Forest Hill is a ‘sanctuary’ church

Deonna Brewer Fischer

Cleveland Heights was in the national spotlight on Sept. 12 when Forest Hill Church Presbyterian held a press conference announcing that it was granting sanctuary to Leonor Garcia, a single mother of four from Akron. The church was among a dozen religious institutions across the United States that are providing sanctuary to undocumented immigrants, and is the first in Northeast Ohio.

“My hope is to encourage more churches to declare themselves sanctuary and open their doors in hospitality to people who are in need,” said Forest Hill Church Pastor John Lenz.

Garcia came to this country as a teenager. “She was a homeowner, had a job, had absolutely no criminal record and had been checking in with immigration officials for years,” said Lenz. Then, when she checked in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in August, for a routine meeting, she was given an ankle monitor and told she would be deported on Sept. 14.

Lenz said Garcia has been working with a lawyer toward the goal that her “immigration status will be resolved and that she will be free to leave here while that application is being processed. That would be a great outcome and best of the short term.” For much of this year, Forest Hill Church had been contemplating its potential role in a national movement.

Klein/Mooney family mourns daughter

Krisay Dietrich Gallagher

Kayleigh Mooney could light up a whole room. "She was such a dynamo," said her father, Kevin. "She has a big, big personality, almost too big for this world."

He switches back and forth between present and past tense when discussing his 15-year-old daughter, who died on Aug. 17. While her physical self is gone, her presence is very much alive for those who loved her, including her father, her mother, Jessica Klein, and her 12-year-old brother, Nathaniel.

“I make it through each day by walking in her light,” said Kevin. “It’s the only thing that sustains me.”

Jessica described her daughter as gentle but super smart. "She was such a deep thinker. And really, really funny."

"Parenting her was an amazing experience," said Kevin. "She was so easy to love. Kayleigh's friends feel the same way. Luisa Soreo, a sophomore at Heights High, met Kayleigh in seventh-grade at Roxboro. "I was the new girl, and Kayleigh was surrounded by friends she’d had since kindergarten. But she took me in and was my first real friend. We bonded and could talk about anything."

The two were inseparable during the summer of 2015, on the cusp between childhood and adolescence. "We could be silly and have dance contended on page 2"

Noble Neighbors to host two candidate forums

Brenda H. May

Noble Neighbors will host two candidate forums for the upcoming local elections.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, Cleveland Heights City Council candidates will have an opportunity to offer their perspectives on the Noble neighborhood and other topics.

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education candidates and Cleveland Heights Municipal Judge candidates will have an opportunity to address the community.

Both candidate forums will be held at Noble Road Presbyterian Church, 2730 Noble Road, at 7 p.m.

Parking is available at the church’s lot, across Noble Road at Navahoe Road. A barrier-free entry is located on the Kirkwood Road side of the building, with a chauffer to the main floor meeting space.

In advance of the forums, Noble Neighbors accepted questions for the candidates, grouped them by theme and submitted them to each candidate two weeks prior to the respective event. Priority was given to questions that pertained specifically to Noble neighborhood concerns.

Audience members will be invited to speak informally with the candidates following the formal candidate presentations. The forums are open to everyone, regardless of neighborhood residence.

Brenda H. May is one of the Noble Neighbors leaders. Check out the group’s story at www.nobleneighbors.com.
The Heights Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be 250 words or less, along with the writer’s name, phone number and e-mail address. To www.heightsobserver.org/submit/letter. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or content. The views expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Heights Observer, its publisher and staff, or FutureHeights.

Letters Policy

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Flags stolen from Forest Hill Church

John Lentz

Since February, two flags have flown on the steps of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian, at the intersection of Monticello and Lee boulevards: the “rainbow” flag which celebrates LGBTQ persons, and the green, black and red flag known as the “International African Flag” or the “African-American” flag.

Four times since February, the African-American flag has been stolen. Perhaps the flag was taken by a white supremacist. Perhaps some young person, who thought it was a good-looking flag and wanted it for a dorm room or apartment, took it. Or perhaps someone who believed that these two flags should not be in the same space removed it.

The congregation decided that flying the LGBTQ and African-American flags were signs of solidarity with populations that have historically been excluded or separated from the church body. LGBTQ persons have not been welcomed in churches, and only recently have LGBTQ persons been allowed to serve as elder, deacon or pastor in our denomination. As is well known, there are many churches where LGBTQ individuals are still not welcome.

While there is a long tradition of Christianity in the African-American community, what we call the “Black Church” arose from slave communities and because whites refused to worship with black Christians. The CME, AME, and Pentecostal denominations formed because the Methodist church and the larger Pentecostal movement excluded black members. Our own denomination (PCUSA) also had black-only congregations because of segregationist attitudes among white Presbyterians.

As a faith community in the Heights, Forest Hill Church seeks to welcome all persons. Sometimes that means we have to signal intentionally what we believe, whom we welcome, where we stand, and with whom we stand. People who drive by the church and see our flags know what we stand for.

We don’t expect everyone to have the same perspective on this matter. But if the person who is removing the flag is reading this, you have the right to your deeply held conviction, but you have no right to steal a sign of our deepest faith conviction. We will continue to fly our flags and welcome everyone, particularly those with whom we disagree.

Rev. John C. Lentz Jr. is the pastor of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian.

What matters to you in our council members?

Diane Hallum

Our homes are our sanctuary from the world. But our contentment there can be hard fought.

We’re busy, consumed with thoughts about jobs, kids, repairs, bills and doctors’ visits. Pricking that contentment are outside issues as well. Streets with damaged trees; sinking sewer grates; broken curbs; cracked, crumbling surfaces; and empty storefronts and homes. But your calls to [Cleveland Heights] City Hall go nowhere. Council members don’t respond to your calls or emails.

And now, all four of those council members are running for re-election this November.

That explains why they suddenly appear at your block parties, group meetings, churches and street fairs. They smile, listen, nod in agreement and understanding, discuss great visions and plans, and are sooooo nice!

But once elected or appointed, however, they disappear. You can see them bi-monthly in recordings of council meetings on YouTube where, bizarrely, all seven members are in total agreement—on everything! No discussions, no debates, no details about legislation or resolutions that pass every time!

Speak to them at these events and you find they either brush you off or never fulfill their promise of getting back to you.

Pre-election, they also describe great visions for the city. We have already been through numerous Visioning, Strategic, or Master Steering commissions that produce plans that promise us everything! Yet, a few years later, we’re back to where we started: no responsiveness from City Hall; vacant houses, commercial and retail spaces; decreasing green space; increasing taxes; mismanagement of our utilities; or a lengthy multi-million-dollar reconstruction of Lee Road that didn’t change anything of substance, but put some stores out of business.

Why do these people want to be on city council?

Just what are their backgrounds, work histories and personal life experiences that makes them understand what you or I go through every day?

And, how will they use their experiences to truly make a difference in the city’s financial state, its operations, its communications, and its openness and transparency?

What legislation did they write or support? What legislation are they working on that will truly make a change?

At those “nice” council meetings, they prattle about Breast-Cancer Awareness month, or African-American month, or Bicycling month, or who is performing at Cain Park. And they are sooo nice.

But is that all that matters to you?

Diane Hallum is an activist and director of Citizens Leadership who believes change in the city starts with citizens leading their own change.

Overwhelmed by Medicare options? I Can Help!

Kathleen G Carvin
Licensed Insurance Agent
HealthMarkets Insurance Agency

We’re honored to serve this community for 25 years. My staff and I look forward to many more with you. Thank you for your continued support and business.

Cupcake decorating for Halloween!

Sunday, October 22, 12-4pm
Create your own masterpiece during the Cedar Fairmount Fall Festival!
One cupcake $3, $2/5

South African Journeys

Join us and see South Africa like an insider and honored guest.
Tour guides & hosts, Jan & Gus Kious clevelandheights.owned

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State Farm
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We’re honored to serve this community for 25 years. My staff and I look forward to many more with you. Thank you for your continued support and business.

Get to a better State. Get State Farm. CALL ME TODAY.

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The most important election?

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

Proportionally, our votes count most in municipal elections, yet that’s exactly when Americans are least likely to cast a ballot. For a project “Who Votes for Mayor?” Portland State University researchers analyzed 23 million voting records to understand participation in the most recent local elections in 50 U.S. cities. Among their key findings:

• When municipal elections are held in even-numbered years, and especially when they coincide with presidential contests, voter participation is much higher than in off-year elections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election</th>
<th>Cleveland Heights</th>
<th>University Heights</th>
<th>Countywide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 (Presidential)</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 (Municipal)</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 (Midterm)</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 (Municipal)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 (Presidential)</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 (Municipal)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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• In 10 of America’s 30 largest cities, turnout in municipal elections was less than 15 percent.

• Voters 65 and older are 15 times more likely to cast a local ballot than those between the ages of 18 and 34. We found the “Who Votes for Mayor?” data both fascinating and concerning, but the study did not include any Cuyahoga County communities, so we decided to take a look at local voting statistics.

Starting with Cleveland Heights and University Heights precinct level information posted online by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE), we compared the number of ballots cast to the number of registered voters, and then calculated voter turnout in each city for six elections: the presidential elections of 2012 and 2016, the midterm election of 2014, and the municipal elections of 2011, 2013 and 2015.

We are not statisticians, nor did the BOE provide the kind of detailed numbers that the Portland State University researchers were able to obtain for their study, but it’s clear that even in Cuyahoga County, where voter turnout tends to be higher than in many areas of the country, participation in off-year local elections is much lower than in presidential election years.

Our votes have much greater impact locally than in state or national contests, and the results of local elections—whether for municipal judges, school board members, city council members, or mayor—directly affect the quality of life in our communities.

As “Who Votes for Mayor?” notes, “Local elections are critically important. Every day over half a million local elected officials are making important and influential decisions about core services like police and fire, transportation, housing, and drinking water.” Yet voter turnout, especially in odd-year municipal elections, continues to decline, meaning that fewer and fewer—and older and older—voters have an outsized influence on matters of great civic importance. This situation tends to reinforce the power of incumbency and stifle the vitality of representative government at the local level.

As we have discussed before, Cleveland Heights is embarking on a Charter Review process and, among many possible changes, may consider:

• Changing the executive from a city manager to an elected mayor.

• Changing city council to a ward system, or a “mixed” council with only some members elected at-large.

City charters stipulate the timing of municipal elections, a matter we certainly would like to see the Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission consider. To change municipal election years in University Heights, of course, require a charter change in that city as well.

