have not been inside the school since they went to the school and only know what they "know" from driving past it or from talking to similarly uninformed friends—don't hear what I'm saying; they only see what they're seeing. And, I guess, you can't change the way you were raised . . . if you don't really want to. Though attending Heights High's Senior Awards Night might provide a good start.

*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. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop-music history.*

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# Irwin Weinberger has an enduring love of music and art

James Henke

Irwin Weinberger has loved music and art for just about as long as he can remember. Weinberger, who is 60 years old and lives in University Heights, is a well-known Cleveland musician and artist. He plays several instruments—including guitar, ukulele, mandolin and banjo—and he performs as a solo musician and with the Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band. His artwork has been exhibited at numerous venues around Cleveland.

Weinberger grew up in Euclid. When he was eight years old, his father bought him a harmonica, which he learned how to play. The following year, he started playing clarinet, and when he was in middle school he learned how to play flute and saxophone. Then, in high school, he started playing guitar and singing. “I just kept exploring different instruments,” said Weinberger. “I learned how to play ukulele, banjo and other instruments.” He also played in some bands in high school. “We



Irwin Weinberger at his home in University Heights. Behind him are two of his recent paintings. One features Severance Hall, and the other features the Cleveland Museum of Art.

would do these long jam sessions,” he said. “We would take a song by, say, Traffic, and just keep it going on and on and on.”

After Weinberger graduated from high school, his sister gave him a book about the artist Vincent Van Gogh, *Lust for Life*, by Irving Stone.

“I was fascinated,” he said. “I went to the Cleveland Museum of Art to see some of his work.” Then, one of his neighbors died, and the neighbor’s widow gave Weinberger some of her late husband’s paints and brushes. “I started painting, and I just kept it going after that,” Weinberger said.

He attended several colleges before graduating from Cleveland State University with a degree in art education. He went on to become an art teacher and, most recently, taught at a middle school in the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District. He retired last year.

Weinberger continues to paint, and last year his artwork was exhibited at Loganberry Books on Larchmere Boulevard, at St. Paul’s Church in Cleveland Heights and at the Beachwood Community Center.

According to Weinberger, his work is “very impressionistic. I emulate the artists from the early 1900s.”

Music also remains a big part of Weinberger’s life. The Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band was formed in 1988 and has released four CDs. The five-piece band is devoted to the renewal of Jewish music, playing klezmer music mixed with bits of comedy. “We do Jewish comedy, as created by Mickey Katz,” Weinberger said. Katz was a Cleveland native who was both a musician and a comedian. Yiddishe Cup will be playing at Cain Park this summer, on June 28.

Weinberger has also released a solo CD, *Portraits*. The CD came out in 2002, and Weinberger played all of the instruments and sang all of the vocals. “It contains songs about people who were in my life at that time,” he said.

On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, Weinberger leads the Old-Time Picking Sessions at Serendipity on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. Numerous musicians gather there for these events and play a variety of old-time music. “I really like a lot of different styles of music,” Weinberger said. “I like Irish music, klezmer, old-time Appalachian, jazz standards, the Beatles, Bob Dylan and on and on.”

He and another area musician, Larry Anderson, are hoping to put together a series of Bob Dylan nights at Serendipity, where singers and musicians could come and play Dylan’s songs.

Weinberger has also been playing at nursing homes, senior-citizen homes and at places that take care of adults with intellectual disabilities.

Meanwhile, Weinberger, who is married and is the father of three children, loves living in the Heights. “I love being close to the art museum and the other cultural institutions, and I love the diversity of the community,” he said. “And I am also very happy to be doing what I love to do and to live in a community that appreciates it.”

*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.*

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**Panel Discussion with the artists:** Friday, April 10, 12:15pm

Presented by Cleveland Institute of Art, in collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

**The Artists:** Above, from left, Lauren Yeager, Christi Birchfield, Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson, Mimi Kato, and Eva Kwong

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# Cedar Fairmount Business District is ready for spring

Kaye Lowe

In Cleveland Heights's Cedar Fairmount Business District, a new business has opened, and other businesses have added staff, expanded menus, and made other enhancements during the first part of 2015.

**BowTie Medical Clinic** has opened its doors at 12429 Cedar Road, Suite 25 (877-283-8863, [www.bowtiemedical.com](http://www.bowtiemedical.com)). Its board-certified medical practitioners offer same-day appointments, and a walk-in clinic that is open Monday through Friday, 4-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by appointment.

This is the second clinic started by Dr. Firouz Daneshgari, principal founder, and Rob Winings and Sam Thomas, co-founders (the first is located in Broadway Heights), and they say their goal is to create a new model in health care, offering membership-based health services.

**Reflections Interior Design** (12423 Cedar Road, 216-229-1000, [www.reflectionsinteriordesign.net](http://www.reflectionsinteriordesign.net)) began 2015 with a revamped showroom. Owner Marissa Matiyasic, who purchased the business six years ago, has replaced the street-level retail space with a clean, modern workspace to accommodate her business's growth, and triple its space.

The new work area features Terrazzo floors that are original to the 1920s building, and library ladders that access the floor-to-ceiling books of samples. George Nelson Bubble lamps hang from the exposed high ceiling.

Matiyasic said of the new space, "We look forward to better serving our clients in the newly remodeled studio in 2015. This fresh start

and new space is exciting for our designers and clients alike."

**The Fairmount** (2448 Fairmount Blvd., 216-229-9463, [www.thefairmount.net](http://www.thefairmount.net)) has nearly completed improvements and upgrades to its interior. Owner Jake Orosz has revised and expanded the drink and food menus, and added more taps to accommodate craft beers on draft.

