St. Paul’s Cooperative Preschool seeks new home

Emily Lamps

St. Paul’s Cooperative Preschool (SPPC) is about to lose its home of 65 years. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, that built the nursery school wing in 1956, has decided, as of Nov. 29, not to renew the preschool’s lease.

The cooperative now is faced with the challenge of finding a new home so that it can continue to serve its students. As of the end of December, the co-op currently has 54 of its 78 possible student spaces filled. SPCP was rushing to find a new home soon.

Heights Observer January 1, 2018

Heights Observer January 1, 2018     www.heightsobserver.org
About the Observer
The Heights Observer is not an ordinary newspaper; it is a nonprofit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The Observer has no writing staff; it is written by you—the readers. Individuals throughout the community decide what stories they want to tell, then submit them for publication. Anyone in University Heights or Cleveland Heights is welcome to contribute regularly, occasionally or even just once.

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

Advertise in the Observer
www.heightsobserver.org
The backstory to Democracy Day

On Thursday, Jan. 25, Cleveland Heights City Council will convene the city’s fifth annual Democracy Day, and you, dear reader, are most cordially invited.

For the uninstructed, Democracy Day gives the public an opportunity to address council about how the political influence of corporate entities, added to obscene amounts of money spent in the political process, is degrading the democratic institutions of our city, our state and our nation. Following the hearing each year, a letter stating the reason for the event and summarizing citizens’ remarks is sent by council to our U.S. senators, our U.S. congress member, and the presidents of the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House. That letter, the full text of the petition, plus written minutes and a video, can be viewed on the city’s website under Government, Archived Agendas and Minutes, Public Hearings.

Why do we do this in Cleveland Heights? What’s the backstory?

Starting in 2012, about 50 Cleveland Heights Move to Amend volunteers (our neighbors and friends) spent hundreds of hours collecting the signatures of CH registered voters. They did so through a process called the citizen’s initiative, the right to which was established by the 1912 Ohio Constitution, still in force today. By July 2013, the campaign was able to submit more than 3,000 signatures to the CH clerk of council—more than enough for the initiative to make the November 2013 ballot as a proposed ordinance: “Shall the proposed ordinance entitled ‘Political Influence by Corporate Entities,’ establishing annual public hearings before City Council on this subject, and sending a summary of the public hearing to Congressional and State representatives, and calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring that only human beings, not corporations, are the intended beneficiaries of Constitutional rights, and that money is not the equivalent of speech, be adopted?”

Of the CH citizens who voted on the issue, 77 percent voted “Yes,” thus establishing annual Democracy Day hearings. Dozens of other cities across the country and 11 others in Ohio have passed similar ballot measures, all calling for a constitutional amendment establishing that constitutional rights are for human beings only, and money does not equal free speech, so campaign expenditures can be regulated.

In addition, hundreds of city councils nationwide, and 12 in Ohio, have passed resolutions containing the same language.

Of course, we cannot amend the U.S. Constitution with local action. But we can send a message to our state and federal elected officials, and Democracy Day is one way to do so. At the federal level, national Move to Amend has worked with Congressman Rick Nolan (D-MN) who, with 20 co-sponsors, introduced the “We the People Amendment.” House Joint Resolution 48, in the 115th (2017–18) Congress. Early in 2017, Move to Amend announced the goal of reaching 35 co-sponsors before year’s end. That was easily achieved and surpassed; 30 co-sponsors have joined Nolan for a total of 36 signers to date—including Marcia Fudge (OH-11) and Marcy Kaptur (OH-9). The next heavy lift will be to get companion legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Last year, 70 people attended CH’s Democracy Day, and 26 spoke on topics covering a wide range of policies that directly affect local citizens, including:

• Privatization of municipal services nationally led to the city’s outsourcing of its building department.
• The cost of running for the Ohio House ($1.6 million) and Ohio Senate (over $2 million) favors entrenched incumbents and shuts out newcomers.
• Tax dollars are being shifted from local schools to charter schools and vouchers in an attempt to privatize public education.
• Some CH neighborhoods remain ravaged by the effects of foreclosures; two speakers connected these conditions, and the city’s inability to fully rectify them, to the

continued on page 9

Heights Observer January 1, 2018  www.heightsobserver.org

Apple Construction
Residential Contractor
Serving Greater Cleveland since 1980
Kitchens, bathrooms, additions and more
216-321-6639

Japanese & Malaysian Cuisine
216-320-2302
1673 Coventry Road, CH
www.pacificeastcoventry.com

Sells All the Heights
January...Named after the Roman god Janus—god of gates and doors, endings and all types of beginnings—especially the beginnings of important events in a person’s life.

January is often considered the month for deep reflection... we look back at the year behind us... and then look forward to the future year.

Looking Back: My sincerest thanks for all your good wishes, confidence in me and support in my business... Looking Forward: I wish you all much good health, success in your endeavors, happiness and bountiful blessings.

Bachman Ins and Fin Svcs Inc
Lee Bachman, Agent
2349 Warrensville Center Road
University Heights, OH 44118
216-251-4123

Combine & Save.

Good things happen when you combine your home and auto insurance with State Farm. Like saving an average of $894. Plus, you’ll have a good neighbor like me to help life go right. CALL ME TODAY.

Looking Back: My sincerest thanks for all your good wishes, confidence in me and support in my business...

Looking Forward: I wish you all much good health, success in your endeavors, happiness and bountiful blessings.

The SUSAN DELANEY REAL ESTATE

SUSAN DELANEY, ABR,RS,CRN
216-577-8700
Email: susan delays howard hanna.com
Web: susan delaney howard hanna.com

Lives In the Heights

The Susan Delaney Real Estate

LIVES IN THE HEIGHTS

Combine & Save.

Good things happen when you combine your home and auto insurance with State Farm. Like saving an average of $894. Plus, you’ll have a good neighbor like me to help life go right. CALL ME TODAY.

Combine & Save.

Good things happen when you combine your home and auto insurance with State Farm. Like saving an average of $894. Plus, you’ll have a good neighbor like me to help life go right. CALL ME TODAY.

Good things happen when you combine your home and auto insurance with State Farm. Like saving an average of $894. Plus, you’ll have a good neighbor like me to help life go right. CALL ME TODAY.
Local accountability fosters common good

Suze Kasser

The Internet makes it easy to gain access to events that you don’t attend in person. I recently spent several evenings on the CH-UH City School District’s website, viewing recordings of board of education meetings going back to 2012. I recommend it. To view the recordings, go to www.chuh.org and select “Board of Education” from the “About” menu.

Whatever the subject—strategic planning, facilities planning, career technical education, academic priorities, grade configurations, contracts or staffing—the board invariably focused on how to engage the community: how to help us understand an issue, clarify expectations, gain input on how new buildings should look and function, and build consensus around solutions or expenditures.

This is profound.

As the vehicle for public oversight for precious public resources, the board is responsible for ensuring that the interests of the community are served by our public schools. The videos showed what this looks like. The board makes education democratic. It is one of the critical components of making public schools public.

Charter schools and private schools are not public. Let no one tell you a charter school is public just because it receives public funds. Without oversight by any entity answerable to the public, a charter school misses the boat. We should all be furious that public funds are spent without public accountability.

The lack of oversight is dangerous. School boards are elected to look out for the students. Students attending publicly funded nonpublic schools lack this protection. Their governing boards are more likely concerned with the profitability of their school, rather than the education of its students.

Whether you think public schools need to improve or that charter schools are a good idea, the lack of public control makes charter schools wrong.