According to a March 2016 study by Rice University’s Center for Local Elections in American Politics (LEAP), California cities that aligned their mayoral elections with regular midterms (and especially those in presidential election years) saw dramatically increased voter turnout. Baltimore and Los Angeles recently changed their election dates to coincide with presidential elections.

When more of our citizens actually vote in local contests, they are more likely to take an interest in the workings of city government and demand accountability from local elected officials.

Like any other proposed change to a city’s charter, a measure changing the timing of local elections would have to go before the voters, in an off-year, odd-year election . . . like the one next month.

Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, who has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
Let’s translate outrage to action

THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaezer

Where is the outrage?

This is the question William Phillis, Ohio’s guardian of public education, poses at the end of most of his blog posts.

Phillis is the standard-bearer for fairness in school funding. In 1992 he left his post as Ohio’s assistant superintendent of public instruction to lead the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding. This alliance of school districts filed suit against the State of Ohio for its failure to meet its constitutional obligation to support public education. In 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in the DeRolph case, finding that the legislature failed to provide for a “thorough and efficient” system of common schools.

The state legislature has never rectified the problem. In fact, it expects local school districts to pay most of the cost. This can create significant hardship for a local school district that receives limited state funds or has a large number of charter school or voucher users.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools have both problems. This year the legislature guarantees each Ohio charter school student $6,000, and voucher funding per student ranges from $4,900 to $27,000. The CH-UH schools receive about $2,000 in basic state aid per student. The district receives that level of funding for all of the students who live in the district and attend the public schools, as well as for the 400 students who attend charter schools and the 650 students who use a voucher to attend a private school.

Unfortunately, the $2,000 in state aid only covers about 30 percent of the tuition promised to a charter school. The other 70 percent comes out of the money that was generated by the public school students. There is a similar shortfall for voucher costs.

In effect, public school students are subsidizing private education for their neighbors. This undermines the capacity of local school districts to provide a quality education. Districts can raise local taxes or cut programs. Privatization perpetuates the equity and adequacy problem.

Sometimes an issue really has to be felt and understood in local terms to catch our attention. Recent data on the cost of privatization to my school district—the CH-UH schools—has moved my concern for privatization from outrage to visceral fear! I'm worried for the future of my school district and community if the legislature does not stop this attack on public education.

Here are the numbers that terrify me. In 2016, the Heights community passed a 5.5-mil property tax increase that will generate about $4.8 million a year for our schools. These precious dollars will not go very far given the cost the district must shoulder for privatization. Last year it transferred about that much—$5.7 million—to private-school operators. This year privatization will cost the district $7.2 million. Remember that 70 percent of that money was supposed to go to the public schools.

Public school students will be out more than $4.9 million this year, and what about next year?

If the bill for privatization keeps going up at this rate, there is no way the community will be able to make up for the lost state funds. Privatization is inefficient, destructive, punitive and inconsistent with a thorough and efficient system of public schools. It’s not sustainable. It’s a misplaced priority that makes the funding system even less equitable and less adequate. It is a real threat to public education and sacrifices the common good.

Public funds for education are scarce. Ohio has underfunded schools for years and, after decades of tax cutting at the state level, public funds for meeting all of the needs of our state are scarce. If lawmakers want all children to have a quality education, they need to invest in the public system, which guarantees access to all.

Citizen action is often the only line of defense when it comes to turning back a damaging policy. We need to face the reality that precious public funds are being diverted from their public purposes, and the losses are significant.

Let our outrage be a call to action!

Susie Kaezer is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and former director of Teaching Heights. She serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.
AFT president visits CH-UH schools

It is not everyday that I get a chance to host the president of a 1.7 million-member organization who is interested in our schools and our community. On Sept. 6, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the teachers’ union affiliate of the AFL-CIO, spent the day in the CH-UH school district.

We started our visit at Boulevard Elementary School. There were nine adults walking around the building trying not to be disruptive. Keep in mind that Boulevard is an open building: you can see over cabinets into classrooms, and there are no doors or walls.

One of the featured highlights of Weingarten’s visit is the union’s partnership with First Book, a nonprofit organization that provides books, school supplies and hygiene products to children.

Our first stop at Boulevard was Kristy Minillo’s fifth-grade classroom, to donate 50 books for her classroom library. The class seemed pretty busy and completely unfazed by the nine adults in their presence.

We moved on to two other classrooms, where again, the students and teachers were completely engrossed in their lessons, and ignored the entrance of descending upon them. There were high quality interactions going on and students were doing exactly what they were supposed to be doing.

When we returned to Minillo’s room, Weingarten spoke to the students about reading and how important it is, and answered their questions. The fifth-graders were polite and appreciative of their newly enhanced classroom library.

We moved down to the primary part of the building, where things were a little different. When we entered Tina Reynolds’ kindergarten class, the students were very curious about all the adults who had entered their classroom. Reynolds led them in a “good morning” greeting to the visitors. But because Principal Michael Jenkins was with us, the students automatically ignored the other eight adults and added “Doctor J” to their salutation. Weingarten talked quietly with different groups of kindergartners, and ended by sitting on the floor to read books with a small group of students.

Amazing things are happening at Boulevard—teaching and learning with highly skilled teachers and bright and engaged students. Students are learning, but, as in almost any school, there are some who have some catching up to do. If a student does not master the material established by the state guidelines by some specific moment in time—i.e., when the mandated tests are given—the school, teacher and community get slammed with a low grade on the state report card.

Weingarten was frustrated by the dichotomy between what we witnessed in the school and its state rating, and how this disparagement must affect our whole community. If a student enters kindergarten and does not know his colors but learns much of what is expected of kindergartners by the end of the year, it is a minor miracle. Our teachers perform these types of wonders with students every day, but somehow these successes do not count on the state reporting.

Our visit to the high school was also amazing. School social workers were presented with a vast array of items from First Book for a care closet. Two of our impressive high school seniors guided Weingarten through the building to visit a few classes and talk with students and teachers. Again, the students and staff were gracious and accommodating. It was obvious that students enjoy being in this newly renovated space and that great education is taking place.

Weingarten ended her tour by asking her student guides to stay in touch, especially if they attend a college near her, in Washington, D.C.

By showing off our schools I realized how unfortunate it is that some families make choices about our schools without seeing firsthand what is really happening in them. For anyone with school-age children considering sending their children outside our CH-UH schools, I encourage them to arrange a visit by calling the school. The principal or another staff member will happily show them around. Families should find out what matters most to them and their children outside our CH-UH schools, and not count on the state reporting.

“AFT” is an acronym for American Federation of Teachers. Randi Weingarten is president of the AFT, which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Randi Weingarten was frustrated by the dichotomy between what we witnessed in the school and its state rating, and how this disparagement must affect our whole community.

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Ari Klein is a lifelong community member, math teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, and president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union.
University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld and Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Pamela Cameron, Philip Ertel, John Rach, Michelle Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Also present were Amy Hamilton, sitting in for Law Director Luke McCollivate, William Sheehan, finance director, and Kelly Thomas, clerk of council. The meeting was held from 7:02 to 11:04 p.m.

Public comments
John Carroll University students: A Warrensville Center Road resident said rowdy students are keeping her up at night. Councilman Ertel encouraged the resident to continue to call the police, and Mayor Infeld said the city plans to hire an additional community policing officer.

In-home wig business: The owner of a wig shop on South Green Road said an in-home wig business, which has been granted a one-year special permit, is affecting her profits and livelihood. Mayor Infeld said the boutique owner’s concerns will be addressed when the permit is up for renewal.

Firefighters’ union: Keith Kamer, the union representative for IFIF Firefighters 974, expressed disappointment that the union’s grievances, aired during public comments earlier this year, have not been addressed by the mayor or Councilman Ertel. Ertel, who chairs the safety committee, said the law director advised council not to communicate with the union because it is in contract negotiations with the union.

Heights High Pool
The mayor reported that Heights High has a new swimming pool, and the city of Cleveland Heights is offering swim classes and open swim to the Heights community. Look for more information in the next Heights Newsletter.

Sidewalk repair
The mayor also reported that the sidewalk and curbs at the intersection of Cedar and Taylor roads will be replaced and tightened over the next two weeks.

Home demolition application
Council tabled a motion to approve an application to demolish a home at 4174 Hadleigh Road until Law Director Luke McCollivate weighed in.

Firehouse renovations
Council tabled a motion to approve the transfer of $22,000 for firehouse renovations from the capital improvement fund to the general fund, saying that the mayor exceeded her $15,000 spending authority. Council asked the mayor to itemize the costs involved.

Agenda items
Council presented an ordinance on first reading establishing a regularly scheduled monthly planning commission meeting. The mayor would have the ability to cancel the meeting if there were no business to discuss.

Library reopens in October
The University Heights Library, scheduled to reopen in late August, is now scheduled to open in early October.

Swensons breaks ground
Swensons, which will begin breaking ground at Cedar and South Green roads next week, is expected to open by the end of December.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers’ written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlane Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to 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 redistrubution of these reports.
Watch 'em thrive at Hanna Perkins School

Kindergarten • Preschool • Toddler

Our focus on emotional intelligence helps children recognize and manage their feelings, for success in school and life.

• Autism Spectrum Disorders dedicated classroom
• Parenting support
• Child & adolescent therapeutic services

Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development
Peace Lutheran Church set to officially begin

Don King

On Sunday, Oct. 29, Lutherans, Roman Catholics and other Christians around the globe will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. On the Eve of All Saints’ Day in 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Concurrent with the invention of the printing press, this new movement swiftly spread throughout northern and western Europe, leading to other protestant reformation throughout the church catholic. Much healing has occurred through the centuries, and since the Second Vatican Council of the early 1960s, which ushered in the start of the modern ecumenical movement, Lutherans and Roman Catholics have come to realize their oneness in faith.

Here in Cleveland Heights, Lutherans and other Christians will come together to celebrate the newest Lutheran congregation in the North-eastern Ohio Synod: Peace Lutheran Church, at 3740 Mayfield Road. The congregation of Peace is the result of a merger between the former Hope Lutheran Church, at 3740 Mayfield Road. The eastern Ohio Synod: Peace Lutheran congregation in the North-Lutherans and other Christians will here in Cleveland Heights, Lutheran and Roman Catholics have come to realize their oneness in faith.

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The Reverend Don King is co-pastor of Peace Lutheran Church on Mayfield Road and an active participant in the Heights interfaith community. He has served in local congregations since 1999 and has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1985.

Members of Peace Lutheran Church gather around its temporary new sign.

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Octavofest programs return to the Heights

Louis Adrean and Laura Martin

Octavofest: Celebrating the Book and Paper Arts is back this fall. Now in its ninth year, this annual festival, which grew out of programs organized at Heights Libraries by librarian and Heights resident Carole Wallencheck, continues to expand.