The cozy, welcoming interior features a large bar, lounge seating, and the warmth of a fireplace with comfortable couch seating. Art by local artists is displayed throughout, in a series of shows that change monthly. In warm weather, the Fairmount's garden offers outdoor seating.

At the **Mad Greek Restaurant** (2466 Fairmount Blvd., 216-707-9999, [www.madgreekcleveland.com](http://www.madgreekcleveland.com)), Chef Edward West has joined the team, and is introducing some leaner fare with Greek influences. He and owner Chris Chopra have revamped the menu, which features 18 entrees as well as a variety of appetizers and sandwiches. The international menu features Indian-style samosas and pakoras, Middle Eastern hummus and baba ghannouj, and a variety of curries, including Kerala fish stew and saag paneer.

Edwards worked most recently at Touch Supper Club in Cleveland, and previously at Lockkeepers, Moxie, and at the acclaimed Inn at Little Washington in Washington, Va.

For more information about Cedar Fairmount businesses and events, visit [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org), or friend the district on Facebook.

*Kaye Lowe is executive director of the Cedar Fairmount SID.*

## Cedar Fairmount's monthly Second Fridays start April 10

Kaye Lowe

Friday evening shopping used to be a tradition in many towns. It was a night to relax, shop and dine out after a busy work week. Cedar Fairmount merchants have decided to restart the tradition by making the second Friday of each month special, beginning April 10.

The district's merchants plan to extend their hours to remain open until 8 p.m. or later, and offer refreshments, entertainment or special saving in the stores, and the district's restaurants plan to feature specials, events and other incentives.

The goal for each month's Cedar Fairmount Second Friday is for the district's businesses to offer unique opportunities and festivities for visitors.



As of press time, the April 10 events were still in the planning stages. For updates, visit Cedar Fairmount's website at [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org) or the Cedar Fairmount Facebook page, to discover all that Cedar Fairmount has to offer, as it kicks off a new tradition.

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April 16 is **National Healthcare Decisions Day**. You may have never heard of it, but it's just as important as the tax deadline that comes the day before. It's a day devoted to educating and empowering you to make your healthcare choices known should you become unable to speak for yourself. By making these choices now, you're giving your loved ones the gift of peace of mind.

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# At home in the Heights with Tony and Kathy Skettle

Nicole Tugeau

The Heights is full of great people—they knit us together, make us feel good, and serve our community. They are trustworthy, generous, and a positive reflection of this place we call home.

Tony and Kathy Skettle are two of these people.

They moved to Bushnell Road in University Heights in the spring of 1978. They raised four children—Nicole, Karl, Genevieve and Timothy—who grew up going to church at Gesu, playing outside until the streetlights came on, and lifeguarding at Purvis Park Pool. All graduated from Cleveland Heights High School and three earned degrees from Ohio University. And three are now homeowners in Cleveland Heights.

Asked what they liked most about raising a family on Bushnell Road, Tony cited the proximity to schools, stores, library, recreation center and church.

Kathy praised the neighbors, and said, “We’ve always been blessed with the friendliest and most-caring neighbors.”

Bushnell Road is also home to the family business, Skettle Electric Inc. Skettle Electric is an electrical contracting company that is well regarded among residents, business owners and building departments in the Heights and beyond. Tony and son Karl are both licensed electricians. Kathy is at the helm of operations



Tony and Kathy Skettle with their children and grandchildren.

and does the books. Having grown up in the family business, any one of the Skettle children can answer the phone and knows what to say and do. Many of the business’s customers are like family. So are Tony and Kathy’s employees who, in good weather, are invited to stick around after a day’s work to enjoy a beer.

Tony Skettle grew up the second oldest of six children in a hard-working Slovenian, German and Irish family in Lakewood. His dad was a tool and die maker. After high school, Tony attended vocational school to become an electrician, and took a job working for the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company in overhead and transmission lines. Scaling towers in steel-toe boots proved Tony’s comfort level with

higher altitudes. He is a licensed pilot with a recent enthusiasm for refurbishing and building ultralight aircraft.

Kathy Skettle, née Hartman, is originally from Garfield Heights. She was a lifeguard, like her children, and the oldest of nine children in a predominantly German and Bohemian family. Her grandparents lived with her growing up. As tailors, they influenced Kathy’s choice of major in home economics from Kent State University. Over the years, Kathy has made dozens of dresses and veils for weddings, communions, proms and graduations. As a homemaker, she’s delighted her family with homemade furnishings and a passion for cooking and gardening. Kathy chronicles her gardens, weather events, and

life’s moments in between, in handwritten journals.

Tony and Kathy recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. This year also marks another impressive milestone—30 years in business for Skettle Electric.

What’s the secret to 30 years in business? “My great business partner, Kathy,” Tony said.

“Being a community-oriented business is the key to our success,” said Kathy.

Tony and Kathy enjoy dining out in the neighborhood, supporting local businesses, taking road trips, and spending time with their children, grandchildren and extended family. There is always an event, a game, or a good cause calling their names. Five of their six grandchildren are school age, and currently attend Cleveland Heights High School, Roxboro Elementary School and St. Paul’s Cooperative Preschool.

As the weather warms and the ground softens, Tony and Kathy will be enjoying their family, employees and good neighbors on Bushnell Road—and breaking ground for this year’s garden.

*Nicole Tugeau is the Skettle’s eldest daughter. She’s lived her whole life hearing friends and strangers remark, “I love your parents!” She loves them, too. Tugeau lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband and three children. Read more about Skettle Electric’s 30 years in business at [www.skettleelectric.com](http://www.skettleelectric.com).*



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