As I try with increasing frustration to influence the direction of federal policymakers, I am grateful that public education is first and foremost a local government responsibility. I am especially grateful that our board of education, while not always making decisions that I support, takes seriously its role as a conduit for public engagement. Board members represent the public voice in oversight of public funds, and they know that to do that well they need to listen and discern. Their bottom line is the students.

Former board of education member Donalene Poduska reminded me that big money has infiltrated local school board elections in Colorado, California, Louisiana, Minnesota and New Jersey. This dangerous intrusion into local school decision-making is evidence that the ideological push to privatize public education is a real threat to our most local and accessible form of democratic governance. It has clearly infected federal and state policy to an outspoken stance that big money has infiltrated local school board elections in Colorado, California, Louisiana, Minnesota and New Jersey. This dangerous intrusion into local school decision-making is evidence that the ideological push to privatize public education is a real threat to our most local and accessible form of democratic governance.

Local accountability fosters common good.
Shop local. Learn local. Choose public.

Ari Klein

We are fortunate to have many locally owned businesses in our community. From grocery stores to bookstores, restaurants to beauty shops, there are many people invested in owning businesses in the Heights. My wife and I believe in supporting those independent businesses because, in many cases, the owners are people we know and trust. It’s also convenient to be able to walk to a nearby store instead of having to drive a distance away.

It is distressing to us that many people use local businesses only as a last resort, relying more on giant megastores, both online and on Warrensville Center Road. Large corporations bully suppliers into selling their products at lower prices and pay their workers less than they should with fewer benefits.

The long-term effects of ignoring local businesses in favor of the megastores will be devastating. Short-term gains of “low prices” will harm our needs.

Private and parochial schools in our community have many of the same attributes. Many of these institutions have served the community for years. There is a tradition and a sense of belonging. I respect the decision of families to send their children to these schools for whatever reason. While it is their choice, it is also their responsibility to support that choice financially. I believe that families choosing non-public options should not receive public dollars to support these choices. Public money should go to support public schools. We vote for this.

There are people and organizations that don’t share this vision of public education. These are the people who see children as dollar signs waiting to be plucked away from traditional public schools and used to pump up corporate profits. Others prey on students with needs. Some people would cheer the lower taxes and great convenience. Our attention we could end up living in a world of 21 charter school closures per year since 2015. Even a charter that lasts 10 years is a relative newcomer to a public system that is well over 200 years old.

There are some effective charter schools around, but they still take money away from public school students in an inequitable manner. They do not have democratically elected local governance, and they lack fiscal accountability to those of us who foot the bill.

I imagine that if we do not pay attention we could end up living in a world of waiting to see a class reunion for one of these online schools. Will students ever know one another?

Doug Livingston of the Akron Beacon Journal wrote in August, “An average of 18 charter schools have closed in Ohio annually over the past decade.” In the next line of the article, he writes that there have been 25 charter school closures per year since 2015. Even a charter that lasts 10 years is a relative newcomer to a public system that is well over 200 years old.

There are some effective charter schools around, but they still take money away from public school students in an inequitable manner. They do not have democratically elected local governance, and they lack fiscal accountability to those of us who foot the bill.

I imagine that if we do not pay attention we could end up living in a world of waiting to see a class reunion for one of these online schools. Will students ever know one another?

Doug Livingston of the Akron Beacon Journal wrote in August, “An average of 18 charter schools have closed in Ohio annually over the past decade.” In the next line of the article, he writes that there have been 25 charter school closures per year since 2015. Even a charter that lasts 10 years is a relative newcomer to a public system that is well over 200 years old.

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

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Your Information:
First Name:
Last Name:
Street Address:
City: ________________________ Zip Code: __________ State: OH
Daytime PH: __________ Evening PH: __________
Email:

Your nominee’s information: (if different)
First Name:
Last Name:
Street Address:
City: ________________________ Zip Code: __________ State: OH
Daytime PH: __________ Evening PH: __________
Email:

Visit www.VEHbrothers/helping-hann/ for complete terms and conditions.

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of this contest.

Please share your story, or that of the person you are nominating, with us:
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Clip this form and submit to: Verne & Ellsworth Hann • 2026 Lee Road • Cleveland Hts, OH 44118 or FAX to 216-932-2266

Additional entry forms can be found at www.vehbrothers.com/helping-hann.
University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld, Vice Mayor Susan Pardue, and council members Phillip Ertel, John Rach, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Councilman Steven Sims was absent.

Councilwoman Pamela Cameron arrived just after roll call. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director William Sheehan, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas.

Massage from Mayor Infeld
Mayor Infeld congratulated the people who were elected to office on Nov. 7, wishing the best for the officials and for the city. She also announced that Gervasi elementary school is looking for afterschool tutors. Those interested should contact Sandy Warnock of the school district.

University Square
Council approved two recommendations from the planning commission for possible changes to University Square. The first is to allow variations for the area around Key Bank and the Foundry building partly occupied by Verizon to allow flexibility for potential new owners. The second is to move the lot line on the north side of the property south “into” the garage, meaning part of the garage may be demolished, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.

Police and dispatch contracts
Union members and the administration have approved three (3) three-year contracts between the city of University Heights and patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers. The city’s labor counsel presented the new terms to council as ordinance 2017.45.34 and 47, on first reading. Council has 30 days if it wishes to disapprove the contracts, without action, they become binding. The primary concerns were wages, health care, stipends and hours.

Cuyahoga County project grant
Council decided against authorizing the application to Cuyahoga County for a $50,000 grant to be used for a new gateway plan for the Cedar-Warrensville intersection. The proposed grant would have sought funding for three new bus shelters, a recycling receptacle, and trees. The grant couldn’t be made, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.

Police and dispatch contracts
Union members and the administration have approved three (3) three-year contracts between the city of University Heights and patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers. The city’s labor counsel presented the new terms to council as ordinance 2017.45.34 and 47, on first reading. Council has 30 days if it wishes to disapprove the contracts, without action, they become binding. The primary concerns were wages, health care, stipends and hours.

Cuyahoga County project grant
Council decided against authorizing the application to Cuyahoga County for a $50,000 grant to be used for a new gateway plan for the Cedar-Warrensville intersection. The proposed grant would have sought funding for three new bus shelters, a recycling receptacle, and trees. The grant couldn’t be made, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.

Police and dispatch contracts
Union members and the administration have approved three (3) three-year contracts between the city of University Heights and patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers. The city’s labor counsel presented the new terms to council as ordinance 2017.45.34 and 47, on first reading. Council has 30 days if it wishes to disapprove the contracts, without action, they become binding. The primary concerns were wages, health care, stipends and hours.

Cuyahoga County project grant
Council decided against authorizing the application to Cuyahoga County for a $50,000 grant to be used for a new gateway plan for the Cedar-Warrensville intersection. The proposed grant would have sought funding for three new bus shelters, a recycling receptacle, and trees. The grant couldn’t be made, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.

Police and dispatch contracts
Union members and the administration have approved three (3) three-year contracts between the city of University Heights and patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers. The city’s labor counsel presented the new terms to council as ordinance 2017.45.34 and 47, on first reading. Council has 30 days if it wishes to disapprove the contracts, without action, they become binding. The primary concerns were wages, health care, stipends and hours.

Cuyahoga County project grant
Council decided against authorizing the application to Cuyahoga County for a $50,000 grant to be used for a new gateway plan for the Cedar-Warrensville intersection. The proposed grant would have sought funding for three new bus shelters, a recycling receptacle, and trees. The grant couldn’t be made, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.