This year’s program began in September and spills over into November. On its calendar are several events based in the Heights and an extensive program of activities for all ages, from lectures to workshops, and exhibitions to museum tours.

Internationally known book artist Emily Martin will be this year's special guest, appearing at several venues during the last week of October.

Heights Libraries continues to be a proud participant in Octavofest. This year the Lee Road branch will feature a presentation by Keith Allen, author of the pop-up children's book What a Meat! Allen, a designer-artist at American Greetings, will speak about his work as a paper engineer and book artist.

Children’s literature and moveable books are a theme for many events in this year’s Octavofest.

Appletree Books, sponsor of several programs, will exhibit original work by Heights book artist Gene Epstein, who will design the store’s window display for Octavofest. She will also present a workshop on altering books later in the month. A program by book and paper conservator—and Heights resident—Karen Esper, at which attendees can have damaged books assessed for conservation, is also planned. Appletree will also host a program by Ben Sapp, director of the Marza Museum in Findlay. He will discuss the history of this Ohio museum of children’s book illustrators, and talk about the importance and history of children’s literature. Sapp will also be the keynote speaker for the annual conference of the Literacy Cooperative, an organization that involves several Heights schools.

Heights residents who are members of Art Books Cleveland, a book arts organization, will have work on view in exhibitions at such venues as Notre Dame College, the Morgan Conservatory, and the lobby of the Cleveland State University Galleries. (Both the Morgan Conservatory and Art Books Cleveland are celebrating their 10th anniversaries in 2017, and several Heights residents are longtime members of both.)

Octavofest events take place throughout Northeast Ohio, and its sponsors and partners include universities, school districts, bookstores, libraries, nonprofit institutions, museums, and special interest organizations.

Those interested in learning more about Octavofest can find a full listing of events at www.octavofest.org.

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Visit tnadas.org - click on events for times and locations.

T. NADAS
Cleveland Heights City Council

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FutureHeights and League of Women voters sponsor Oct. 18 Candidates Night
See details on page 1 of LWV Voters Guide special insert

HRRC plans a full autumn schedule

David Brock
Now that fall is in full swing, the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) begins its busy season. In October, HRRC offers classes on insulation and caulking, composting, hardwood floor refinishing, interior painting projects, and much more.

Organizers are especially excited for a Women’s Home How-To Carpentry Series beginning Oct. 4 and running every Wednesday through Nov. 15. Participants will have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with power tools and learn some basic carpentry, as well as how to hang drywall, lay and grout ceramic tile, and paint, among other projects.

The Women’s Home How-To Series is one of the services for which HRRC is best known, and the organization is planning for a packed house for the carpentry series.

HRRC is also working to spread the word about what the Cleveland Heights nonprofit agency does. In recent weeks, HRRC has offered classes in the Buckeye-Woodland neighborhood, as well as one in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood on Cleveland’s West Side. One of HRRC’s goals is to expose residents of other communities to the services the organization provides here in HRRC.

A listing of classes is at www.brc.org, as well as on the new sign in front of the HRRC building at 2520 Noble Road.

David Brock is education coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center.

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Heights Observer October 1, 2017 www.heightsobserver.org
Fair trade teach-in and expo coming to JCU

Laura Potter-Sadowski

Initiated in 2005, the Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In & Expo brings people of all ages together from across the state to learn about and become more involved in supporting fair trade—a model for socially and environmentally conscious consumerism.

This year’s teach-in and expo, hosted by the Ohio Fair Trade Network and John Carroll University (JCU), will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21, on the JCU campus in University Heights. The free event, open to the public, will feature a marketplace with more than 40 fair trade vendors from across the state, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A special presentation for participants will occur during a lunch break. A full schedule and further information can be found at http://ohiofairtrade.com/teach-in-expo-2017/.

This year’s main sponsors are Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream, Fairtrade America, the Fair Trade Federation, the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America, John Carroll University, the Ohio Fair Trade Network, the Presbytery of Western Reserve and Revy Fair Trade.

The teach-in will highlight human rights and environmental justice, with three keynote speakers from across the globe.

Farmer leaders of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a farmworker human rights organization based in Florida, will give the first keynote address. CIW’s fair food program guarantees rights not seen before by farmworkers, including rights to shade and rest breaks, and freedom from sexual harassment and modern-day slavery. The Washington Post called the fair food program a great human rights success story, and the New York Times referred to it as the best workplace-monitoring program in the country.

Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Jonathan Rosenthal, executive director of the New Economy Coalition, will present “Network Weaving: Building Grassroots Power through Collaboration.” Rosenthal has spent more than 30 years working to transform the power of business from a destructive force of accumulation into a healing force honoring the interconnectedness of all people and the planet. He co-founded Equal Exchange, Oke USA and Belmont-Watertown Local First.

He has consulted with people and organizations across the trade justice movement.

Alex Escobar Prado, of Jalapa, Guatemala, an activist, educator and member of the Guatemalan environmental justice organization Youth Organized in Defense of Life (JODVID), will present a third keynote. Born of the struggle for community self-determination and resistance to Tahoe Resources’ Escobal silver mine in Guatemala, JODVID uses the arts and popular education to mobilize young people in local and regional movements to protect the environment and defend territory.

This fair trade event will provide an opportunity for visitors to explore fair trade and social justice issues. The event will emphasize education; students should make sure their school is represented in the inaugural Supply Chain Change Awards. Register online at http://tinyurl.com/ybfh3x5z.

Laura Potter-Sadowski is store manager for One World Shop in Rocky River and serves as a committee member for the Ohio Fair Trade Network.

Oct. 28 event benefits women’s education

Donna Johnson

The Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O. International will host its sixth annual Afternoon with an Author event on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m., at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

This year’s program will showcase local author Annie Hogsett and her debut novel, Too Lucky to Live. All proceeds will benefit P.E.O. International Projects for Women’s Education (www.peointernational.org).

Set in Cleveland, Too Lucky to Live (2017, Poisoned Pen Press) is a romantic mystery that features an unlikely couple and familiar Cleveland locales.

Award-winning local author Thirty Umrigar wrote the foreword for the book—the first in Hogsett’s planned “Somebody’s Bound to Wind Up Dead” mystery series.

The afternoon will include a book reading and Q-and-A session with Hogsett, followed by a book signing and dessert reception. A Cultural Exchange, a nonprofit organization, will offer copies of the books for sale.

Tickets are $15. To purchase tickets, or for more information, contact Katie Rarick at 847-204-1555 or chapturnoohio@gmail.com.

A resident of Cleveland Heights and proud mom of a Cleveland Heights High School graduate, Donna Johnson is a member of Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O. International.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS: Tuesday, November 7

Melissa YASINOW

Mike UNGAR

YASINOW | UNGAR

Cleveland Heights City Council

WORKING FOR YOU!

Paid for by: Yasinow For Council, Treasurer Jennifer Jaketic, 2964 Washington Blvd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118
Mike Ungar for Council, Treasurer Deborah Warner, 2596 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44106
Cleveland Heights High School pool is open to the community

Scott Worlman

The new Cleveland Heights High School pool is now open to all residents who live within the boundaries of the CH-UH City School District.

Members of the community, as well as district staff, can purchase swim passes through the Parks and Recreation Department of the city of Cleveland Heights.

Fall swim passes cost $70 for a family, $32 for an adult (age 19-59), and $25 for a senior (age 60 and older). The fall pool season opened on Sept. 11, and runs through Nov. 3.

During the fall season, the pool is open to the community for the activities specified below, on the days and times listed.

- Adult Lap Swim only: 6-7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday; 5:30–8 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and 8–10 a.m., Saturday.
- Adult Lap Swim and Family Swim: 5–8 p.m., Friday; and 12:30–2 p.m., Saturday.

The schedule for community access to the pool will change after Nov. 3, to accommodate swim team practices and events. The city of Cleveland Heights will set the new schedule, which is not yet available.

Community members should use the entrance on Washington Boulevard, adjacent to the football stadium, to access the pool and locker rooms.

Access to the school building beyond the natatorium is restricted during the hours that it is open to the community.

Visit the city of Cleveland Heights’s website, www.cleveland-heights.com/index.aspx?page=2170, for information on swim programs and lessons, and updates to the schedule.

Information is also available in the September 2017 issue of University Heights “At Your Service” newsletter, which can be found at www.universityheights.com.

Scott Worlman is the supervisor of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Cleveland Heights Residents,

I am James Costello and I am running for Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Judge. Our Court is one of the busiest municipal courts in the area dealing with everyday issues that affect all of us. This is an important position and deserves your thoughtful participation. I have the dedication, experience, community engagement, respect, and commitment to serve Cleveland Heights well, and I hope that I can gain your support, and your vote, on November 7th.

I am dedicated to Cleveland Heights. I was raised here, I delivered the Sun Press, bagged groceries at Russo’s, and sold cars at Motorcars. Growing up here helped shape who I am. My wife, Alicia, and I have chosen to make this our home and raise our two sons in this diverse and creative community.

I have the experience needed to serve as your Judge. I am a current Acting Judge in the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, appointed two years ago by our retiring Judge Buchanan. I sit on the bench as Judge and decide cases, conduct pretrials, determine appropriate protection orders, set bail, and sentence those found guilty. After graduating from Case Western University School of Law, I opened my practice here in Cleveland Heights, representing indigent defendants in traffic and criminal cases in our Court. In my twelve years as a practicing attorney, I have handled a vast array of every type of case that gets heard in our Municipal Court including civil and small claims cases, evictions, and housing code violation cases.

I understand what it takes, and I am prepared to be your Judge. I am engaged in our community. I served on the Cleveland Heights Recreation Advisory Board and the Cleveland Heights Civil Service Commission. I am a graduate of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy, which improved my understanding of our Police Department and its operations. I am a longtime member of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club. I mentored in the Cleveland schools through the JRs program set up by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. My oldest son is a first grader in our public schools and I am an active PTA member. I am known and respected throughout Cleveland Heights. I have a strong base of supporters who know me as a kid, have seen me advocate on behalf of my clients as an attorney, and have served this City with me. As a result, I have already been endorsed by many of our public servants as well as a wide range of Cleveland Heights citizens. I am proud to be endorsed by the Cleveland Heights Democrats in this race. However, I will never let any individual or my political affiliation interfere with my independence, integrity, and impartiality.