Police and dispatch contracts
Union members and the administration have approved three (3) three-year contracts between the city of University Heights and patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers. The city’s labor counsel presented the new terms to council as ordinance 2017.45.34 and 47, on first reading. Council has 30 days if it wishes to disapprove the contracts, without action, they become binding. The primary concerns were wages, health care, stipends and hours.

Cuyahoga County project grant
Council decided against authorizing the application to Cuyahoga County for a $50,000 grant to be used for a new gateway plan for the Cedar-Warrensville intersection. The proposed grant would have sought funding for three new bus shelters, a recycling receptacle, and trees. The grant couldn’t be made, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.
Cleveland Heights News

Hanna Perkins is for all children—those developing typically and those who need some help with social-emotional skills. We work closely with parents, and focus on each child’s emotional development for a lifetime of happiness and success.

Open House
Wednesday, Feb. 7 4-6 pm; Q&A 5pm
Hanna Perkins is for all children—those developing typically and those who need some help with social-emotional skills. We work closely with parents, and focus on each child’s emotional development for a lifetime of happiness and success.

Cedar Fairmount’s Alfonzo Wilson is nation’s longest-serving letter carrier

At the age of 80, Cedar Fairmount letter carrier Alfonzo (A.T. “Teddy”) Wilson is the longest-serving active letter carrier in the United States.

On Nov. 17, the U.S. Postal Service honored him at a special ceremony, presenting him with a 60-year service pin and a table clock inscribed, “Thank You for Your 60 Years of Service.” His fellow workers held a buffet lunch and reception for him.

Current and former postal employees were among the more than 200 people who attended the ceremony in Wilson’s honor.

Asked by Les Wolf, his current manager, how many managers he has had, Wilson replied, “I don’t know, but now you are number one.”

Cedar Fairmount customers value Wilson’s tireless effort, his attention to detail (no one gets the wrong mail), and cheerfulness.

Wilson has delivered mail in Cleveland Heights since 1980, but has a much longer history with the postal service. He began working as a mail sorter at the age of 18, after graduating from high school, and has delivered mail in Shaker Heights, Bratenahl and Cleveland Heights.

Offered management positions, Wilson has always refused, saying he did not want to be involved with the politics that come into play as a manager.

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

Cedar Wilson delivering mail in Cedar Fairmount.
Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Council members present were Mayor Cheryl L. Stephens, Vice Mayor Jason Stein, Mary Dunbar, Khalil Saren, Carol Row and Michael N. Unger. Melissa Yasnow was absent.

Public comments

Civil immigration enforcement: Three residents commented on this topic. Stuart Greenberg discussed his support for council’s proposed civil immigration enforcement legislation. He stated his belief that everyone should be treated equally, regardless of immigration status, and that equal treatment leads to improved public safety and criminal justice enforcement. Anne Hill reported that, earlier in the day, the leaders of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church attempted to deliver an application for a stay of removal to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Brooklyn, on behalf of Leandra Garcia. ICE officials refused to receive the application. Hill urged council to take a stand and pass the civil immigration enforcement ordinance. Susan Radbourne also spoke in favor of the legislation.

- The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus: Lee Chilcote spoke on behalf of the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus initiative regarding the group’s proposal (submitted to council at a meeting on Nov. 6) to extend the occupancy of the Coventry School tenants to June 30, 2019, rather than the current date of June 30, 2018. The group wants to move forward and has developed a strategy that involves Heights libraries (taking ownership of the property). Chilcote reported that the library board, which met earlier in the evening, has authorized its executive director to negotiate an agreement. Chilcote expressed hope that, before the end of 2017, city council will support extending the tenants’ occupancy and will decide to hold back on the issuance of a request for qualifications/proposal from prospective developers for the site. Mayor Stephens noted that council has requested a meeting with the school board for Nov. 27 to discuss the potential transfer or sale of the property to the city, making it possible for negotiations with the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus group to go forward. (Since this council meeting, the school board and city council met in executive session on Nov. 27.)

Charter review commission

Council Member Roe noted that the charter review commission had its first meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and the facilitator, Larry Keller, gave an overview of the charter review process and answered questions. The video of the meeting is now on the city’s web site, on the page devoted to charter review.

DECEMBER 4, 2017

Council members present were Cheryl L. Stephens, mayor, Mary Dunbar, Carol Row, Khalil Saren, Michael N. Unger, and Melissa Yasnow. Jason Stein, vice mayor, was absent.

Public comments

Charter review commission: Resident Melody.

New Year, New You!

Let Tri-C help you jump start your future!

We know deciding to go to college can be hard. Enrolling shouldn’t be. Tri-C staff can help you complete your enrollment process quickly and efficiently in time for January classes. Transportation assistance is available.

www.tri-c.edu/jumpstartmetro

216-987-4141

Free books mailed to your young child!

If your child is

4 years old or younger

And lives in

44106, 44120, CH-UH,
East Cle., Euclid or Shaker, visit

heightsfamily.org
for registration information
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture awards grants to Heights organizations

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Nov. 13, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) announced that it would award more than $1.4 million dollars in grants to a record-number 258 nonprofit organizations in Cuyahoga County through its 2018 grant programs. The grants awarded include $76,470 to 21 Heights-based organizations, which may not be surprising given that the city of Cleveland Heights bills itself as “home to the arts.”

Four of the 20 Heights organizations are based at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus: Lake Erie Ink, Ensemble Theatre, FutureHeights and Reaching Heights.

“Cuyahoga Arts & Culture con- gratulates our 2018 grant recipients,” said Joseph P. Gibbons, president of CAC’s Board of Trustees. “We are proud to be investing these public dollars to connect residents to vibrant and diverse arts and cultural experi- ences throughout the next year.”

CAC made the grants through its 2018 Project Support (PSI and PSII) and its 2018 General Operating Sup- port programs. Organizations eligible for operating support are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with primary mission of arts or culture and have been in operation for more than three years. Five Heights-based organizations will receive operating support for 2018.

Apollo’s Fire, $100,000; Heights Arts, $44,703; Dobama Theatre, $37,794; Roots of American Music, $22,370; and Lake Erie Ink, $25,027.

Organizations that conduct specific arts or cultural programs that benefit the community, whose primary mission may or may not be exclusively arts and culture, are eligible for PSI or PSII grants, based on the size of their budget related to arts and culture projects. PSI grants are awarded in amounts up to $50,000. PSII grants are awarded in amounts up to $100,000.

Six Heights-based organizations will receive PSI grants for 2018: ChamberFest Cleveland, $27,749; for “Season Seven: Freedom & Justice,” CityMusic Cleveland, $10,000; for “Two Faiths, One Spirit,” Cleveland Chamber Music Society, $14,040; for “The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios in Back-to-Back-Evenings,” Ensemble Theatre, $16,441; and for “Who are we, the people? A Cleveland dia- logue on major themes in Kushner’s epic ‘Angels in America’,” Heights Youth Theatre, $16,709; for “The Journey Home”; and Kulture Kids, $75,050; $35,000; for “A.J. Rickoff is the Place;” and $35,000; for its “Music of Other Worlds” program.

CAC was approved by Cuyahoga County voters in 2006 and, since 2007, CAC has invested $75 million in 375 organizations presenting arts and cultural activities in Cuyahoga County. For more information, visit www.cacgrants.org.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive direc- tor of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

BEST OF THE HEIGHTS continued from page 1

If we were to close, which we are determined not to do, that would leave Cleveland Heights with just one cooperative preschool. That school, Fairmount Cooperative Preschool, is currently at capacity, serving 44 students. Already this year, two nearby pre- schools have closed their doors. Both Parents’ Day Out Preschool in nearby Shaker Heights and the Church of the Saviour Co-operative Preschool closed in May 2017. Both of these preschools were secular, like SPCP, and located on church properties.

A cooperative preschool is unique in that it relies on families to run the school alongside a pro- fessional teaching staff. A benefit of a co-op is that tuition is typically lower than at other [types of] pre- schools, largely because of family participation. SPCP fosters a sense of community for its participants, as families support teaching staff in the classroom during the school day, act as custodians, repair and maintain the school grounds, supply classroom materials, and fundraise throughout the year. SPCP parents also have the opportunity to be on a parent board that helps make deci- sions for the co-op.

The role played by churches in the secular preschools run on their properties is a significant one. Over the years, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church has been a generous partner with SPCP, helping keep costs down by charging a modest rent and providing amenities such as heat, water, and trash removal services for no additional cost. This has benefited thousands of families and their chil- dren during the 61-year relationship.

SPCP’s board, parents and staff are hoping for grace from St. Paul’s church in the form of one more year in its current building so that SPCP can continue to serve families while they search for a new location. They also are seeking information about potential spaces for the school’s new location, and strongly prefer to remain in the Cleveland Heights area. If you have any relevant infor- mation, contact Deb Binkofsky at 216-932-0002.

Emily Lampy is an education consultant and parent who has been a resident of Cleveland Heights since 2015. She cur- rently has a child enrolled at St. Paul’s Cooperative Preschool.

The COMMON GOOD continued from page 3

what makes our public institutions sacred and worthy. We must demand that our elected representatives share this belief.

Public education is best created and improved by people who are close to daily life in schools. That’s why local control of schools is so powerful. It’s easiest to act locally. Tune in and care.

We can nurture our children and our educators and make sure decisions benefit the common good.

Sue Kasser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and former director of Reaching Heights. She serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

Beth EI’s food drive honors MLK’s legacy

Carol Bruml

Beth EI - The Heights Synagogue will sponsor a food drive in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Sunday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donations will go to the Heights Emergency Food Center.

In addition to food donations, checks made out to the Heights Emergency Food Center will be wel- comed. Donations of money enable the center to purchase large quanti- ties of food at a discounted cost. Do- nations of food are also appreciated, as they help meet a more immediate need.

Those wishing to make a dona- tion should simply drive up to Beth EI – The Heights Synagogue, at 3246 Desota Ave., any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Someone will be there to collect the donations—there will be no need to get out of the car, or be inconvenienced in any way.

Each year, Beth EI has been able to donate more food and funds than in previous years, and would like to beat last year’s record in collecting donations for this good cause. Will you help?

Carol Bruml is the communications chair and newsletter editor for Beth EI - The Heights Synagogue.

School superintendents will discuss their challenges to state policy at Jan. 29 forum

Susie Kaeser

When it comes to public education, Ohio state policymakers have passed laws that shrink resources for local schools, diminish local control, impose limiting graduation requirements, reduce the evaluation of the quality of education in a school district to a letter grade, and attempt to standardize education and outcomes.

As the policies have taken hold, their detrimental effects are being felt across the state. School leaders from diverse school districts are beginning to challenge mandates that work against the best interests of their students and diminish public education.

On Jan. 29, three Northeast Ohio school superintendents will discuss what they have done to advocate for their students and quality public education. The public forum, Superintendents Fight Back, will take place in the Cleveland Heights High School cafeteria, 7-8:30 p.m.

Superintendents Jim Lloyd, Walter Davis and Talisa Dixon, from Olmsted Falls, Woodridge and Cleveland Heights-University Heights, respectively, will discuss their concerns and actions. Tom Schmida, past president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, AFT Local 795, will moderate the program.

The forum is the first in a three-part series that will explore Education in a Democracy, sponsored by the Heights Coalition for Public Education. Additional forums are scheduled for Feb. 12 and Feb. 26. The forums are free and open to the public. Child care is available by reservation; call 216-321-0020.

The coalition comprises parents, community members and educators who are committed to a system of public schools that provide all children an education that gives them the opportunity to succeed in life. For more information visit the coalition’s website, www.chuh.net/coalition.

Susie Kaeser is a regular contributor to the Heights Observer and the convener of the Heights Coalition for Public Education.

Jan. 23 public forum to focus on civic engagement and neighborhood organizing

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights invites neighborhood residents who are interested in building a strong community through civic engagement and neighborhood organizing to attend a free public forum and workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at The BottleHouse Brewing Company, 2050 Lee Road.

Attendees of the Community-Building for Change forum will participate in an interactive workshop that will cover topics such as civic engagement, effective organizing, and creatively solving challenges.

The workshop will benefit interested residents by helping them gain the knowledge and skills needed to create and maintain strong, effective neighborhood groups that can empower residents to take action to support and improve their community.

Brenda May, one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors; Kaela Geshke, wealth initiatives and community network builder of Neighborhood Connections; and Travelle Harp, network builder of Neighborhood Wealth Initiatives and community connections; and Brenda May, one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors; Kaela Geshke, wealth initiatives and community network builder of Neighborhood Connections; and Travelle Harp, network builder of Neighborhood Connections.

The forums are free and open to the public. Child care is available by reservation; call 216-321-0020.

The coalition comprises parents, community members and educators who are committed to a system of public schools that provide all children an education that gives them the opportunity to succeed in life. For more information visit the coalition’s website, www.chuh.net/coalition.

Susie Kaeser is a regular contributor to the Heights Observer and the convener of the Heights Coalition for Public Education.

One step away from an amazing smile

Fairmount Circle Dentistry

Robert E. Schneider, DDS

GENERAL, RESTORATIVE & ESTHETIC DENTISTRY

Warm and Welcoming Office

Tailored to Busy Families

Comfortable Stress-Free Visits

Gentle Comprehensive Care

Life-Changing Smile Makeovers

Restorative Care & Get Relief from Sleep Disorders

Experience the Newest Technologies

Located near John Carroll

Easy free parking

216.321.2545

20620 John Carroll Blvd, Suite 220

dds_r@att.net

www.fairmountcircledentistry.com
CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

Helping older adults successfully age in place is a shared goal of Fairhill Partners and Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC). For several years, the two organizations have teamed up to offer health workshops for seniors, to help participants better manage their health, reduce fear of falling, increase physical activity, and improve their quality of life.

In January, Fairhill Partners will bring a six-session Chronic Pain Self-Management (CPSM) workshop, developed at Stanford University, to SAC. Chronic pain—pain lasting six months or more from a variety of causes—can cause one to feel irritable, tired, isolated, or helpless, and prevent individuals from doing things they enjoy. Workshop participants will learn proven techniques for safely and effectively managing pain, in sessions that will cover nutrition; managing medications; decision-making; communicating with family, friends and doctors; and evaluating new treatments. Participants will also learn and practice a safe, no-impact exercise program for strength, endurance and flexibility.

The CPSM workshop will meet on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, and available online at www.universityheights.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. University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is $60 for University Heights seniors.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-932-7539 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

UH Senior Happenings

Senior Happenings, sponsored by the city of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

Speakers for the January programs are listed below; for a full description, view the calendar at www.universityheights.com.