I am committed to the vitality of Cleveland Heights. I have extensive experience handling housing code violations cases in municipal courts throughout Ohio. As an Acting Judge in Cleveland Heights, I know both the power of the Court to address housing issues and the limitations of that judicial power. I believe the preservation of our housing stock is essential to the future success of our community, and I know there are steps the Court can take to ensure the best outcomes. I am ready to commit the Court to ongoing community forums to address these issues, seeking involvement from homeowners, commercial and residential landlords, tenants, nonprofits, our housing inspectors, and our City government. I also have the expertise to bring innovative solutions to the problem of absentee landlords and vacant bank-owned properties on day one. I am committed to the safety of our community. Offenders need to be punished for their crimes, but they may also need to be given the tools necessary to change their path. Shipping the problems of Cleveland Heights off to another court is not the solution. Nor is simply promising specialized courts the answer, as they require extensive time and resources that our Court and our City simply do not have. While it is certainly appropriate to explore these options, the solutions must include utilizing and improving those programs already in place, such as our youth diversion program and the driver’s license suspension diversion program that helps individuals get out of the costly cycle that far too often disproportionately impacts the poor in our community. It also means building upon and using the resources in our community like the arts and the nonprofits to find ways to deal not only with the individual defendant in front of me but also deal with the larger problems in our criminal justice system. There are inequities in our judicial system. Far too often income and race determine outcomes in our judicial system. While there is certainly no simple solution, improved interactions and continual discussions between all those with a stake in our City are essential. When I am elected Judge, I pledge to focus on, and never shy away from, these issues. As Judge, I will do everything in my power to serve as an agent of justice and protect our community.

Your vote for Municipal Court Judge, and the outcome of this race, will have a serious and lasting effect on Cleveland Heights. I seek your vote to be the Judge and public servant that Cleveland Heights needs and deserves. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your vote, James Costello

EXPERIENCE, DEDICATION, & FAIRNESS

I pledge to focus on, and

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EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

- Acting Judge, Cleveland Heights Municipal Court
- Attorney with Powers Friedman Linn, PLLC
- Handled and argued hundreds of criminal, civil, and housing code violation cases in municipal courts throughout Ohio
- Graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law

COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

- A lifelong Cleveland Heights resident
- Understands the importance of public safety, stability, and the housing stock to our community
- Served on Cleveland Heights Civil Service Commission
- Graduate of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy

FAIRNESS FOR ALL IN OUR MUNICIPAL COURT

- Instituting a dedicated housing code violation dock
- Improving bail and fine systems ensuring fairness for everyone
- Updating Court technology for added value and improved accountability
- Enhancing community outreach
Stalwarts of the Cleveland arts-and-culture scene, Nina and Jim Gibans had accumulated a lifetime’s worth of memories in their Shaker Heights home. But when health demands challenged their independent lifestyle, the couple agreed it was time to move to Ambler Court – a beautifully renovated assisted living neighborhood that offers signature programming and care in an ideal environment for those in need of increased assistance.

“It felt like home from the start,” says Nina of the couple’s suite, filled with a curated collection of the books, music and art they love. And they take comfort in the easy access to the onsite health and wellness programs they both need. “We love it here,” says Nina.

Learn about Assisted Living at Judson Park. Call (216) 446-1845 to arrange for a tour today.

Visit www.judsonsmartliving.org and click Judson Park.

Speedskating lessons for all ages begin Oct. 19

Arthur Schmiedl, of Cleveland Heights, had just finished a learn-to-skate session at the Cleveland Heights Community Center when he noticed someone his age walking around on really long skates.

“What are those?” he asked.

“That are speed skates, kid,” said a coach who happened to overhear. “Want to give it a try?”

Schmiedl was 9 at the time. A few months later, he raced in his first short-track speedskating meet, and is now back for his third year of fun and competition. Earlier this year, he and three friends competed in the team relay event for their age group at the state championship.

The Cleveland Heights Speedskating Club formed in 2001, shortly after the new north rink opened at the CH Community Center. Apolo Ohno, perhaps the most famous American short-track speedskater, competed here several times during his run as an Olympian.

The club practices on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons, September through March. Members’ ages range from 5 to 75. The coaching staff mentors children and adults at all levels of ability at a cost designed to be inclusive for the diverse Heights community.

The club has several nationally ranked skaters. Others have more modest goals—going fast, working to improve their times, and moving to longer distances in the company of friends and supportive club members.

“I have a lot of fun at practice and at races,” said Ryan Shane, 13, now in his fourth season with the club. “Every year, I’m able to set new goals and accomplish them. The first year they worked with me on things like staying in base position and getting proper crossovers. By my third year, it was making my goal times and going to national age-group championships.”

“My son Drew loves the speed-skating program at Heights,” said Christine Harmon. “The camaraderie and the chance to exercise and test his abilities keep him engaged. It’s great for kids; all week, I hear stories about the coaches and other skaters.”

For participants who want to compete, local meets are held twice a year at the community center, sanctioned by Ohio Speedskating under the US Speedskating national organization.

For those interested in trying this fast, non-contact sport, the Cleveland Heights Recreation Department will offer a $66 six-week Introduction to Speedskating session for all ages on Thursdays, 6:15–7 p.m., beginning Oct. 19. A second session will begin in January.

Hockey skates and bicycle helmets are appropriate for the introductory sessions.

If interested, contact the ice rink or the Cleveland Heights Speedskating Club president, Barb Rosenbaum, at bk@therosenbaums.net. Or visit the club website, www.clevelandheightsspeedskating.org.

Cleveland Heights resident Barb Rosenbaum is a Level 1 coach and president of the Cleveland Heights Speedskating Club. With a second place age-group finish at the national championship, she occasionally calls herself the second fastest odd-lady speedskater in the nation.
Cleveland Heights Happy 5K and Fun Run on Oct. 8 will benefit youth scholarship fund

Mary Trupo

The city of Cleveland Heights recognizes the need to provide an opportunity for all children in the community to participate in its youth and teen recreation programs. Not all families can afford the associated costs of such participation, however. That is why the Youth Scholarship Fund was established—to make recreation programs more accessible to those Cleveland Heights children in need.

The Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department administers the scholarship and hosts the Cleveland Heights Happy 5k, 10k & 1 Mile Fun Run as a means of raising scholarship funds.

This year’s race will take place on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 10 a.m. The race is a fun run for all ages and abilities, as well as a chip-timed race for the competitive runner.

The race, now in its third year, has raised more than $10,000, providing hundreds of scholarships each year to deserving children.

To register, go to www.westerraces.com/events/cleveland-heights-

Happy-5k-10k. The race is limited to the first 1,000 registrants.

Included with each registration is a race shirt, two race-day drink vouchers, and more than $100 in “Cleveland Heights Cash,” redeemable at 20 plus Cleveland Heights merchants.

Cleveland Heights’ youth scholarship program offers reduced rates on recreation activities to people who meet specific guidelines. The city is committed to growing the scholarship fund and invites all interested citizens to learn more by visiting www.clevelandheights.com/youth-scholarship-fund.

Mary Trupo is the director of communications and community engagement for the city of Cleveland Heights.

Autumn is ‘Better by Bike’

LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) has adopted “Better by Bike” as a theme for many recommended destinations and rides. It’s a theme that works throughout the year, with the possible exception (in the view of some) of snowy and icy days. Indeed, riding a bicycle is one of the best ways to enjoy the vibrant colors and cooler temperatures of fall. To that end, the coalition is sponsoring some enticing rides in October.

Longtime Heights resident Leonard (Larry) Horowitz will show bicyclists his favorite recreational ride around the Heights. This 13 mile “Park to Park to Park Ride” starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, from the DeLisle Options Center parking lot at 14780 Superior Road, Cleveland Heights. The ride will wind through Cain, Cumberland and Forest Hill parks, circle the Forest Hill pond, then progress, primarily via side streets, toward Cedar Fairmount. The ride up Bellfield Avenue will connect to North Park Boulevard’s bike lanes and quiet streets en route to Hathaway Brown School, then return to DeLisle.

On Sunday, Oct. 8, 1-3 p.m., Roy Larick, Ph.D., archeologist and founder of Bluestone Heights environmental consultancy, will lead the “Ghost Stream Bicycle Ride, Featuring Dugway Brook.” When Cleveland and the Heights were being developed, covering and culverting streams was the norm. Dugway Brook is completely buried in Cleveland, but traces of it can be seen in the Heights. This ride will highlight what remains of Dugway above ground in the Heights, what’s hidden, and what the future holds, in light of recent EPA requirements for our watersheds. The ride also will point out notable instruments that have crowded out Dugway. Starting from Coventry Village Library on the southeast corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry Road, the ride will progress—in rain or shine—as far as Laurel School before looping back. Reservations are required for this ride, and participants must sign HBC’s liability waiver. To register, call 216-357-7781. (Bike helmets are highly recommended.)

On Sunday, Oct. 15, “Biking Has Its Perks” will take participants on a ride from the Heights to downtown Cleveland, to visit coffee shops en route and savour their brews. Participants can either ride their bicycles back to the Heights or put their bikes on RTA buses that will carry them uphill into the Heights. Ride details, including starting time and place, can be found on HBC’s website, www.bikesintheheights.org, or Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bikesintheheights/. 

Heights Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to educating and encouraging Heights community members to use bicycles as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation. Mary Dunbar, vice president of the coalition, wrote this column.

Forest Hill 5K run/walk set for Oct. 15

Eileen Smotzer and Kate Lewis

The second annual Fall for Forest Hill 5K Run/Walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 15. The race, to benefit the East Cleveland Parks Association, offers participants an opportunity to experience spectacular fall colors on a unique and scenic USAF-certified course, winding through historic Forest Hill Park.

The race will begin and end in Forest Hill Park, adjacent to the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd.

Race-day check-in time is 8 a.m., at picnic shelter 2A and 2B. The chip-timed race will begin at 9 a.m., and the walk will start at 9:05.

5k runner awards will include the top overall female and male, and the top overall female and male in each age category: 14 and under; 15-17; 18-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65 and over.

There will be additional prizes for family fun runners and walkers, and a special kids’ event at the finish. The course is wheelchair accessible, and stroller friendly.

Post-race, there will be refreshments and a raffle, and Spice Restaurant will offer its breakfast burritos for sale at the boathouse.

Registration includes a performance T-shirt and refreshments. Early registration, $20, closes Oct. 10. Race-day registration is $25. For students, ages 11-17, early registration is $10, and race-day registration is $15. Students can also register in teams of up to 12 participants, for a $100 fee. Team registration closes on Oct. 6, and should be made by mail (see details below).

For additional information on the race, and to register online, visit www.fhhb.org/fall2k. To register by mail, send a check payable to FHHO Inc. to Forest Hill Homeowners Inc., Attn: Fall (K), 2250 Lee Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 44118-8120.

The deadline for all mail-in registrations is Oct. 6.

Eileen Smotzer and Kate Lewis are race organizers and board trustees for Forest Hill Home Owners Association.
Heights High principal welcomes students

Joy Henderson

On the third day of school, Cleveland Heights High School Principal Brian Williams invited students to grade level meetings in the auditorium. He introduced himself and talked about the new building as a symbol for a new era in Tiger Nation.

“The adults in this building are here to support and help you,” Williams said.

He spoke about the new building and the responsibility of attending school in a brand new facility that was provided by the community.

“We have a collective commitment to treat this amazing place with respect and gratitude. What was given to us must be held as sacred space and treated with the utmost respect,” Williams said.

Williams also spoke about the importance of unity and community. “We can live by the Latin phrase ‘E pluribus unum.’ Out of many, one. We are many individuals, but we are also one Tiger Nation,” he said.

Williams was clear that he has great respect and admiration for the students and also has high expectations for them. “We believe that there are no bad students, but sometimes students do make poor choices,” he said. “Today we are letting you know our expectations. Once we know better, we do better.”

When Williams introduced the assistant principals, guidance counselors and school social workers to the class of 2019, the students clapped for each staff member.

Williams thanked the students for their polite clapping and said, “That shows love, and I appreciate that.”

A student yelled out, “We love you,” Williams responded, “I love you back, each and every one of you.”

Josh Luton, dean of students, also addressed the attendees before outlining the school’s expectations for its students. “I am a positive person,” Luton said. “And I am here to support you and help you make choices that will help you graduate.”

Fairfax Elementary School to host kindergarten open house on Oct. 11

Catthan Cavanaugh

Fairfax Elementary School invites all Heights families with rising kindergartners to attend an open house at the school on Oct. 11, 6–7 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the school building, meet teachers and the principal, and learn all about what the school has to offer.

Current Fairfax families will also be on hand to answer questions.

If you cannot attend the Oct. 11 event and would like to schedule a tour, call 216-371-7480.

Fairfax Elementary School is located at 3150 Fairfax Road in Cleveland Heights, and is led by Principal Quatrice James.

Catthan Cavanaugh is the communications administrative assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

 Heights High Principal Brian Williams is often in the halls, talking to students. He recently talked to juniors Ella Damaser and Macy Smith, students in Madame Woods’ French Honors 2 class. The students were preparing to leave for a field trip to the Cedar Lee Theatre to view a French language film.

‘We believe that there are no bad students, but sometimes students do make poor choices,’ he said. ‘Today we are letting you know our expectations. Once we know better, we do better.’

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Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
The community came together for the grand opening of Cleveland Heights High School on Sunday, Sept. 10. More than 4,000 people toured the newly reopened building, and their reactions were overwhelmingly positive.

The words “beautiful,” “amazing,” “fantastic” were heard time and again as alumni, parents, students and community residents wandered the halls. Two dozen teachers opened their classrooms to share their learning spaces with the visitors.

“Two thumbs up, all the way through,” said Bruce Tyler, a 1974 graduate and father of a Heights eighth-grader. His favorite spaces were the science rooms. “I know a thing or two about microscopes,” joked Tyler, a cyto-genetics technologist at University Hospitals.

Other visitors said they were impressed by the music spaces, the competition gym and swimming pool, and the career and technical education offerings.

“All the things they offer, like pharmacology and physical therapy . . . it’s insane!” said 1994 graduate Cary Gernstetter. “I wish they had offered all that when I was in school. They have so many career-oriented options.”

Many graduates said they wished they had the chance to be students in the renovated building. “I feel cheated,” joked 1991 graduate Leroy Daugherty, who was touring with his wife, Kelly Bullock Daugherty, class of 1990, and their three children.

The most common refrain from alumni was how unrecognizable the building was.

“Think it’s really great,” said Henry Hammond, class of 2012. “But I don’t even feel like I’m in the same building. I keep looking for familiar sites, like the street out the window, so I can figure out where I am.”

Kara and John Schellenberg, impressed with the building’s transformation, said they hoped for more opportunities for the community to visit. Their two sons are Heights alumni, including 2015 graduate Andrew, who finished his high school career at Wiley. “He knew he was making that sacrifice for the good of others,” said John.

Heights Middle School seventh-grader Lola Chicotel could barely contain her excitement. “It’s awesome! And it’s crazy that we get to go here. Crazy in a good way!”

Pauline George made the trip from Michigan and toured the space with Edna Carlisle, a friend she’d met at Taylor Elementary School in the late 1960s. The two women, members of the class of 1981, were overwhelmed with emotion and pride—both for the physical building and the meaning it holds. “A Heights education is a true gift,” said Carlisle. “It allows you to go out into the world and interact with all different kinds of people, while knowing you can connect with them because you knew people like that in your own high school.”

The two were joined on the tour by a niece and her childhood friend, who had brought along their own children.

“There’s so much love here,” said Carlisle. “This is so much more than just a high school,” said George. “It’s a community.”

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a former district teacher and freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District. A longer version of this article appeared at www.chuh.org.
Reaching Heights event aims to improve school-community communications

Krisa Hawthorne

Last spring, Reaching Heights invited 73 people—the leaders and active volunteers of groups that support public school students—to participate in several listening sessions about improving communication between the community and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. In all, representatives of 26 school-community groups were invited to these meetings, which resulted in a plan to reach out to more people to build stronger relationships and a sustainable communication network.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30–8:30 p.m., the public is invited to attend Improving School-Community Communications, a meeting sponsored by Reaching Heights. This open forum will take place in the Cleveland Heights High School cafeteria.

Participants will discuss methods of improving communication with one another and the school district in small group discussions. These discussions will be followed by an action planning session, using the ideas to launch a communication network that will foster ongoing, meaningful dialogue.

Attendees are advised to pre-register by visiting www.reachingheights.org or calling 216-932-5110.

This effort supports Goal 3 of the CH-UH district’s five-year strategic plan that addresses parent and community engagement, partnerships and communication. The goal states: “Parents and community partners are welcomed and engaged in supporting and enhancing student learning.”

Reaching Heights believes that school districts thrive when the exchange of ideas takes place among all of its members and partners, and the nonprofit is proud to sponsor this important community meeting which aligns with its mission to “mobilize community resources to foster highly valued public schools that provide all Cleveland Heights-University Heights students a successful education.”

Krisa Hawthorne is executive director of Reaching Heights.

Tiger Shop reopens at Heights High

Mary Sickbert

The Sept. 10 community open house at Cleveland Heights High School brought thousands of people to the school, and many of them made purchases at the Tiger Shop.

Laura Stuart-Lilley, transition coordinator at Heights High, and others who staffed the shop were swamped, with people purchasing T-shirts, sweatshirts, glassware, key chains, book bags, teddy bears and more.

The Tiger Shop is located in a new space in the renovated front hall of the high school, and offers school supplies as well as Heights-themed gear. Students from marketing classes and the work lab operate the shop. They do the inventory and ordering, create the displays, and handle the cash sales.

That is the way the shop ran for many years, before its operation shifted away from student involvement. The Tiger Shop is now back at the high school, and provides excellent experiences for all students involved. In addition, all proceeds from the shop’s sales benefit scholarships for students.

At the open house, staffers were gratified to see the response from community members and Heights High alumni, who were greeting one another and comparing years of graduation, turning the open house into something of a big Heights High reunion.

The Tiger Shop will be open throughout the school year on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will open on Oct. 7 at 10 a.m., during the tour of the high school offered during Heights High’s Homecoming weekend. The shop will also be open during parent-teacher conference nights in November.

Mary Sickbert is a retired CH-UH district teacher and a longtime resident of the Heights. She volunteered at the Tiger Shop on Sept. 10.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

President Ron Register, Vice President Kal Zunker, Jim Posh, Eric Silverman and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gaumer. The meeting began at 7:20 p.m. and adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Recognitions
HOSA competitors: The superintendent recognized Heights High senior Yidiaya Box and graduate Sydney Williams for their first place award in the Ohio competition of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), which made them eligible to attend the International Leadership Conference in Orlando this summer. Box spoke at the board meeting, complimenting her instructor Casey Graham and the Heights school and community for her opportunities. Williams was unable to attend.

Middle school IB team: Leslie Garrett and Melissa Garcar, International Baccalaureate (IB) program specialists; Jeff Jahnston, Monticello Middle School principal, and Patrick McNichols, Roxboro Middle School principal, were recognized for achieving middle school IB world school authorization.

Board administrative policies
The first reading of the board administrative policies was presented. Many of the policies remain the same. Board member Zucker wondered whether the DACA ruling would affect any students.

School events and superintendent activities
Superintendent Dixon said she visited all Heights school buildings and announced the Sept. 10 high school open house. Food for the victims of Houston’s hurricane will be collected during the open house. Sept. 7 is curriculum night. Dixon plans to hold coffee chats at various coffee shops to talk to the public throughout the year. Various workshops will be held at Heights High.

Middle school field trip
The board approved the middle school Washington, D.C., field trip Nov 8-10.

More than 100 students from both Roxboro and Monticello middle schools will visit historical sites that they will study during their eighth-grade year.

Change orders
PMC Regency staff member Fred Rogers presented slides explaining 10 change orders, totaling $288,736. Of this amount, $8,601 was for unforeseen circumstances, including utility retrofit, auditorium diffusers, and patching. Design clarifications totaled $206,115, including patching and painting stonewalls, roof drains and piping removal, a new stage floor, courtyard monument coat, swaping new doors, swapping fixtures on doors and repairing kitchen ceiling door bulkheads.

Before- and after-school programs
The board authorized execution of a lease agreement between the board as landlord and the Right at School organization, which provides before- and after-school programming.

OSBA representation
The board appointed Ron Register as delegate and James Posh as alternate for the annual business meeting of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Nov. 12–14, in Columbus.

Grants received
The board voted to accept nine federal grants for a total of $4,826,737.30, ranging from $18,239 (Title III – limited English proficient) to $2,07.0 million (Title I – Basic). The remaining seven grants included funding for early childhood special education and career tech.

The board also approved a grant from the state of Ohio for $120,000 for early childhood education and $4,000 from the Children’s Hunger Alliance.

Look for earlier and often expanded and posed meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.
Save the date for a totally new

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

OCTOBER 6-8, 2017

The mighty ROAR of Tiger Nation will be heard across the city!

Join us for a community and alumni celebration of

ROAR: RETURNING TO OUR ALUMNI ROOTS!

Heights Schools Foundation partnering with CH-UH School District, the City of Cleveland Heights and local merchants presents this ALL NEW Alumni and Community Homecoming Weekend. The weekend is packed with chances to reconnect at meet-ups around the city, see the new school and support local businesses.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

5-7 PM | Parade Watch Party
On the green space at Lee & Meadowbrook

7 PM | Football Game
at Heights Stadium

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

10-12 NOON | Tour the New Heights

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Happy 5K, 10K and Fun Run
Register to run with your class!

For complete details visit

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2017 CEDAR FAIRMOUNT FALL FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

FOOD & DRINK:
WINGS - SIDEWALK of BUFFALO WILD WINGS
NOODLES-CAPPUCCINO'S - STARBUCKS
PIZZA - VERO BISTRO
FRAPPUCINO'S, CAPPUCCINO'S - STARRBUCKS
BEEF GRAND'S - BISTRO
SANGRIA - MEDITERRANEAN FOOD TRUCK
BARBECUE FOOD TRUCK - TACOS

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT:
TRICK OR TREAT - Merchants & vendors with pumpkins in windows, on doors, or tents
TRICK OR TREAT CONTEST - 3-5 pm
CUPCAKE DECORATING - Luna Bakery Café
NOON - 5:00 PM

HISTORICAL BUS TOUR OF THE EUCLID GOLF DISTRICT BY DEANIA & HIGH FISHER
1:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

TOURS OF CEDARWOOD PLAZA
Skilled Nursing Home - 3:30 pm & 4:30 pm

Blood Pressure Readings - noon - 5:00 pm
(sponsored by Cedarwood Plaza Skilled Nursing)

FREE PUMPKIN DECORATING - INSIDE ALADDIN'S
Restaurant noon - 5:00 pm

SUPER HEROES HEADQUARTERS - APPLETREE BOOKS
Kids of all ages are encouraged to dress as your favorite superheroes. Try your luck Bowling for Avengers in Appletree’s back “bowling alley” to win a superhero tattoo.

COME JOIN THE FUN!

216-691-7377

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC), located at the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a wide variety of programming for those 60 and older, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, which is available at Cleveland Heights City Hall, local libraries, the community center and online at www.clevelandheights.com.

SAC membership is $5 for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older. To sign up, bring a recent piece of mail (such as a bill and a photo ID) to the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center. For more information, call 216-691-7359 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clbhts.com.

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. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7803, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.org.

Oct. 3: Rachel Kribbs, director of community programming at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), will welcome gifted instrumentalists from Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University, as well as other students and professionals from the area, to perform a free recital at the University Heights Library. The event, which includes a pre-concert talk with the performers, will begin at 2 p.m. For more information, call 216-932-7803.

Oct. 10: The Heights Senior Center will host an event featuring a talk on “Exploring the Benefits of a Healthy Lifestyle,” which will be presented by Dr. John C. Burchard, a professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University. The event will take place at the Heights Senior Center, 13866 Cedar Road, in anticipation of the opening of the renovated University Heights Library, 13866 Cedar Road, in anticipation of the open enrollment period for Medicare coverage. For more information, call 216-932-7803.

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. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7803, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.org.

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Library hosts free event with comedian and actor CJ Jones

Deaf comedian CJ Jones will appear in Cleveland Heights on Oct. 30.

Sheryl Banks

As part of its commitment to bringing diverse programs to all community members, Heights Libraries is pleased to announce a one-night-only performance by internationally acclaimed deaf comedian and actor CJ Jones on Monday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. Jones’ most recent acting role was as Joseph in the Edgar Wright film “Baby Driver.”

Jones will bring his one-man comedy show to the Cleveland Heights Civic Conference Center, at 3500 Mayfield Road, in a special free appearance sponsored by Heights Libraries.

Registration is required for this event. To register, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

For more than 35 years, Jones has been a role model for the deaf community, spreading the message to students and adults alike that being deaf doesn’t make you odd—it makes you unique. His artistry has influenced other deaf actors, comedians and hosts.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., Jones was one of seven hearing children born to deaf parents who communicated in American Sign Language (ASL). At age 2, he was struck with spinal meningitis, and consequently lost his hearing. He attended Missouri School for the Deaf, which teaches in ASL. In this communication-rich environment, he flourished, and transitioned from being a shy hearing boy into a deaf leader. Jones was class president, a Cub Scout, varsity football quarterback, a state vault record holder, and valedictorian.

Over his career, Jones has developed three one-man shows and has toured internationally. He co-wrote and directed six classic fairytales for the children’s television series “Once Upon a Sign.” Jones also produced the International Sign Language Theater Festival, which hosted theater artists from the United States, Russia and Mexico.

“Parents dropping off or picking up kids at the library are strongly encouraged to use Dellwood now,” said Echols. “Adults can use it, too.”

Ohio law makes an exception for drivers dropping off able-bodied library customers. The city agreed and put up signs stating this exception for the fire lane’s drop-off ability.

New signage at the Lee Road Library aims to keep the fire lane clear.

Sheryl Banks

In August, the Lee Road branch of Heights Libraries, in partnership with the City of Cleveland Heights, took steps to improve parking lot safety for customers by installing new signage and creating a drop-off zone on Dellwood Avenue.

“We’ve had some challenges with customers parking in the fire lane,” said Security Manager Kevin Echols. “Aside from the worst possible scenario, where an emergency vehicle could be blocked, cars parked in the fire lane cause a ripple effect of problems, like preventing parked cars from backing out, forcing cars to drive around them, and creating congestion and frustration that can lead to accidents.”

To address the concerns, Echols spoke to Kara Hamley O’Donnell of the city’s Planning and Development Department and Sgt. Robert Butler of the Cleveland Heights Police Department, suggesting that a portion of nearby Dellwood Avenue could be used as a drop zone for drivers dropping off able-bodied library customers. The city agreed and put up signs on Dellwood, allowing one-hour and three-hour parking.

Programs can be found online at www.heightslibrary.org and its Deaf Resources page, www.heightslibrary.org/deaf-resources, which includes links to online magazines, local events, language resources, employment and education resources, and organizations serving the deaf community.

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

Lee Road Library improves parking lot safety

NOT ALL SCARS ARE VISIBLE

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This message was supported by grant number 2015-OVC-CX-254790 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, through the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. Victims of federal crime will be served.

Heights Observer October 1, 2017 21 www.heightsobserver.org
FFHL names Jarvey and McLaughlin to honor roll

By Matthew Ginn

The Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries (FFHL) will name John Jarvey and Marilyn McLaughlin as the initial members of the FFHL Honor Roll at an awards banquet on Nov. 5 at John Carroll University.

The honor is a "lifetime achievement" award, recognizing those who have made a sustained, outstanding contribution to the Cleveland Heights and University Heights community by promoting literacy or by educating through literacy.

The first designees of an honor roll patterned after the Heights Libraries' mission of "Opening Doors, Opening Minds," Jarvey will be honored as a "door opener," and McLaughlin will be inaugurated as a "mind opener."

Jarvey, a retired teacher, has been opening doors to literacy for more than 25 years as a volunteer with Friends of the Heights Libraries. For the past seven years, he has managed the group's book sorting room in preparation for its monthly book sales. Four to five days a week, he can be found in the basement of the Lee Road Library, opening boxes and categorizing the contents.

McLaughlin opened minds as she taught English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for more than 40 years in the Heights, mostly through the CH-UH Adult Basic Literacy Education program. She provided thousands of immigrants and foreign visitors with excellent English and literacy instruction, as well as an introduction to life in the Heights and Cuyahoga County.

McLaughlin and Jarvey will be officially added into the FFHL Honor Roll at a dinner banquet on Nov. 5, to be held in the Dolan Center at John Carroll University. For tickets and more information, visit www.heightslibraries.org/ffhl.

Bookmobile’s last ride was Aug. 31

By Jay Rosen

For nearly a year, University Heights residents visited "Nellie," a 1995 Freightliner Chassis turned bookmobile, to check out books and other library materials.

"We've had a very nice experience with the bookmobile, and we always enjoy our time here," said Regina Giraldo-Garcia, family frequently visits Heights Libraries' University Heights branch, and was delighted to discover Nellie making weekly stops at the Huntington Green Apartment complex just a block from their home. The bookmobile offered them regular access to library materials during the University Heights Library's temporary closure.

Despite Nellie's relatively brief tenure, the bookmobile had a significant impact on the University Heights community. In all, Nellie made 207 stops in University Heights, served nearly 2,000 community members, and circulated more than 3,200 items. For residents who grew fond of visiting her, Nellie’s last ride was bittersweet—while they’re sad to see her go, they’re also looking forward to the re-opening of the University Heights branch.

“We've had a very nice experience here,” said Regina Giraldo-Garcia. “We're going to miss the bookmobile, but we're also thrilled that we are going to have a new building, and we're looking forward to making the most of the new facilities.”

Now that Nellie is no longer needed, the library plans to sell her back to Farber Specialty Freight in Irving, Texas. Farber representatives indicated that a youth-serving organization is interested in her.

Jay Rosen is communications coordinator at Heights Libraries.
The Heights Chamber Orchestra opens its 35th Season with free concert

Anita Kazarian

The Heights Chamber Orchestra celebrates the opening of its 35th season on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 3:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church on Fairmount Blvd. in Shaker Heights. At this concert, the orchestra will announce and introduce its new music director, Domenico Boyagian.

The Heights Chamber Orchestra was started in Cleveland Heights by a University Heights resident 35 years ago. One third of its current performers live in Cleveland Heights. This homegrown ensemble has evolved into one of the premier orchestras in the region, attracting some of the best performers. Many of the 45 members have performed in other area orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra.

Heights Chamber Orchestra members, all of whom are volunteers, practice up to five weeks for each performance before their first rehearsal. Boyagian said the conductor’s work is in the rehearsals, but in the performance “when a conductor starts the piece, then it takes the orchestra and the audience” to turn it into the journey. Susan Blackwell, clarinetist and board member, agreed. “The feedback performers sense from the audience is mutual,” she said. “The orchestra and the audience move through the piece together.”

A Heights resident, Boyagian was born in Bologna, Italy, the proud son of internationally renowned Metropolitan Opera Verdi baritone Garbis Boyagian, who inspired his love for music. Boyagian, who came to the U.S. in 2000, holds a number of music degrees from various schools, including the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM).

Pianist Hrant Bagrazyan, the featured soloist at the opening concert, will perform Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58. Bagrazyan, from Yerevan, Armenia, studied at CIM with Sergej Babayan and HaeSun Paik. A first-prize winner in the San Jose International Piano Competition, Bagrazyan has played concerts in Armenia, Belgium, Poland and the United States.

Edward Elgar’s Enigma Variations will close the concert.

All Heights Chamber Orchestra concerts are free and open to the public (free-will donations accepted). The season-opening concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian American Community of Greater Cleveland. As always, the Heights Chamber Orchestra celebrates its opening concert with a reception following the concert, and this year’s table will include home-baked Armenian desserts for patrons to enjoy. To learn more about the Heights Chamber Orchestra visit www.heightschamberorchestra.org/blog.

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Heights Arts unveils season 12 of Close Encounters concert series

Mary Ryan

The Heights Arts Close Encounters chamber music series began in 2005 as an opportunity for members of the Cleveland Orchestra to perform music of their own choosing in the gracious “chambers” of Cleveland Heights residences. Now in its 12th year, the series has matured into a lively concert series which taps the creative talents of fine classical music artists from throughout Northeast Ohio. Under the artistic direction of Cleveland Orchestra violinist Isabel Trautwein, Close Encounters Season 12 presents four musician-designed programs presented in stately residences and unique venues throughout Cleveland. All concerts are at 3 p.m.

This season, concertgoers meet the hottest additions to the music scene: cellist and film producer Dane Johansen, violin-star Jessica Lee, and the Cavani Quartet’s new violist, Eric Wong. They will be joined by the Omni Quartet, Oberlin College’s newest bassoon faculty, Drew Pattison, and pianist/composer Teddy Niedermaier, among others. As a bonus, the Cleveland Orchestra’s English Horn player Robert Walters has designed a program of music and original poetry to be performed at the Bop Stop in Hingetown.

Season 12 opens on Sunday, Nov. 12, with the program “Felix, Wolfi and Zoltán” in a restored Herrick Mews carriage house. Masterpieces by two German Wunderkinder, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Felix Mendelssohn, frame a spicy Hungarian trio, played con brio by Jessica Lee, recently appointed assistant concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Cavani Quartet’s Eric Wong, another international touring artist newly settled in our city. Both will be joined by audience favorites Mari Sato of the Cavani Quartet, plus Cleveland Orchestra musicians Tanya Ell on cello and Isabel Trautwein on violin and viola.

“Rhythms, Rhymes and the Kitchen Sink” brings a unique afternoon of music and original verse to the stage of the Bop Stop on Sunday, Jan. 22. It’s a little-known fact that the Cleveland Orchestra’s Principal English Horn player, Robert Walters, is also a published poet. He joins bassoonist Drew Pattison and composer/pianist Teddy Niedermaier to perform a new trio composed by Niedermaier in 2016, two rarely-heard romances by Elgar and Sibelius, plus Claude Debussy’s thrilling “Rhapsodie.”

The spectacular Omni Quartet of Amy Lee and Alicia Koelz (violins), Joanna Patterson (viola), and Tanya Ell (cello), returns (after a year off to be “mom-nis”) to present “The Omni Quartet: From Four to More” on Sunday, Feb. 25, at the historic Dunham Tavern Museum barn. Along with fellow Cleveland Orchestra musicians Dane Johansen and Isabel Trautwein, they will perform Johannes Brahms’ heart-wrenching String Sextet No. 2 in G-major as the heart of the program.

Sunday, April 22, is the season finale, with the performance of “Strangers on Earth, At Home with Bach” at a parklands villa in Shaker Heights. Dane Johansen, the newest member of the Cleveland Orchestra’s cello section, is also the producer of a full-length documentary, “Strangers on Earth” (presented at the 2016 Cleveland International Film Festival), which charted his musical pilgrimage on the ancient Camino de Santiago trail, cello strapped to his back. Dane presents the first all-Bach Close Encounters concert, featuring the dark fifth suite for solo cello, written early in Bach’s career, as well as selections from a late work, “The Art of Fugue,” his most intense feat of counterpoint.

The program concludes with Bach’s famous “Goldberg Variations,” which legend has it was commissioned by a sleepless count for his resident harpsichord player, Goldberg. Dane is joined by Cleveland Orchestra colleagues Jessica Lee, assistant concertmaster, and Omni Quartet violist Joanna Patterson.

Complete program information on Close Encounters Season 12, as well as subscriptions and individual concert tickets, is available online at www.heightsarts.org/concerts. Tickets can be purchased in person at Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, or via phone, 216-371-3457. Discounted tickets are available for students ages 8–23, as well parents of students ages 8–18.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization.
Cedar Lee Theatre presents Met Opera live on screen

David Huffman

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera’s award-winning series of High-definition live cinema simulcasts, will begin its 12th season on Oct. 7, with a new production of Bellini’s Norma, directed by Sir David McVicar, conducted by Carlo Rizzi, and starring one of the world’s most acclaimed Normas, Sondra Radvanovsky.

Audiences now will be able to see these 10 live performances from the Met’s 2017–18 season at the Cedar Lee Theatre (2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights).

“It’s been a goal of Cleveland Cinemas to bring these incredible operas from the Met to the Cedar Lee Theatre for years,” said Jon Forman, president of Cleveland Cinemas. “I’m proud to announce that we have finally overcome the challenges that had prevented us from showing these live productions in the past. We know that the Cedar Lee Theatre is the perfect home for the Metropolitan Opera in Cleveland.”

The HD season will begin on Saturday, Oct. 7, 12:55 p.m., with Norma. Future transmissions are as follows: Die Zauberflöte (Oct. 14, 12:55 p.m.), The Exterminating Angel (Nov. 18, 12:55 p.m.), Tosca (Jan. 27, 12:55 p.m.), L’Elisir d’Amore (Feb. 10, noon); La Bohème (Feb. 24, 12:30 p.m.); Semiramide (March 10, 12:55 p.m.); Cosi fan tutte (March 31, 12:55 p.m.); Luisa Miller (April 14, 12:30 p.m.), and Condottiero (April 28, 12:55 p.m.). All 10 operas will be Saturday matinee performances, transmitted live from the Met stage in New York City.

In addition to the live presentation, each opera will have a recorded encore screening at 6:30 p.m. on the Wednesday following the original live showing. Tickets are $24 for adults, $22 for seniors and $20 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the Cedar Lee Theatre box office or online at www.clevelandcinemas.com.

David Huffman is Cleveland Cinemas’ director of marketing.

HYT celebrates home with ‘Into the Woods’

Pamela Fine

Heights Youth Theatre’s (HYT) production of “Into the Woods” will open on Friday, Oct. 20, and run through Sunday, Oct. 29, at Heights Middle School in University Heights.

The show is directed by Kelly Monaghan, with music direction by Stacy Bolton, and features 80 young actors, in grades 1-12, from Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights, and surrounding communities.

“I am thrilled to be back at HYT’s original ‘home’ directing my all-time favorite musical,” exclaimed Monaghan. “Stephen Sondheim’s score is breathtaking, the blending of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales is so poignant and quite clever. But what I am most excited about is the unbelievable talent in these young actors. It has truly blown me away. They are all so gifted in their own unique ways and I am honored to be leading them to help tell this beautiful story.”

Performances will be presented in the Heights Middle School auditorium, 2181 Miramar Blvd., on Friday, Oct. 20 and 27, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 21 and 28, 2 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 22 and 29, 2 p.m.

Tickets are $20 general admission, and $9 for seniors and children younger than 6. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to each performance. For more information, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org, or call 216-410-7500.

Audiences attending an HYT performance are helping to support theater arts in the Heights. HYT has been offering kids year-round opportunities to hone their theatrical skills and entertain audiences for more than 64 years.

Founded in 1954, HYT produces three to four complete musicals per year, offering kids and families an unmatched opportunity to gain valuable experience in the theatrical arts. HYT’s goal is to make theater affordable and accessible to people of all incomes and backgrounds, in a nurturing environment that encourages social and emotional growth.

Pamela Fine is executive director of Heights Youth Theatre.
Dorothy Silver takes on title role in Dobama production

Dorothy Silver, one of Cleveland’s most renowned actors, will portray the title character. Silver originally performed this role during the play’s staged reading at Cleveland Play House’s New Ground Festival in 2013, where Harrison received the Roe Green New Play Award. During that reading, Silver had the opportunity to meet and work directly with the playwright.

“Everything is compelling about this script and character,” said Silver. “I’ve wondered how a very young playwright in his 30s can understand the problems and questions that besiege older people. The kind of topics about family relationships that come up in this play are so sensitively observed...with a marvelous sense of humor. The laughs are surprising and real. The more I study the lines, the more amazed I am at his knowledge.”

Harrison based the character of Marjorie on his own grandmother, Ruth Lord, who died in 2009. His parents kept a diary of their daily trips to the assisted-living facility where she lived, which inspired and further informed the play.

Silver noted that the play has been rewritten and “enhanced” since that first reading four years ago, but that “it still speaks very specifically to me, as it will speak to many people of many ages.”

Silver reads a script over and over, several times a day, when she prepares for a role. “In order to understand the whole play, you have to read the whole play each time,” said Silver. “[Harrison] writes in a very spare, stripped-down style with very few adjectives. This leaves a tremendous amount to the imagination, but you have to understand the subtext, which is a large part of the job for me whenever I take on a role.”

Shannon Sindelar directs Dobama’s production with a cast that includes Nicholas Chokan, Derdriu Ring and Steve Sawicki.

“Marjorie Prime” runs Thursdays through Sundays, Oct. 13 to Nov. 12, at Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. Tickets are $29–$32, with senior, student and military discounts available. Tickets for the preview performances on Oct. 11 and Oct. 12 are $15, and the pay-as-you-can performance is Oct. 15.

For more information or to order tickets, call the box office at 216-932-3396. Tickets are available online at www.dobama.org.

Jonathan Wilhelm is a Cleveland playwright and actor. He is also associate managing director of Dobama Theatre.
New theater company comes to Coventry

August Scarpelli

Members of the new Shahrazad Theatre Company believe that now is the time to refocus attention on the revolutionary playwrights who, throughout history, have thrust audiences into the realm of enriching the human spirit with their provocative stories and the expansion of language.

With this as its goal, Shahrazad Theatre Company will present as its inaugural production Bertolt Brecht’s “The Caucasian Chalk Circle” (rendered into English by Shahrazad Theatre Company).

Brecht helped pioneer one of the most significant shifts in 20th-century art, literature and theater. In “The Caucasian Chalk Circle,” which he wrote in 1944 while living in the United States, he gives these lines to his narrator: “We hope you find the voice of this poet, while old, still rings true . . . It may be a mistake to ignore the human spirit drawn from the rich wisdom mix admirably.”

The play begins in a war-torn valley in the Caucasus Mountains shortly after the enemy has left. Two groups of survivors lay claim to this valley. One group lived in the valley prior to the war; the other group, with its new irrigation system, can make the valley fertile again. Brecht uses the device of a “play within a play”—an old Chinese folk tale—to cast light on the dispute between the two groups.

The production features local actors James Rankin, Robert Hawkes, Stephen Vase-Hansell, Valerie Young, Allen Branstain, Tim Young, April Needham, Andrew Keller, Karylth Rotuno, Brittrany Ganser, August Scarpelli and Kayla Davis, under the direction of Kyle Huff.

Shahrazad Theatre Company was founded by Kayla Davis, Kyle Huff and August Scarpelli—graduates of Hiram College and artistic associates at Ensemble Theatre. Beneath the umbrella of Ensemble Theatre and Shahrazad, the company is dedicated to reviving the true spirit of baroque performances.

The season commences in October with Handel’s oratorio Israel in Egypt. Local performances are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 13, at the First Baptist Church in Shaker Heights, and Saturday, Oct. 14, at The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beachwood. Both performances will begin at 8 p.m. and last approximately two hours, with a 15-minute intermission.

New this year, Apollo’s Fire will offer reduced-price and free tickets as part of its Community Access Initiative. This initiative includes free student rush tickets, free family concerts, and a limited number of $12 “presto seats,” which will become available three weeks before a show begins.

Also new this year, Apollo’s Fire will present “Sneak Peeks” of select performances, which will feature WCLV’s Ideastream radio personalities interviewing Apollo’s Fire artists as they prepare for upcoming programs. Patrons of these educational events will be able to order food, hear a sampling of the music, and learn more about the musical selections. The Sneak Peek for the October concerts, “Israel in Egypt: The People and the Music Behind Handel’s Oratorio,” will be held on Sunday, Oct. 8, 12:30 p.m., at Nighttown.

Apollo’s Fire fans can look forward to the rest of the 2017-18 season, with concerts featuring Apollo’s Fire favorites Nicholas Phan and Amanda Forsythe, a Christmas reimagining of its popular Sugarloaf Mountain program, a return to its classic Bach’s Coffeehouse Orchestra show, and a special semi-staged production of Monteverdi’s opera L’Orfeo.

Malanie Emig is Apollo’s Fire’s patron services associate, and is also a professional musician and music teacher.
Ensemble Theatre announces its 38th consecutive season

Tyler Whidden

Ensemble Theatre announces its 38th consecutive season, the theme of which is “We the People.” The company will present five main stage productions of plays that focus on the power of the individuals within their communities. Celeste Cosentino, Ensemble’s artistic director, will direct the season opener, “Well,” and Tony Kushner’s epic contemporary classics “Angels in America, Parts One and Two.”

“Well,” written by Lisa Kron, explores a woman’s relationship with her invalid mother and her mother’s extraordinary ability to heal a changing neighborhood, despite her inability to heal herself. One of the questions the play asks is whether we create our own illness. The answers are complicated, surprising, and sometimes funny.

Cosentino believes that the play, which opened on Sept. 29, speaks to today’s political climate regarding both community tensions and access to health care. “There’s been a national focus on health care,” she said, “and with the current climate in our country, the humor and heart in ‘Well’ is more timely now than ever.”

In November, Ian Wolfgang Hinz will direct Eugene O’Neill’s “The Hairy Ape.” Hinz finds that the themes of O’Neill’s play—about a brutish man finding his place in a society ruled by the rich—transcend time and remain relevant today. “O’Neill is asking the questions many of us, in our polarized society, are asking,” Hinz said. “Mainly, ‘Where do we belong?’

Cosentino returns to the director’s chair in January to guide the cast through “Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches.” “Directing both parts of ‘Angels in America,’ with the same cast and in the same season, in this political climate, is profoundly important,” Cosentino said of her turn directing this seminal American play focusing on the AIDS epidemic. “Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika” will open in April.

Hinz will also direct “Jelly Belly,” an early play by Charles Smith. Ensemble has produced several of Smith’s plays in recent years, including “A Free Man of Color,” “Knock Me a Kiss,” and “The Gospel According to James.”

In addition to these main stage productions, Ensemble will also hold its annual Colombi New Plays Festival during the month of March, and offer smaller productions in its second space, the PlayGround, including “The Little Prince,” the company’s annual children’s show.

For more information on Ensemble Theatre Company’s entire 2017-18 season, and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 216-319-0430, or go to www.ensembletheatrecle.org.

Tyler Whidden serves as Ensemble’s associate artistic director and director of education. He recently received an M.F.A. in playwriting from Ohio University.
Two teachers

David Budin

School always started in September when I was a kid—usually the Wednesday following Labor Day. But it was October, every year, when I established whom I was going to be that year. I was a different person just about every school year, from the sixth grade onward.

I was a guitar-playing misfit, then a greater, a preppie, a Mod, a hippie, a (faux) intellectual druggie. Each one brought with it a new set of friends, and clothes. And hairstyle. Through it all, some things remained constant: I was always a joker (usually for some sort of pre-emptive self-defense purposes), a musician and music lover, and a writer.

I went to Heights schools—Coventry, Roosevelt and Heights High—from kindergarten to almost the end of 12th grade, and in all that time, I had exactly two teachers who encouraged me. I guess I can’t blame the rest of them, though, because I always made it clear that I didn’t want to be there and didn’t care about anything that was happening there. Of course, on the other hand, that’s the kind of kid a teacher should try a little harder with, rather than just giving up, by October, and ignoring for the rest of the year.

Though, also, it was the height of the Baby Boom and there were too many kids for them to handle, so they . . . Wait a minute—why am I making excuses for all those teachers who gave up on me so early? I’m not saying there weren’t other teachers in our school system—then who noticed kids’ special skills and talents and proclivities, and tried to encourage them in those areas. There may have been, and probably were, many others. I’m just saying that I came into contact with only two of them.

My ninth-grade English teacher, Charlotte Bossinger, was one. I remember that class as being especially rich, cramming quite a bit into the school year. We studied The Odyssey, a Shakespeare play (I don’t remember which one), because I read a few of them around that time), which we then went to see at the Hanna Theater; short stories; poetry; and creative writing. That was a lot for one school year, and it provided a great overview of literature for a 13- or 14-year-old.

More significantly, Bossinger gave me enough positive feedback on the writing I did in class that I was emboldened to bring in short stories and poetry I had written at home (or, probably; during other classes) for her to evaluate. She actually took the time to discuss them with me after school. And she sincerely encouraged me to keep writing. I still remember certain lines she particularly liked. Her encouragement literally was a turning point, and maybe the all-important first one, in a series of decisions that led to my becoming a professional writer.

A week before school officially began, in my 11th-grade year, the Heights A Cappella Choir ran a choir “camp,” meeting twice a day, morning and evening, for a couple of hours each. It was my first year in the choir (I was not allowed in, due to my grades, the year before), and it was also the first year for our conductor Clair McElfresh.

The first thing we did, the first time we gathered, was singing a chord, an A major chord. It sounded pretty good to me. But Mac stopped us, saying, “You sound like high school kids.” Several students answered, saying, “We, like, are high school kids.” Mac said, “But you don’t have to sound like it.”

He had us try a couple of things to adjust our sound, and then we sang that A chord again. The sound was so dramatically different that it—that one moment—changed the entire course of my life. I had been heading down a pretty destructive path, and missing increasing numbers of school days. This thing was intriguing enough that I wanted to stay and find out what else could happen. I mean, it happened in the first minute, and we had a whole school year ahead of us.

The whole experience did not disappoint. Mac also encouraged me to sing solos, write arrangements for vocal groups within the choir, become part of the planning team for concerts, and take a leadership role in the organization.

I even brought my grades up—just enough—to stay in the choir. It was the one and only reason I ever stepped inside the school. Within a year after I left Heights High, I had already begun a career in music—doing all the things in real life that Mac had me doing in school—and another career in writing. Half a century later, those are both still my vocations.

Two teachers. That wasn’t a lot. But it was plenty.

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.
Local businesses are helping kids stay warm

Elana Baldwin
As all Greater Clevelanders know, fall may be lovely, but winter is just around the corner. Some Heights residents don’t have the proper gear to stay warm.

Many CH-UH students rely on their schools to supply clothes to help keep them warm and dry. In addition to helping them stay comfortable and healthy, hats, gloves and warm footwear help kids make it to school.

If you were supposed to walk one or two miles to work, would you be likely to do it with frozen fingers and toes?

Sruti Basu
The Small Business Development Center (SBDC), located in the Lee Road Library, is hosting two workshop series this fall. The Modern Side Hustle Series begins on Oct. 10. The three-part workshop will help business owners define their brand, establish a digital presence, and learn about modern marketing tools used to grow businesses and products.

SBDC will also host the Accelerate Your Business Launch Lab. If you are considering starting your own business, the Launch Lab can help you determine if you have a valid business idea and a future as a business owner, through hands-on lab sessions, consultations and workshops.

All workshop sessions will be held at the Small Business Development Center, 2340 Lee Road, 2nd floor, in Cleveland Heights. For more information visit www.csusbdc.com; or register at http://bit.ly/2wkSOWR.

Sruti Basu is the director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.
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Nadeen Hayden represents positive CHANGE and the FUTURE for our Cleveland Heights Municipal Court!

Nadeen is the most qualified candidate for the job because she has the EXPERIENCE and DEDICATION to work hard for our city. A lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio, Nadeen supported herself through college and law school, graduating with honors from Cleveland State University in 2.5 years and then earning her law degree at Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

You will not find a candidate who is more respected in the legal community than Nadeen Hayden, who currently works at one the top litigation firms in Ohio. Previously Nadeen served as staff attorney to the Administrative and Presiding Judge of Cuyahoga County for three years. Nadeen has served on the executive boards of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association; Bar Foundation; and the prestigious William K. Thomas American Inn of Courts.

NADEEN HAYDEN:

• HAS helped manage the largest court docket (Cuyahoga County) in the state of Ohio.
• IS a civil and criminal litigation attorney.
• IS a leader in the legal community.
• WILL apply for funding through The Ohio Supreme Court’s annual Technology Grants to bring our court into the future.
• WILL establish a Drug Court program for non-violent offenders.
• WILL implement a newly organized and more efficient and effective Housing Court.
• WILL address disparities in the application of justice through bail reform and anti-recidivism programming.
• WILL treat everyone with respect and WILL administer justice fairly and effectively.

VOTE NADEEN HAYDEN FOR JUDGE NOVEMBER 7TH!

Nadeen Hayden is honored to be endorsed by:

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