Jan. 4: Michael Brennan, the new mayor of University Heights.
Jan. 11: Ann Porath, who manages the volunteer attorneys of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.
Jan. 18: Katie Windahl, coordinator of Tri-C’s English as a Second Language program.

weekly on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan. 9 through Feb. 20. Call 216-691-7177 to register.

SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, and available online at www.universityheights.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. University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is $60 for University Heights seniors.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-932-7539 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, and available online at www.universityheights.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. University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is $60 for University Heights seniors.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-932-7539 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, and available online at www.universityheights.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. University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is $60 for University Heights seniors.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-932-7539 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older, and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, and available online at www.universityheights.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. University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is $60 for University Heights seniors.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-932-7539 or by e-mail at ajenkins@clvhts.com.
Library eliminates overdue fines
Sheryl Banks

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System customers have more to celebrate than just the New Year. As of Jan. 2, Heights Libraries will have joined a growing number of Ohio public libraries that have eliminated overdue fines for most late materials.

“Overdue fines are punitive, and can become a barrier to many people, especially young and low-income people, who would like to use the library but can’t afford to pay off their fines or are simply afraid that they’re no longer welcome,” said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. “What we really care about is getting our materials back so everyone can use and enjoy them. As long as customers return our items, we no longer see a need to charge overdue fines.”

Customers will still see fines on their accounts, but those fines will disappear once overdue items are returned. Along with the elimination of most fines and fees, the library has also increased the number of times most items can be renewed, from five to ten times.

Circulation Manager Ty Emerson noted that over the past two years the library has added options such as temporary cards for non-Ohio residents, educator cards that give teachers special extended loan periods, and eMedia cards that can be obtained online, and this new policy is simply the latest effort to ensure community members can use library services and materials more easily. “It signals a further shift in focus from chastisement and restrictions to forgiveness and easier access,” said Emerson.

The new fine-free policy does have some restrictions, and it only applies to items owned by Heights Libraries. Through its membership in the CLEVNET consortium, Heights Libraries customers have access to items at other participating Northeast Ohio libraries via a hold system. If a customer borrows or checks out an item with overdue fines, the customer must pay those fines—Heights Libraries cannot waive them. This applies to any item obtained through the inter-library loan service, as well.

Heights Libraries customers will still be charged fees for damaged or lost items, and late fees for videos and earlier information still apply. The library has also lowered the fine amount that triggers a card account to be blocked, from $5 to $10, and a card will also be blocked if the customer has 20 or more overdue items.

“We’re hoping these changes will encourage people to return their overdue items more quickly,” said Emerson. “Once they do, they get a clean slate, and can check out their next 100 items.”

More details about the fine-free policy can be found on the library’s website, www.heightslibrary.org, and at any branch.

Sheryl Banks is the communications manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

Library again earns top ranking
Sheryl Banks

For the ninth consecutive year, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received the highest possible rating in Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Service. The five-star rating is given to the top U.S. libraries each year.

Heights Libraries has earned five stars in nine out of the ten years that Library Journal—a national trade journal that reports news about the library world, emphasizes public libraries—has published its ratings.

The libraries are categorized by yearly expenditure and rated on five criteria: circulation, visits, program attendance, Internet terminal use (public computers), and eMedia (eMedia, such as e-books). Heights Libraries circulation came in at 29.1 per capita, meaning that roughly 29 items were circulated every resident in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights service area. Visits per capita averaged 17, program attendance averaged 1.2, and public computer use was 4.8.

“This shows what we’ve always known: people in our community are using the library more than ever,” said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. “For many customers, it’s the ‘third place’ that occupies the space besides work and home where they like to be. We are always busy, and I don’t see that trend reversing anytime soon.”

When it is given day, at any branch, you’ll find people with a wide variety of needs being satisfied: Internet access to apply for jobs or benefits, reference to find information for their little ones, a free computer class to help them keep their job skills fresh, or an interesting program that gives them something to think about.

Three other Cuyahoga County libraries also received five-star awards: Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Library, and Westlake’s Porter Public Library. Ohio libraries did well in general, compared to the rest of the nation: Ohio was second only to New York State in the number of libraries that received five-star ratings, 24 vs. 31, respectively.

The entire report on America’s star libraries can be found on Library Journal’s website, lj.libraryjournal.com.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 20, 2017
Present were President Ron Holland, Secretary Chris Mehnert, Susan Beatty, Max Gerboc and Jim Rossa. Vice President Abby Brutnick was absent.

Library issues are successful in November general election
Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin reported that voters approved all 22 public library issues on November general election ballots in Ohio. The unofficial results show an average voter approval rate of 67 percent. The successful library issues included one bond and 21 levies, comprising seven new levies, nine renewals, two replacements, two renewals with increases, and one replacement with an increase. Locally, the Cleveland Public Library and Geauga County Libraries both passed levies.

University Heights branch opening
More than 200 community members attended the opening of the renovated University Heights branch earlier this month. Mayor Susan Friel read a resolution naming Nov. 21, 2017 University Heights Library Day. Guests enjoyed crafts, snacks and the Barbershoppers music group from Heights High. A final report of costs will be submitted to the library board of trustees before the end of the year.

New trustees sought for library board
The deadline for applications to the library board was Nov. 21. An information session was held for interested parties at the Lee Road Library. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education interviewed applicants at the Lee Road Library. The Lee Road Library will host an interview with additional applicants at a date to be announced.

Two are honored at Fund for Future of Heights Libraries event
John Jann and Marilyn Alcott were honored by the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries at a dinner held at the Doan Center of John Carroll University on Sunday, Nov. 5. The dinner was attended by 54 individuals and raised more than $2,000 for the foundation.

On the Same Page

Hotspot lending program
Due to increased demand and popularity of the hotspot lending program, the library instituted a hold system for the program at the beginning of the month. Developed and coordinated by Jocie Maye, tech librarian, customers can now place a hold by calling the library or speaking with staff at any Heights Libraries location.

Library again earns top ranking

Heights Libraries has earned the highest possible rating in Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Service. The entire report on America’s star libraries can be found on Library Journal’s website, lj.libraryjournal.com.

Heights Libraries again earns top ranking

Heights Libraries have again earned the highest possible rating in Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Service. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights service area ranked first in Ohio and second in the nation.

To earn the highest possible rating, a library must meet the following criteria: library use (public computers), and terminal use (public computers), and eMedia (eMedia, such as e-books). Heights Libraries circulation came in at 29.1 per capita, meaning that roughly 29 items were circulated every resident in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights service area.

Visits per capita averaged 17, program attendance averaged 1.2, and public computer use was 4.8.

“The entire report on America’s star libraries can be found on Library Journal’s website, lj.libraryjournal.com.”

The entire report on America’s star libraries can be found on Library Journal’s website, lj.libraryjournal.com.

Do you like the Heights Observer? Your donation helps to keep it coming

The Observer is published as a non-profit project.

All proceeds are returned to the community through programming by FutureHeights.

Your donation is tax-deductible and helps sustain the Observer and other important projects.

Donate now by joining FutureHeights at bit.ly/Observer-backer

When you advertise in the Observer, your money stays in the community.

Library again earns top ranking

Heights Libraries has earned the highest possible rating in Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Service. The entire report on America’s star libraries can be found on Library Journal’s website, lj.libraryjournal.com.
Oxford fifth-grader is Cavs All-Star Kid

Davis’ Spanish teacher, Juana Cuervo, nominated her for the award, stating on the application, “Mykaila is involved in Student Council, Spanish Club and Reading Challenge. Mykaila is kind and supportive to other students and also helps tutor them. She is dedicated to her coursework, is willing to do whatever it takes to succeed and never gives up.”

Davis was recognized at the Cavaliers’ Nov. 17 game against the Clippers, at Quicken Loans Arena.

Task force to propose ‘wrap-around’ service model for district’s schools

Kristy Dietrich Gallagher

From the outside, Oyler School in Cincinnati looks like an ordinary building, but from the inside, it’s “breathtaking,” according to Beverly Wright, CH-UH Board of Education member. She and four other members of the district’s Community In Schools Task Force recently visited Cincinnati for an in-depth look at “the Cadillac of wrap-around schools.”

Oyler gained national recognition for its groundbreaking embrace of wrap-around services: full-scale health clinics (including mental, dental and vision care), child care, enrichment programming, one-to-one mentoring, and other services that meet a vast array of student needs.

The CH-UH district began looking at this model two years ago, led by Teachers Union President Ari Klein and Superintendent Talisa Dixon. The task force, comprising more than 30 district staff, community members, and representatives from potential partner agencies, began meeting last spring and plans to present a proposal to the school board by April.

The United Way of Greater Cleveland is guiding the process to help the district identify student and family needs, explore ways to meet those needs, and develop a plan specific to its individual buildings. United Way representatives will spend the next few months interviewing civic and business leaders, conducting focus groups with district parents, and surveying teachers to determine priorities. The task force will then use this information to propose a model that could work for CH-UH.

While the CH-UH district already offers various features of wrap-around services, including the Greater Cleveland Food Bank school market and Cleveland Clinic mobile unit at Boulevard and Oxford elementary schools, the one key goal of the task force is to devise a plan that would coordinate wrap-around services and include an evaluation component to ensure programs meet identified needs.

Aside from an initial investment in planning and construction, all of Oyler’s wrap-around programs are self-sustaining. Each agency comes up with its own funding, by billing health insurance and Medicaid, charging fees for its services, or relying on its own pool of outside donors. The schools simply provide the space and coordinate a steady stream of clients.

At Oyler, the CH-UH visitors noticed a sense of collaboration and coordination among staff members. Lisa Hunt, family engagement specialist for the CH-UH district, noted, “The community, school staff and partner agencies have managed to achieve a centralized vision of ‘education first’ while simultaneously meeting so many other needs.”

Kristy Dietrich Gallagher, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a former district teacher and a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District. A longer version of this story appeared at www.chuh.org.
Drum majors reflect on marching band’s fall season

Corbin Covault

Alex Gilllooly and Glennis Covault are the drum majors for the Heights High Marching Band, under the direction of Brett Baker of the Instrumental Music Department (IMD). This past fall, the marching band performed pre-game and half-time shows during four scheduled home football games. As junior drum major, Covault worked closely with the more experienced Gillooly, who serves as senior drum major.

The central role of the drum majors is to coordinate and implement Baker’s vision, which means being ready for anything. As Covault put it, “Mr. Baker once said that our job as drum majors is to make him ‘useless.’ We act as the eyes, ears and hands of Mr. Baker at every level. This has inspired me to constantly be thinking ahead.”

Both Gilllooly and Covault agree that their most important responsibility is the steady conducting of the music. “Out in the field,” Gilllooly said, “the main concern is to make sure that we direct with a very consistent tempo, maintaining eye contact with the percussion and with each other to keep the band together.”

The two leaders support each other. “Alex and I happen to be very good friends and get along very well,” Covault said. Gilllooly responded, “Working with Glennis was easy going; we communicated very well, and when one of us was directing the other would walk around and help the band. We both knew what needed to happen to get the band to perform a great show.”

The two drum majors also depend upon fellow student band officers, who, according to Gilllooly, are critical for keeping the whole band on the same page: “During performances we rely on the officers to set a good example. We’re the eyes and ears of the drum majors. We work closely with the more experienced Gillooly, who serves as senior drum major. Likewise Covault reports, ‘The band officers are there to make our job easier. I am very proud of our officers this year. They respected Alex and me and helped us keep control of the band.’

Now that football season is over, Gilllooly and Covault are turning their focus back to playing instruments with Symphonic Winds and IMD jazz ensembles. Covault looks forward to the return of marching band next year. “I definitely learned a lot, probably more than I ever have in that short amount of time. It was fun because I got to wear the uniform and be a leader, while I also had to constantly be on par. It really helped prepare me for what I’m going to be doing next year, and there isn’t anyone I would rather assist than Alex.”

Corbin Covault is communications coordinator for the Cleveland Heights High School Band and Orchestra Parents Organization (BOPO).

Cleveland Heights
University Heights Board of Education
Meeting highlights

Board President Ron Register, Vice President Hasim Esmail, Jim Fauch and Eric Silberman were present, as were Superintendents Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Ganner. Beverly Wright arrived in time for the interviews.

Issuance and sale of bonds

The board approved a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of bonds.

Library board of trustees interviews and appointments

The purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for the CH-UH Public Library System Board of Trustees. Two positions were open, with eight candidates interviewing: John Bacha, George Barany, Sara Barfett, Dana Fluehly, Mary Hobson, Karen Long, Tyler McTigue and Vikas Turakhia.

The school board members asked each candidate the same questions, including the candidate’s ability to fulfill a seven-year term, qualities the candidate brings to the library board, the nature of the relationship between the school board and the library board, challenges the library board faces, and the candidate’s expertise.

After discussion, the board selected Dana Fluehly and Vikas Turakhia to serve for the partial term (through December 2021) and full term (through December 2023), respectively.

LVV Observer: Jillian Houser

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.
Dunn and Cavender open fitness center

After a year of planning, business partners Lisa Dunn and Tim Cavender—both professionally certified fitness instructors and Cleveland Heights residents—have opened a new strength-training fitness facility. Their new business, 216 Fitness, aims to help individuals build a fun, supportive community, empowered by strength and confidence. Located at 1415 South Belvoir Blvd., at the corner of Mayfield Road in South Euclid, 216 Fitness plans its grand opening celebration for Saturday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heights residents may know Dunn as the former owner of Revive, the fair trade boutique that had operated on Lee Road since 2006, but closed in April 2017. While operating Revive, Dunn developed health issues that she sought to relieve through a strength-training regimen. This, in turn, led her to become a fitness trainer at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, where she met Cavender, director of personal training services, who has a degree in exercise physiology from Cleveland State University.

The two soon realized that they both have a like-minded philosophy to wellness: a thoughtful, gentle approach. Both focus on helping clients achieve a higher quality of life through strategic progress, with an intensity that is challenging for every fitness level. Workouts are tailored to fit an individual’s needs and exercises can be modified to make them accessible for all levels.

“We specialize in a welcoming, inclusive, non-intimidating approach that often appeals to those who may be newer to personal fitness or need a new introduction,” said Dunn. “Many of our clients feel stronger within a few weeks. They’re often surprised at how far they’ve come.”

The owners held a soft opening on Nov. 20, and since then have worked to transform the former 7-Eleven storefront into a light-filled, comfortable studio, with plenty of parking, and easy accessibility for clients.

Dunn said the mission of 216 Fitness is to offer high-quality personal training that is also affordable. Group and semi-private sessions are offered six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center offers budget-conscious rates with annual and monthly plans.

“Clients enjoy the wide array of innovative circuit-style training equipment that we offer,” said Cavender. “The workouts are creative, effective and fun.”

The low-impact workouts incorporate a cardiovascular routine that uses traditional and non-traditional equipment, such as a suspension trainer, slider, barbells, deadlifts, kettlebells and stretch bands.

Although 216 Fitness is new, Dunn and Cavender have cultivated many loyal clients.

“I am far stronger and more functional now than I’ve been in a number of years,” said Terry Lilian Segal, 51, of Cleveland Heights. “Both Tim and Lisa have helped me to work through old injuries and limitations, and to prevent new ones from cropping up. They treat everyone with equal attention and care, monitoring each person for safety and maximum benefits, while also bolstering each person’s sense of accomplishment. Their skills and personalities complement each other.”

Curt Coker, 65, also of Cleveland Heights, follows a strength-training fitness routine recommended by Cavender in order to prevent pain in multiple joints. “When I first worked with Tim, I had disabling pain in my lower back. I also have problems with my knees, wrists and shoulders. After listening to a description of my problems, Tim recommended a set of exercises that nearly eliminated my pain. I felt a lot of relief from the very first session. What he recommended worked better than what my doctor suggested.”

For more information, visit 216fit.com. To set up a consultation, call 216-932-3348 or e-mail info@216fit.com.

Andrea C. Turner is the owner of ACT One Communications, a marketing communications consulting firm based in Cleveland Heights. 216 Fitness is a client.

5688 MAYFIELD ROAD | LYNDHURST, OH 44124 | 440.919.0158

FARMERS MARKET TO TABLE
Introducing Chef Sarah Murphy, now with Vegan and Gluten Free Options.
We are thrilled to announce our latest team member, Sarah Murphy. She brings a positive attitude and new directions to our menu and operations. She will fold her ideas into our current menu, including vegan and gluten free items. We will be launching our Farmers Market to Table menu, using the freshest local products with the hope of expanding our customer base with this enhanced approach. Soups and pizzas will begin to be made from scratch, utilizing our North Union Farmers Market and Sarah’s creativity.

DEWEYS ROASTED COFFEE
Shaker Square
Come Together
The freshest produce flowing into Steaming Hot Homemade Soups, Pizzas & Sandwiches! Yum!!!

Lewis Coker, 65, also of Cleveland Heights, follows a strength-training fitness routine recommended by Cavender in order to prevent pain in multiple joints. “When I first worked with Tim, I had disabling pain in my lower back. I also have problems with my knees, wrists and shoulders. After listening to a description of my problems, Tim recommended a set of exercises that nearly eliminated my pain. I felt a lot of relief from the very first session. What he recommended worked better than what my doctor suggested.”

For more information, visit 216fit.com. To set up a consultation, call 216-932-3348 or e-mail info@216fit.com.

Andrea C. Turner is the owner of ACT One Communications, a marketing communications consulting firm based in Cleveland Heights. 216 Fitness is a client.
There's no reason to stay home and hibernate in January—Heights Arts offers a number of community-friendly events to kick off 2018.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, at 8 p.m., visiting Minnesota quartet Zeitgeist joins Cleveland's No Exit ensemble for an evening of music from the unique repertoire of each group, as well as collective performances of new music. The free community concert promises a diverse assortment of avant-garde sounds, including music that explores the possibilities of the electro-acoustic medium.

Opening Friday, Jan. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m., is Materialized: Seven Artists Working in Metal, curated by Heights Arts exhibition committee member Pamela Argentieri. "Northeast Ohio has a long tradition of sculptors, blacksmiths, silversmiths and designers working in metal," said Argentieri. "This community and its institutions continue to support the careers and education of its artists."

Materialized brings together art by David L. Deming, Mark Hartung, Matthew Hollern, Jacquie Wynn Kennedy, Seth Nagelberg, Stephen Yusko and Argentieri. The works chosen demonstrate the artists' new and traditional ways of using metal and inventing form. "It's an opportunity to see the objects and how they are materialized, through sketches, models, patterns and prototypes," explained Argentieri. The exhibition will be on view through March 4.

The second concert of Heights Arts Close Encounters Season 11, "Rhythms, Rhymes and the Kitchen Sink," brings a unique afternoon of chamber music and original verse to the stage of the Bop Stop on Sunday, Jan. 21. It's a little-known fact that the Cleveland Orchestra's principal English horn player, Robert Walters, is also a published poet. He'll share the Bop Stop stage in Hingetown with Oberlin College's newest bassoon faculty member, Drew Pattison, and composer/pianist Teddy Niedermaier in a unique program of music and original poetry. The musical journey includes a 2016 composition by Niedermaier, rarely heard romances by Elgar and Sibelius, and Debussy's thrilling "Rhapsodie." Tickets for the 3 p.m. concert are available at Heights Arts on Lee Road or online at www.heightsarts.org/concerts.

On Sunday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m., award-winning pianist and CIM faculty member Andrew Focks leads a masterclass performance at Heights Arts for aspiring pianists. All Northeast Ohio students in grades 6–12 are welcome to apply as participants in the masterclass sessions, which are free and open to the public for observation. The application and information can be found at www.heightsarts.org/masterclasses.

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

---

Heights Arts presents a month of music and metal

Mary Ryan

---

Zoma

Ethiopian Restaurant

2240 Lee Rd., Cleveland Heights

"Once you taste – you are ours"

- Meat (Lamb, Chicken, Beef)
- Vegetarian Dishes (kale, chickpea, lentils, cabbage, green beans, carrot)
- Coffee ceremony
- Gluten Free options

Wishing you a warm and cuddly New Year.

ahhh...

Wishing you a warm and cuddly New Year.

24 pages of humor, politics and fun
FUNNYTIMES.COM • 216.371.8600

---

Ripley Tree Service

24/7 Emergency Services
Free Estimates
Full Residential Services

You’ll miss ‘em when they’re gone

We’re great at removing trees—and even better at keeping them healthy & beautiful

Pruning
Fertilization
Cable Support Systems
Disease Identification
Immunization
Stump Grinding
Tree Removal
Yard Expansion
& more ...

440-463-7379
RipleyTreeService.com
info.ripleyenterprises@gmail.com

---

CH Community Center
9 weekly classes to choose from
440.655.5394 • marybethmccnn@gmail.com

Offer expires Jan. 21, 2018
Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates showcases “sweet” art show

Melissa Richmond

Through March 5, sweets of a different variety will be on view inside Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates in Cleveland Heights, at 2285 Lee Road. The long hallway leading from the back parking lot currently showcases an array of quilts, embroidery and mixed media fiber art—all part of This Sweet Life—an invitational fiber art exhibit.

The participating Northeast Ohio artists interpreted the theme of “this sweet life” in diverse ways. The artists include Diane Bird, Victoria Bocchiocchio, Natalie Iavarin Love, Roz Kvet, Katharine O’Connell, Margaret O’Reilly, Amy Reed, Melissa Richmond, Rima Tessman, Eugenia Vanberg, Nelly Vilekis, Violet Watterson and Marty Young.

Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates has been in business—offering a taste of the sweet life—since 1939.

Melissa Richmond, a fiber artist who loves living in Cleveland Heights, said of the show’s origins, “Every time I came into Mitchell’s through the back hall, I felt it seemed so white and empty and needed art! So in August I asked Jason Hallaman, the new owner of Mitchell’s, if he’d be interested in an art show. He was enthusiastic so I put together a show of fellow fiber artists interpreting the theme ‘This Sweet Life.’”

Shannon Morris

Artful is excited to announce that its newest tenant, Studio Cat, has moved into Studio 4.

Studio Cat offers a wide range of classes for children and adults. Among the January classes are Winter Break Workshops for kids, including book making, printing and open studio; Mommy and Me Art Time, in which mothers get to work on an art project while their preschoolers are guided through a play-based art class; and a Vision Artful board workshop for adults, to clarify their goals for 2018.

Recent New York City-transplant Jacqui Brown founded the new studio, which she named Studio Cat in a “funny play on words for Studio 4 in French.”

Brown is excited by the energy and vitality of the local art scene here. Asked about her goals for the studio, Brown spoke of using art to build analytical thinking skills and helping adults and children de-stress. “Creativity is a tool for problem-solving while the process of creating is very relaxing,” Brown said. “Everything is changing with technology and global issues. The biggest advantage we can give our children, and ourselves, for the future is the ability to think and problem solve. The arts exercise and develop those tools.”

Brown studied fine arts in college and pursued a film career. After having kids in NYC, she began teaching art in a small independent school. That grew into after-school classes and a summer camp in the Hudson Valley.

“Teaching springs from my love of art and the process of creating,” Brown explained. “I like to think of myself as a facilitator or a guide as much a teacher. It is rewarding to see growth and creativity come out of the process of making art. Artful is the perfect location, I love being a part of the Artful mission to make creativity and inspiration more accessible to the community.”

Find more information about Studio Cat and the classes it offers at studiocat.weebly.com and on Facebook at StudioCat at Artful.

Shannon Morris is the executive director of Artful.
‘Angels in America’ spreads its wings at Ensemble Theatre

Tyler Whidden

‘Both parts of Tony Kushner’s masterpiece “Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes” will be staged at Ensemble Theatre this year, with “Part One: Millennium Approaches” opening Jan. 5.

Ensemble’s Executive Artistic Director Celeste Cosentino is directing both parts of “Angels in America,” with the follow-up, “Part Two: Perestroika,” opening April 27 with the same cast of Cleveland actors. Both shows will run four weekends.

“I think it makes sense to produce both parts,” Cosentino said of the undertaking. “It’s really one big story, and I’m excited for the opportunity to provide audiences with the chance to watch the characters’ entire journey.”

Considered by many to be one of the best American plays of the last half-century, the 1993 Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winner follows the lives of several people living in New York City during the rise of the AIDS epidemic in the late 1980s.

The play’s themes of sexual identity, religious identity, and life after death all play out under the umbrella of the Reagan era, when homophobia and fear of an unknown disease was commonplace.

Cosentino sees many similarities with the current political climate, making “Angels” still very relevant for today’s audiences.

“These characters struggle in a society that does not allow them to be who they are,” Cosentino said. “Not unlike today’s administration, the Reagan administration relied heavily on demagoguery and false idealism. Unfortunately, there are those who are still in power continuing to dismantle hard-won progress in the arena of civil and human rights. This play shows us we still have a ways to go.”

As for all plays at Ensemble, Cosentino cast Cleveland-based actors, including Derdriu Ring (Hannah), Jeff Grover (Roy Cohn), Kelly Strand (Harper), Scott Esposito (Prior), Robert Hunter (Belz), James Rankin (Joe), Craig Joseph (Louis), and Inés Joris (Angel), with many of them playing multiple characters throughout this theatrical opus.

“Kushner’s language is poetic and inspired,” Cosentino said. “He uses such imagery and theatricality . . . like a painter using the richest of their colors. It is a great honor to direct such a monumental and vivid work, which has earned its status as an American classic with its reach and scope. It is not to be missed.”

“Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches” runs through Jan. 28, with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., at Ensemble Theatre, 2843 Washington Blvd.

For tickets and information, call 216-321-2930, e-mail info@ensemble-theatre.org, or visit www.ensembletheatre.org.

Tyler Whidden is a playwright and associate artistic director at Ensemble Theatre.
HYT continues season with ‘Once Upon a Mattress’

Victoria Skok as Lady Larken. They are joined by Grace Wilkinson as Winifred, Keegan Polatz as Henry, Olivia Roosd as Queen Aggravain, Brian Tuohey as King Sextimus the Silent, and Grace Hoy as the Jester. “Once Upon A Mattress’ is a wonderful retelling of the classic children’s story of the princess and the pea,” said Sumlin. “Debuting on Broadway in 1959, it introduced the world to the comic legend Carol Burnett. It is a story that teaches us that beauty is skin deep, and how to find your voice. With a strong female character leading the way, it is a hilarious romp that the whole family will enjoy.”

Performances will be presented in the school’s auditorium (2181 Miramar Blvd.) on Friday, Jan. 19 and 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 20 and 27, at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 general admission, and $9 for seniors and children under 6. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to each show. For more information, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org. For group seating information, call 216-410-7500.

Pamela Fine is executive director of Heights Youth Theatre.
If music be the food of love ... by David Budin

I ate a stranger’s dinner—on purpose—when he wasn’t looking. It was around 1975 and I was playing music at earth by April, the vegetarian restaurant at the corner of Cedar and Lee, a space into which the Cedar Lee Theatre eventually expanded. They spelled earth by April in all-lower-case letters because the name came from an E.E. Cummings poem, and that’s what he did.

I played and sang my songs at that place, by myself, many weekend evenings in the ’70s, when I was in between rock bands. I sat on a high stool against the long wall of the main dining room, about three-fourths of the way back.

This one freezing-cold January night, there were few diners and by about 10 p.m. there was only one customer there. He sat in the front of the room, the Lee Road end of it, as far away from me as possible. He ordered his dinner and waited for it, ignoring me (he wasn’t the only one who did that back then).

The lone waiter still working that night brought the man’s dinner and disappeared into the kitchen, where night brought the man’s dinner and waited for it, ignoring me (he wasn’t the only one who did that back then).

While they were involved in discussion, I quietly took the plate into the kitchen and left it near the sink.

I went back to playing music and watched as the waiter brought the guy a new meal, which he ate while smoking his fresh, new cigarettes. (I guess he was eating in a vegetarian restaurant because it’s supposed to be healthier for you.)

Some restaurants that hire musicians feed them and some don’t. Before earth by April, I played in between rock bands. They didn’t feed me, either. I walked up to me and asked, in his big, deep, mellifluous radio voice, “Would you like me to announce the time?” I said, “Ummm . . . sure.” He took the mic, looked at his watch and intoned, “It is now eleven oh-two.”

I said, “Thanks.” He winked and made his way back to his seat. All but three or four people in the place ignored him; those three or four glanced at their watches and looked at me to see if something was going to happen. I shrugged and went into my last song before my break. And then I sat down to eat.

I remember every gig I’ve ever played—concert hall, nightclub, festival, restaurant or bar—and every meal I’ve had at each venue. That’s the other part of being a musician.

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.

---

The author (foreground) backstage at a big rock festival in 1979, with the Cars’ Ric Ocasek behind him, in—where else?—the food tent.

---

FutureHeights

Vote for your favorite Heights businesses!

Write in the names of your favorite Heights businesses or visit www.futureheights.org to complete the online ballot.

Deadline for ballot submission: February 15, 2018

Please Note! Although this is a write-in ballot, we are only considering businesses that are located within the city boundaries of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

One ballot per person.

In order for your ballot to be counted, you must vote for at least half (6) of the ballot categories and include your name and contact information. Ballots not meeting these requirements will be considered invalid.

Mail your ballot to:
FutureHeights
2843 Washington Blvd. #105
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Or scan and e-mail your ballot to:
info@futureheights.org

Questions? Call 216-320-1423

---

If you are a business owner or operator, name of business: