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# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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FutureHeights  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## Rogers and Perko named UH chiefs

Mike Cook

University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan has made it official. Dustin Rogers and Robert Perko III can drop the word “interim” from their titles. They are now the police chief and fire chief, respectively, for the city. A swearing-in ceremony was held at the start of the Sept. 17 UH City Council meeting.

“Since making the announcement public [on Sept. 12], we have received nothing but congratulatory and laudatory support for their promotions to the permanent positions, coming from both within this city, and throughout the greater community,” Brennan said. “These gentlemen have the experience, leadership skills, work ethic and temperament to be



University Heights Police Chief Dustin Rogers and Fire Chief Robert Perko.

successful leaders of their departments.”

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## Vampires, zombies and witches are coming to Lee Road pop-up costume shop Oct. 19

Benjamin Rossa

During the weekends of Oct. 19 and 26, old costumes will be brought back from the dead at the Costume Exchange Pop-up on Lee Road. Located in the former Heights Music Shop space, at 2174 Lee Road, the temporary shop will sell gently used costumes for \$5 a set.

The project is a collaboration between Reaching Heights and local start-up The Old Vaudevillian (TOV). Proceeds from costume sales will benefit the Patti-Jackson Music Lesson Scholarship fund through Reaching Heights.

“Halloween is one of my favorite times of year,” said Reaching Heights Program Manager and TOV owner Nicole Rossa. “I wanted to find a way to bring people together for the holiday that wasn’t only about candy.”

Property owners Ray Lesser and Sue Wolpert are excited to see the space used for something new. “The storefront used to serve as an alternative community center and we look forward to having more events in the space,” said Wolpert.

If you’d like to donate gently



Ben and Nicole Rossa in last year’s costumes that now are headed for the donation box.

used costumes to the project, drop-off boxes are located at CH-UH public schools, Heights Librar-

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## CH-UH schools host October open houses

Scott Wortman

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District will host community open houses at each of its schools beginning in mid-October.

The district’s seven elementary schools, as well as its high school and middle school, will be open to all community members, including prospective families and current families, to enable them to see and experience opportunities at the schools.

The first open house is on Saturday, Oct. 13, at Cleveland Heights High School, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. as part of the school’s homecoming weekend celebration.

The Heights Schools Foundation will host a cookout during the open house, to benefit scholarships for graduating seniors. The full schedule of open houses is as follows:

- Cleveland Heights High School - Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Boulevard Elementary School - Monday, Oct. 15, 6-8 p.m.
- Canterbury Elementary School - Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m.
- Heights Middle School (Wiley campus) - Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m.
- Roxboro Elementary School - Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6-8 p.m.
- Oxford Elementary School - Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6-8 p.m.
- Noble Elementary School - Thursday, Oct. 18, 6-8 p.m.
- Fairfax Elementary School - Thursday, Oct. 18, 6-8 p.m.
- Gearity Elementary School - Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6-8 p.m.

*Scott Wortman is the supervisor of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

## Library outreach embraces homeless families

Sheryl Banks

Youth Services Librarian Katherine Assink recently was reading *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* to a group of kids, and they were loving it. The colorful, interactive storybook—about a big green monster who gets bigger and scarier with each turn of the page—encourages kids to deal with their fear by facing it. During the second half of the book, the kids make the monster disappear, bit by bit, by telling it to go away.

“Some of the kids got so excited



Youth Services Librarian Katherine Assink assembles her outreach bag, including interactive story books to read to the children, for a visit to Family Promise of Greater Cleveland.

they started running around the room yelling ‘go away!’” said Assink. “It was great to see them have such joy and enthusiasm for the story.”

Most kids need a little help dealing with fears, but this group, perhaps, needs more than most; the children at this story time were all living in temporary housing provided by the homeless-serving agency Family Promise of Greater Cleveland.

In 2015, staff at Heights Libraries’ Coventry Village branch set a goal to provide services to under-

*continued on page 14*

**Letters Policy**

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

**HEIGHTS OBSERVER**

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**October issues often look ahead to November**



**OPENING THE OBSERVER**

Kim Sergio Inglis

The *Heights Observer* is a monthly publication; as such, the content of any given issue primarily focuses on the current month. One occasional exception to that unwritten rule is the October issue.

In those election years when local issues and candidates are on Cleveland Heights and University Heights ballots, the October edition of the *Heights Observer* looks ahead to early November, when Heights residents will vote, and publishes a voters guide.

In the *Heights Observer's* inaugural year, 2008, the October issue contained some political commentary and feature stories, but much, if not all, focused on the presidential race.

In October 2009, the *Heights Observer* published its "first local election issue." Inside, approximately 7 of the issue's 24 pages were dedicated to profiles of candidates—for UH Mayor, UH City Council, CH-UH Board of Education (BOE), and CH City Council. Each candidate answered one question posed by FutureHeights

(the nonprofit Heights-based organization that publishes the *Heights Observer*), and one question of the candidate's choice. The questions, in many cases, varied from one candidate to another.

That first election issue included a calendar listing of local election-related events—a *Heights Observer* and League of Women Voters (LWV) Candidates Night, as well as panel discussions, debates, and town hall meetings with the candidates.

In October 2010, making an exception to its mission of covering exclusively Cleveland Heights and University Heights news, the *Heights Observer* published a voter's guide to candidates vying for positions on Cuyahoga County's then-new charter government—County Executive and County Council Members (Districts 10 and 11).

By October 2011, the *Heights Observer* was back to its hyper-local focus, publishing—now in partnership with the Heights Chapter of the LWV—a voters guide to BOE and city council candidates, as well as state and local issues that would be on the CH and UH ballots—including a school levy. This time, candidates vying for the same position all answered the same five questions (questions 3-5 were published online only, for space reasons). The guide occupied 6 pages in a 28-page issue.

In 2013, the voters guide moved outside of the *Heights Observer's* pages, becoming a special insert distributed with the issue.

This has remained the model through 2015 and 2017, giving the guide a life of its own, so to speak, outside of the pages of the *Observer*. This has enabled its independent distribution at candidate forums and other election-themed

events, and extended the guide's life beyond October, right up to Election Day.

While local election guides are occasional, semi-annual features produced by the *Heights Observer* and LWV, each month the paper publishes LWV reports of UH and CH city council, BOE, and library board meetings, written by LWV volunteer observers who attend them.

From its fourth issue on, the *Heights Observer* has been publishing LWV volunteer-written accounts of meetings. In July 2008, without fanfare, LWV notes for the May 5 and 19 meetings of CH City Council appeared in the *Heights Observer*. By the next month, an account of UH council meetings appeared as well, as did library board and BOE meeting highlights.

Despite their extra-small type, the *Heights Observer* views the LWV meeting notes, and the work of the LWV observers, as essential to covering what is happening in the Heights community.

Because the *Heights Observer* is reliant on volunteer writers—most of whom don't seem interested in writing about city government, unless they have an opinion about something that is happening—the LWV notes are often the only reporting in its pages of what our city and school representatives are doing.

By providing this essential reporting, the LWV Heights Chapter keeps readers informed about what our elected officials are doing to serve the community and its residents—both in election years, and every day.

*Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, and is a Cuyaboga County master gardener volunteer.*

CHIEFS continued from page 1

Rogers, who had served as interim chief since March 17, 2018, said he was excited and grateful for the opportunity to serve as police chief. "I look forward to the opportunities to continue to enhance our law enforcement services while fulfilling the expectations of the community," Rogers said. "Regardless of rank or assignment, it has been, and always will be, truly an honor and a privilege to serve the community of University Heights."

Perko, who became interim fire chief on Jan. 2, 2018, said he was honored and humbled by his promotion. "We are doing great things in University Heights and I am privileged to be a part of it," Perko said. "Henry Ford said it best: 'Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.'"

Perko has 15 years of experience, including work with the fire departments in Newburgh Heights and Seven Hills. He has secured approximately \$1 million in grant

money for University Heights over his career.

Fire has been a part of Perko's family history. His father just retired from the Seven Hills Fire Department after 36 years of service.

In his 13 years with the University Heights Police Department, Rogers was previously promoted to corporal, then sergeant, then interim chief. He was responsible for revising the department's field training manual—a document now adopted as a model by Northwestern University.

As interim chief, Rogers created the Office of Community Policing, and completed enhancements to department personnel assignments, to improve department efficiency. Rogers also has implemented multiple directives resulting in procedural changes to enhance internal communications and criminal investigations.

*Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.*

**Information about the Heights Observer**

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

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

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

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

If you're writing a news article,

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on "Member Center" at the left.
- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

Articles to be considered for the November issue must be submitted by Oct. 15. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

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# Checking out democracy



**HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY**

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

Andrew Carnegie said, in 1903, “Free libraries maintained by the people are cradles of democracy, and their spread can never fail to extend and strengthen the democratic idea[.]” At a recent public meeting, Nancy Levin, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System director, echoed Carnegie when she called her organization “a facilitator of democracy.” We decided to explore how the Heights libraries function as part of the infrastructure of local democracy.

We have what is called a school district library system, serving both Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Not all school districts have their own public libraries. Beachwood and South Euclid-Lyndhurst, for example, are served by the Cuyahoga County system.

A small portion of our property tax goes to the CH-UH system, and periodically we vote on library tax levies. Those served

by county libraries pay those levies; no one pays taxes to both systems. Library boards decide when to put levies on the ballot.

Our Heights library system manages to be both hyper-local and regional—intimately small and mind-bogglingly large. Levin calls the four branches of the CH-UH Public Library System (Lee Road, Coventry Village, Noble Neighborhood and University Heights) “anchors for their neighborhoods.”

This hyper-local focus enables the branches to respond directly to patrons’ wants and needs.

For example, the Noble Neighborhood branch provides outreach to Nepalese refugees living nearby, including weekly citizenship and English classes. The branch also makes regular deposits of books to two neighborhood barbershops that serve as informal community centers.

The Coventry Village branch provides special services to the deaf community, as well as arts programming with the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus organizations.

The University Heights branch offers two very special collections: Jewish fiction for all ages, and Russian crossword puzzles!

The Lee Road branch boasts an extensive collection of foreign language books, offers passport

services, and has computer labs in the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center.

Every branch offers voter registration, serves as an Election Day polling place, and provides tax forms and government benefits information.

The “large” part of Heights Libraries comes courtesy of CLEVNET, a consortium of 44 library systems across 12 Northeast Ohio counties. It is one of the largest public library systems in the world, giving 1 million cardholders access to more than 10 million items. It dates to 1980, when the Cleveland Public Library put its catalog online and invited other systems in the region to access it and link their own databases. In 1982, CH-UH was the first to join, and CLEVNET was born. The most recent additions were the Rocky River and Geauga County public libraries, in 2017.

Heights Libraries upholds the American Library Association’s longstanding Library Bill of Rights. Among its tenets:

- Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

- Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

- Libraries should challenge censorship . . .

- A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

Our public libraries’ commitment to the principles of democracy is not merely an abstraction. In addition to providing print materials and access to technology and electronic media, they bring people together to discuss books, study English, learn new technologies, knit, play the ukulele, and much more. They help us become citizens, vote, and even pay taxes. They connect us with our own community and the wider world.

We cannot imagine life without the Heights libraries. A local library levy has never failed yet, so we must have plenty of company.

*Carla Rautenberg is a writer, activist and lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, and has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.*



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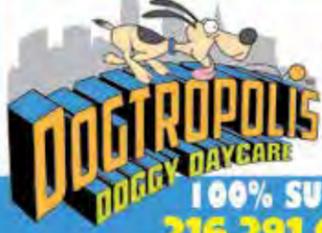
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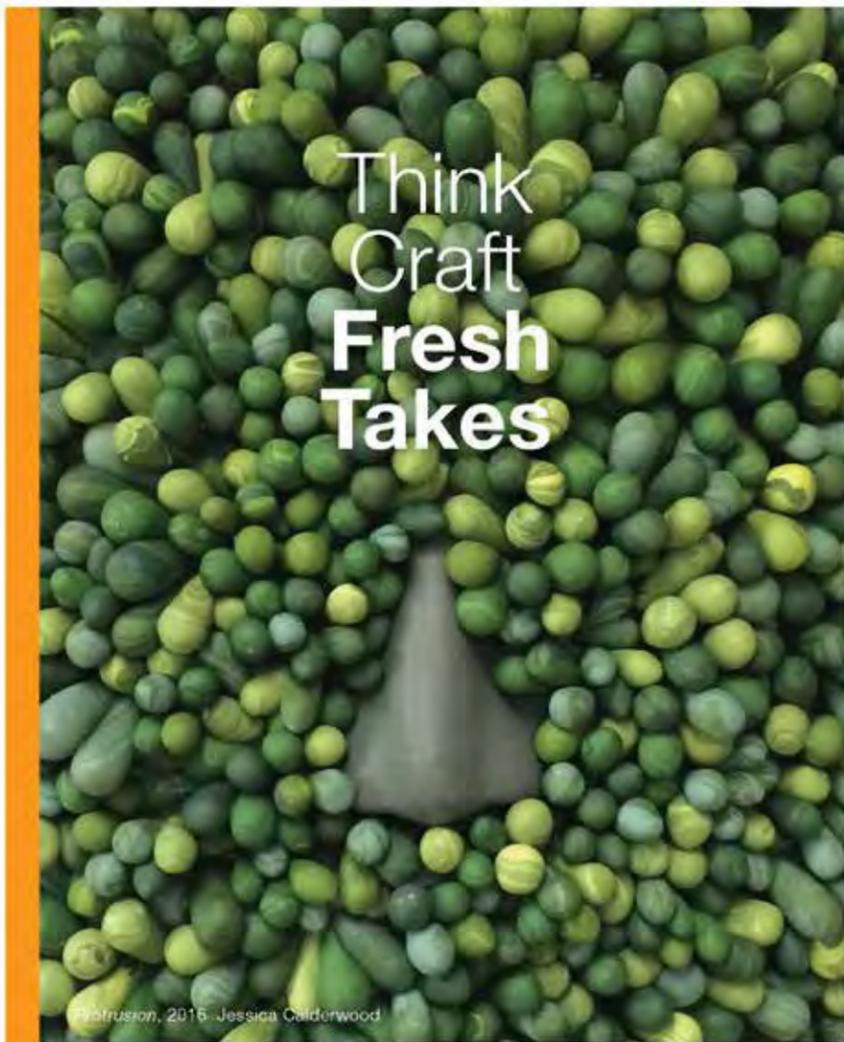
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**Privatization consumes essential public resources**



**THE COMMON GOOD**

Susie Kaeser

Ohio's constitution provides for a thorough and efficient system of public schools, but state lawmakers subverted this essential responsibility when they allowed public education funds to be transferred to private education providers in the form of vouchers and tuition payments to charter schools.

They justified privatization of this public good as a way to increase competition and thereby improve education. The thinking was faulty and the results are terrible for children and communities. The public system is held accountable and being bled dry, while private and charter operators enjoy unfettered access to public resources.

Some good news is that people seem to be falling out of love with charter schools. This fall, enrollment in the Heights schools is up and charter school numbers are down. As of early September, 208 children who are residents of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District (CH-UH) had signed up for a charter school, and 33 more were likely. The numbers have declined each year from a high of 431 in 2014-15.

Charter schools use public dollars but lack public accountability. School districts are charged \$6,010 for each student who lives in their community who attends a charter school, but they have no control over how those funds are used. Public schools lose money and students, which diminishes efficiency and undercuts quality. Our district's five-year forecast projects that charter students will cost the Heights schools \$2.6 million this year. This is down from a \$3.37 million price tag five years ago.

The real drain on the system, however, are the voucher programs, and those numbers keep climbing.

Ohio has three kinds of vouchers that force local school districts to pay for students who are using private education. Under the Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship programs, up to \$27,000 is available to any student with a special education diagnosis. The large price tag makes this a serious drain on school funds in every district. The number of users in our district doesn't change much from year to year. The projected cost for CH-UH for this school year is \$2.8

million, up from \$2.65 million last year. This year about 210 students will use special education vouchers.

Another option is the EdChoice voucher program. EdChoice vouchers are valued at \$4,650 for grades K-8 and \$6,000 for high school. Most schools that accept these vouchers are religious.

Access to EdChoice vouchers is tied to Ohio's deeply flawed education accountability system. If the aggregate test score data for an individual public school falls short, the school is defined as an EdChoice school. Anyone residing in the attendance area of that school who could have attended that school is eligible for an EdChoice voucher. Sadly, research is clear that standardized tests do not adequately measure the quality of education in a school. Ohio knowingly ignores this information and uses tests to punish public schools.

Nearly every district that has EdChoice designation serves many high-need students. In this irrational system, the neediest students lose the most money to privatization.

Lawmakers justify this program as a way to help families escape failing schools, but do not require recipients to be public school students. Most voucher users have never stepped into a public school. Most were already headed to a religious school and are rewarded with public funds to do so.

CH-UH was designated as an EdChoice district in 2012, and 32 students received vouchers that year. Once a student receives a voucher it can be renewed until the student graduates, even if the public school improves. Voucher use has grown exponentially as more schools were designated EdChoice and as recipients renew their vouchers. This year, 176 kindergarten students received first-time vouchers, adding to the total of more than 650 recipients. The expected loss to the CH-UH district this year from EdChoice is \$3.7 million, up from \$3.24 million last year.

The district's five-year forecast indicates privatization costs for charters and vouchers will be \$9.1 million for the 2018-19 school year. Where will it end?

As Ohio's policymakers revise the state report card, they should end the practice of using test scores to trigger access to vouchers. I hope they will also reclaim their primary obligation as stewards of public funds and more fully support a thorough and efficient system of public schools. A first step is to end the transfer of public funds to private education.

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

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# Teaching in hot classrooms



A TEACHER'S VOICE

Ari Klein

CH-UH schools opened on Aug. 20 this year, earlier than the traditional opening days I remembered from the past. Then our elementary and middle schools, along with dozens of schools throughout the state, cancelled classes because of extreme heat. You might say that closing the schools had nothing to do with the early starting date, but, in my opinion, staff and students in those buildings were already pretty worn out from extreme late-August temperatures, even before the Labor Day weekend heat wave hit. Our schools had never before called off classes because of heat, as far as I know.

Some people still may not understand what it's like to teach students when the temperature in your classroom is in the 90s. One of our fine music teachers, Jenna Hall Tucker, posted some great responses to people who don't get it. I will paraphrase some of them here.

- Being in a stifling hot room with 25-30 little people is different from laying outside on a lawn chair. Start with [the lack of] air movement, unless the fan you brought into school is blowing hot air around.
- In the past, we may have endured a day here and there when it was hot, not an extended period of days where the oven-like buildings where we teach soak up heat.
- Climate change data shows that our weather is hotter than it was in the "good old days." Using the "I survived through crappy conditions, and so should you" model is not inspiring to anyone, least of all to children. That is similar to the "I have lousy health insurance, so should you" mentality that teachers hear during negotiations from people in the community who are upset about school funding.
- If students are miserable for a good portion of the beginning of school, it sets a bad tone for the rest of the year. The first weeks of school are

important.

- People who believe that "what doesn't kill us makes us stronger" need to understand that it does not work well with children whose trust we must earn. Children should know that caring adults who are responsible for their safety, well-being and education are responsible enough to prevent them from suffering needlessly.

I read many similar posts, but Jenna's captured the most logical thinking for me. It is also interesting to note that the state requires elementary, middle and high schools to meet a specific number of hours per year. A few years ago, the state changed from counting days of school to hours of instruction.

Luckily, our elementary and middle schools have a buffer in terms of hours required by the state. In fact, our elementary schools exceed the state minimum hours of instruction by well over 100 hours per year. Our middle schools exceed the state minimums by at least 45 hours. The high school has a buffer of only 23 hours per year. So, it is unlikely that the elementary and middle schools closed for the extreme heat will be required to make up hours of instruction before the end of the school year, unless our winter is horrific.

Closing school is a difficult decision. Some parents have to scramble to arrange childcare while others may end up taking time off work. These are inconveniences that negatively affect many families. I believe the administration made the right call when it cancelled school during the recent heat wave. Staff and students had been struggling before Labor Day as well, which would not have occurred if all of our schools had air conditioning. After the middle school renovations this year, there will be only five schools without air conditioning. In the future, we should invest in updating those schools, but this will be impossible without another bond issue. So goes life in public schools without adequate state and federal funding.

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



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## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Present were Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Pamela Cameron, John Rach, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Also present were Mike Cicero, acting law director; and James Goffe, finance director. The meeting was held from 7 to 10 p.m. at which time council went to executive session.

### Updates by Mayor Brennan

The city is reinstating the Civic Awards Dinner, to be held this year on Nov. 14. Awards will be presented to the citizen of the year, public servant of the year, and employee of the year. Nominations are being sought. The mayor also reported that he has pledged to work with the school board to find the best use for the Wiley school property. Regarding fees for rental properties, he is recommending that council allow the temporary block to the ordinance to sunset, rescind the fee portion of the ordinance, and allow the prior fee structure to resume until a new plan can be put into place.

### IT package

Council approved an IT package from PC Alternatives, the city's current IT vendor, for a server, computer upgrades, associated software and installation, at a cost not to exceed \$63,334.99. The bulk of the cost is for hardware and for software license fees. James Goffe is researching less expensive software licensing options. These updates will enable standardized e-mail accounts, calendar sharing and centralized security. Some of the cost is to replace computers that are too old to be updated. The installation is planned to enable equipment to be moved around instead of being hard-wired into the current spaces.

### Cedar-Green crosswalk project

Council accepted the bid from Burton Scott Contractors for the new crosswalk project at the intersections at Cedar and Green roads, at a price of \$165,000, which includes \$10,000 for possible overruns. This cost will be paid in part by the \$142,965 received as a grant from the Community Development Block Grant Fund. Joseph Ciuni, the city's engineer, explained that the bid came in higher than projected because of the accelerated bidding process and the need to complete the project before Oct. 31. Most contractors are already fully scheduled for the season.

### 3950 Silsby Road

Council approved transfer of the city-owned house at 3950 Silsby Road to the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (the land bank) as a nuisance parcel to be torn down. The house, which has been used by the city for storage, has been heavily damaged by water and is not recoverable. After demolition, ownership of the lot will transfer back to the city.

### Public safety grants

Council accepted a grant from the Bureau of Workers Compensation, in the amount of \$6,916.25, to cover the cost of protective equipment for dangerous environmental elements. It also accepted a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of

Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$3,790 to equip the new ambulance. Both grants were sought by Interim Fire Chief Robert Perko.

### Fingerprint ID

The city will now begin offering fingerprint identification for people who need to be certified for various job applications. A portion of the fees collected will need to be paid to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These funds will enable those collected fees to be set aside prior to being paid out. The city will be included on the Ohio State Auditor's website as an available location for testing.

### Vehicle purchases

Council authorized purchase of a Mack LR64 cab and chassis with a Heil Durapack 5000 Rear Loader Rubbish Packer from Bell Equipment Company in an amount not to exceed \$222,818.84. Councilman Rach noted that the budgeted amount had been \$180,000 and voted against the purchase due to the cost increase.

Council authorized purchase of a 2018 rubber track four-cylinder sidewalk snowplow from Gibson Machinery LLC in an amount not to exceed \$127,475. This will replace the last of the old sidewalk plows, which is 32 years old.

Council approved purchase of two 2018 Ford SUVs, for use by administration and the fire prevention officer, through the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program for a total not to exceed \$57,668, plus an additional \$17,995.71 for specialized equipment.

### Department reports

Mike Cook, the city's new head of communications and civic engagement, is revamping the website and working on the new logo and re-branding process. He helped develop flyers for upcoming events and plans to start a city magazine to be issued three times per year. He is developing a city Instagram page, and is creating some short videos for Facebook.

Susan Drucker started last week as the city's head of community development and was sworn in tonight. She is starting outreach to area businesses, real estate brokers, and peers in other communities.

LWV Observer: Wendy S. Deuring.

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

To receive email postings of full reports, send an email to [maryannbarnes@lwggreatercleveland.org](mailto:maryannbarnes@lwggreatercleveland.org) or join through Google groups using "lwg-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 of Greater Cleveland. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.



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## UHPD invites community for coffee Oct. 3

Mike Cook

The University Heights Police Department (UHPD) is looking to build relationships with residents—one cup of coffee at a time.

On Oct. 3—National Coffee with a Cop Day—members of the UHPD will meet residents at Jack's Deli and Restaurant, 14490 Cedar Road, 10-11:30 a.m. The agenda is no agenda; the event will be relaxed, informal and open for discussions about local issues of concern to everyone in University Heights.

Through one-on-one conversations with and between citizens, Police Chief Dustin Rogers said he hopes to encourage positive interactions between his department and the public.

"Coffee with a Cop is what community policing is all about," Rogers said. "A cup of coffee is a common bond. It can help us build better relationships between us and the community we are sworn to protect and serve."

This event gives University Heights residents an opportunity to interact with their police department,



outside of a crisis situation. Too often, a resident's first interaction with a police officer is during an emergency, or while being pulled over for speeding.

National Coffee with a Cop day began as part of National Community Policing Week in 2016, and now continues each year on the first Wednesday in October, furthering efforts nationwide to bridge the gap between the community and the law.

The first 50 University Heights residents at Coffee with a Cop will receive a free coffee mug. Everyone who attends will enjoy free coffee. The cost of any food order will not be covered.

*Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.*

## Mayor Brennan sets forth legislative agenda

Mike Cook

At the Aug. 27 joint meeting of University Heights City Council and the CH-UH Board of Education, UH Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan outlined the city's fall legislative agenda:



Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan

- In housing, the city is revising its ordinance on rental property inspections and rental permit applications. It plans to hire up to two new inspectors and add another clerk to the office staff, establishing a more-robust building and housing program.
- The city has introduced legislation to create a CIC, a Community Investment Corporation, much as South Euclid and Lakewood have done, to provide an additional avenue for promoting residential development and redevelopment. This is in committee now, and should be up for a vote by mid-fall.
- The city will be implementing CitizenServe, a program piloted in South Euclid and Lakewood, to streamline building and housing services, among others, to residents. Transactions that previously

required a special trip to the building department will soon be doable online by credit card.

- The city plans to hire three new police officers this fall. Relatedly, the city purchased three new police vehicles, which should be equipped and on the streets before the end of the year.
- The city also plans to hire four new firefighters this fall and restore the fire prevention bureau.
- New, enhanced crosswalks should be installed at Cedar-Green, thanks to a CDBG grant from Cuyahoga County—the city's first such grant in several years. The new crosswalks and solar-powered bus shelter should be in place by November.
- The city is moving the corners of the UH side of Cedar-Taylor to make that district more pedestrian-friendly.
- The city is ordering a new sidewalk snowplow as part of its commitment to public safety for pedestrians.
- The city anticipates approval by ODOT this fall of the city's modified plans for Warrensville Center Road, including NOACA-funded mid-block pedestrian crossings and the first mile of bike lanes to be marked in the city.

*Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.*

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## UHFD opens to all on Oct. 7



Members of the University Heights Fire Department will host an open house on Sunday, Oct. 7.

Mike Cook

In celebration of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13, the University Heights Fire Department (UHFD) will host an open house on Sunday, Oct. 7, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the fire station (3980 Silsby Road).

The open house will feature fire safety presentations, plus station and vehicle tours. For the kids, there will be a bounce slide and a coloring con-

test.

University Hospitals will provide health screenings and food, including kosher options, while the American Red Cross will distribute fire detector batteries.

Residents attending the event will also be able register their bicycles with the University Heights Police Department.

*Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.*

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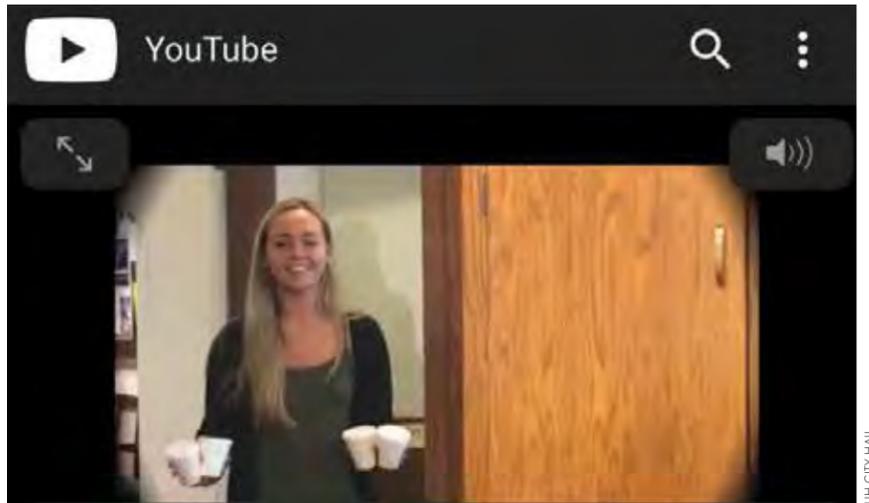
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## University Heights is social



The "University Heights City Hall Players," including intern Elisabeth Price, made their theatrical debut with a short form video to inform residents of the end of summer hours at the city pool.

Mike Cook

University Heights City Hall is becoming more social.

The city recently created an Instagram account and is adding short-form videos to its existing Facebook and Twitter pages.

The "City of Beautiful Homes" is now sharing beautiful photographs on Instagram. So far, content includes pictures from weddings at UH City Hall, close up photos of lunches at restaurants in University Heights, and, of course, plenty of beautiful

homes.

UH resident Rebecca Postupack-Slifer recently met with city hall staff and encouraged them to add short-form videos to social media response.

The city responded by creating videos to celebrate the start of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights football season, and provide a light-hearted reminder of the end of summer pool hours.

University Heights is on Instagram at "university\_heights\_ohio" and on Facebook at "University Heights City Hall."

## The Intersection of Abortion, the Supreme Court and State's Rights



What are the current prospects for major changes in reproductive health care and access to abortion, locally and nationally? Will state's right's prevail?

Beatrice Hill, Professor, CWRU Law School and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.



**Sunday, Oct. 21st, 9:30-10:45**  
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# History and preservation series runs Oct. 1 to Nov. 5



COURTESY KARA HAMLEY O'DONNELL

The Oct. 6 bike tour will pass by this brick home.

Kara Hamley O'Donnell

The Fall 2018 History and Preservation Lecture Series is co-sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, Cleveland Heights Historical Society, Heights Bicycle Coalition and Heights Libraries. No reservations are needed for any of the following programs:

**Monday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m., "Queue-ration" - How to Manage Personal Collections Like a Pro**

Speaker: Jennifer Souers Chevraux, Illumine Creative Solutions LLC

Objects have power! They serve as talismans and touchstones to the past—your past, your family's past, our community's past, and even the deepest reaches of humanity's past. By preserving powerful remnants of the past, and we can learn from them in the future. In her program, Souers Chevraux will share insider tips to help you care for and carry forward your personal collections and family heirlooms, to build a lasting legacy for generations to come. [Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road.]

**Saturday, Oct. 6, 10-11:30 a.m., Best of the Bricks Bike Tour**

Leader: Mary Dunbar, Cleveland Heights City Council member

Join us for an all-skills bike ride to learn about the history and architecture of some of Cleveland Heights' most noteworthy and impressive brick buildings. [Meet at corner of Roxboro Road and W. St. James Parkway, just north of Roxboro Elementary School.]

**Thursday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m., and Thursday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m., Maintenance and Efficiency for Your Home**

Speaker: Margaret Lann, Cleveland Restoration Society

All houses need continual maintenance to keep them looking their best. We will take a top-to-bottom approach in considering typical old house maintenance issues. The session will outline ways to spot problems before they become headaches, and provide information on ways to make your older home more energy efficient, without breaking the bank. [The Oct. 11 program will take place at the Lee Road Library; the Oct. 25 program will take place at the Noble Neighborhood Library, 2800 Noble Road.]

**Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m., Randolph Neighborhood History and Architecture**

Speakers: Ursuline College historic preservation students

Learn about the architecture and history of Cleveland Heights' Randolph neighborhood, bounded by Woodview,

Randolph, Quilliams and Noble roads. [Noble Neighborhood Library]

*Kara Hamley O'Donnell is City Planner II at the Cleveland Heights Department of Planning & Development, an historic preservationist, and staffs the city's Landmark and Planning commissions.*

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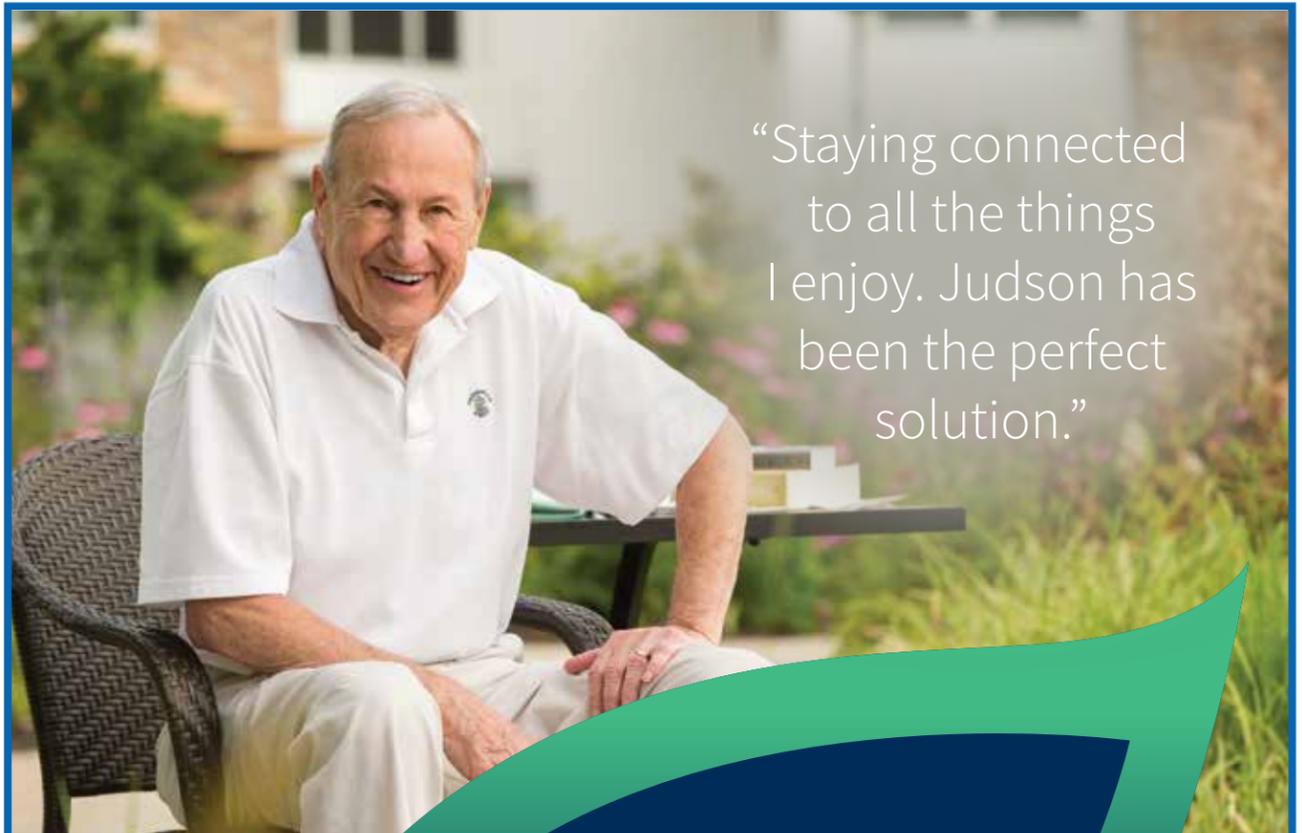


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## Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, Jason Stein, Cheryl L. Stephens and Michael N. Ungar. The meeting lasted from 7:35 to 8:17 p.m.

### Public comments

Deteriorated properties, sewer bills: Two homeowners presented their concerns and were referred to appropriate city staff members who were present in the chamber. One lives between two very deteriorated properties; he was referred to the building department manager. The other was confused about receiving two sewer bills and the city manager explained the need for extra funds due to the consent decree with the United States Environmental Protection Agency; he was referred to the utilities department manager.

### Branding initiative

City Manager Tanisha Briley spoke about the city's branding initiative and urged residents to go to the website and participate in the survey: [www.clevelandheightsbrand.com](http://www.clevelandheightsbrand.com).

### PassportParking app

This app is now available on more than 900 meters around the city. The app can be found on the city website, [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com), under "Residents" then "Parking."

### Cedar Lee SID public services plan

Council passed the plan and the financial assessment to fund the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District (SID) in the amount of \$155,888 per year for five years.

### 2018 taxes

Council approved a resolution requesting that the county fiscal officer advance 2018 taxes collected to the city, and a second resolution accepting the tax amounts and rates, as determined by the county budget commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies; and certifying them to the county fiscal officer.

### Forestry and street expense assessments

Council approved annual assessments for expenses of street, tree lawn, and street lighting maintenance.

### Potential Taylor Road-Superior Park Drive historic district

Passed on third reading, this resolution authorizes the city manager to apply for a grant from the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Pipeline Initiative to nominate an historic district at Taylor Road and Superior Park Drive. This collection of Tudor buildings is in various states of physical or financial distress, and some are city-owned. They have been called "Stadium Square" and "Monroe Subdivision."

### Mayfield multimodal plan

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, there will be a public meeting for the plan at the South Euclid

Community Center. Cleveland Heights has joined with South Euclid, Lyndhurst and Mayfield Heights to look at ways to benefit pedestrian and vehicular use of Mayfield Road. Details can be found at [www.noaca.org/index.aspx?page=7597](http://www.noaca.org/index.aspx?page=7597).

### University Circle shuttle

Council Member Dunbar announced the continuation of shuttle service connecting University Circle, Little Italy and Coventry Road for a second year. Details are at [www.universitycircle.org/circlelink](http://www.universitycircle.org/circlelink).

### New fitness equipment

New fitness equipment has arrived. Dunbar announced it is in place and the air conditioning at the Community Center building is "awesome," too.

### Top of the Hill project design

Mayor Roe and Council Member Ungar spoke about the very positive three-hour meeting held in late August, with a community-based group of 15-20 professionals, to review the transformed design for the Top of the Hill project. They both feel the developer has addressed concerns and is on the right track. They praised the work of city staff and the developer. Dunbar commented that everyone wants to see this project succeed.

### Charter Review Commission

Ungar viewed the video of the last commission meeting on the city website and commented on the tremendous service its members are doing for the community with their "granular" hard work. Videos of all meetings can be found on the city's website, [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com) under "Government" then "Charter Review Commission."

### Mayor's report

Mayor Roe announced that the dedication of Barbara Boyd Park will be on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 1 p.m. She commented that council will begin to discuss the topic of trash collection at an October meeting of the Safety and Municipal Services Committee. She commended the efforts of the Noble Gardeners, and announced that their last market [of the season] would be on Saturday, Sept. 8.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 6.

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## David Gregory will speak at CH's Park Synagogue

Jill Bresnahan

As part of Park Synagogue's 150-year anniversary, the popular Park Forum Series makes a return on Thursday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., with journalist and author David Gregory. The current CNN political analyst and former moderator of NBC's "Meet The Press" will share with audiences his insights on the latest Washington headlines and the current events facing our country.

Gregory's talk, "Promoting Dialogue in a Polarized World," will take place just two weeks before the November midterm elections, under the historic dome at Park Synagogue's complex at 3300 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. The legendary Park Forum has featured various well-known figures, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Eleanor Roosevelt, Abba Eban, and President Jimmy Carter.

Gregory served as chief White House correspondent for NBC News. *Washingtonian* magazine named Gregory one of Washington's 50 best and



Gregory will speak on Oct. 18 under the temple dome at Park Synagogue in Cleveland Heights.

most influential journalists, labeling him the "firebrand in the front row" for his tough yet fair questioning at press conferences.

Before joining NBC News in 1995, Gregory served as a correspondent based in Chicago and Los Angeles, covering the O.J. Simpson trials and the trial of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. He first came to Washington in 1998 to cover the Clinton impeachment story for MSNBC. Gregory has covered three presidential campaigns and reported extensively on the aftermath of Sept.

11, 2001, including the run up to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Gregory recently released a new book, *How's Your Faith?*, which focuses on how the spiritual journeys people take in their lives are always worthwhile.

Tickets to the Oct. 18 event are on sale now: patron, \$75; general admission, \$25; student, \$18. For more information, visit [www.parksynagogue.org/park-150](http://www.parksynagogue.org/park-150).

*Jill Bresnahan is media director at Park Synagogue.*

## Beth El invites community to special refugee Shabbat

Robin Koslen

"Love the stranger because you were once strangers." So says Deuteronomy 10:19. There are many biblical verses that may be difficult to relate to today, not the least of which would be the prohibition against the mixing of fibers. But there is truth and relevance in this quote from Deuteronomy.

Religious teachings, and plain old humanity, suggest that there is a moral imperative to treat the stranger well. In fact, the Torah instructs Jews 36 times that strangers should be treated with compassion and dignity.

At the present time, one could easily substitute "refugee" for "stranger," and then quickly realize that many people are not living up to the religious principals they espouse.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) has challenged the community to look at the worldwide refugee crisis every day, but particularly during the weekend of Oct. 19-20. The Torah reading for that week is titled *Lech Lcha*, or loosely translated "move," in which Jews remember the years of wandering in the desert.

HIAS would like people to take that experience a step further and learn about the present-day refugee experience. HIAS has put together a coalition of more than 100 synagogues that have pledged to observe a refugee Shabbat.

On Friday, Oct. 19, Beth El-The Heights Synagogue invites the community to its refugee Shabbat. Patrick Kearns, executive director of Refugee Response, in Cleveland, will be the speaker. He has firsthand knowledge of the plight of refugees, both outside the United States and once they are settled here in Northeast Ohio.

You do not have to be a member of Beth El, or Jewish, or even knowledgeable about refugee issues to attend. Come and learn about today's refugees, how they became refugees, and what you can do to help.

A traditional Friday evening service will be followed by a vegetarian-friendly dinner (fish will be served). Services begin at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$10/person charge for dinner, with pre-registration and pre-payment required.

For more information, and to RSVP, go to [www.bethelheights.org/kabbalat-shabbat](http://www.bethelheights.org/kabbalat-shabbat). Beth El is located at 3246 Desota Ave., in Cleveland Heights.

*Robin Koslen is a resident of Cleveland Heights and a public school advocate.*

## LEI expands creative writing programs for teens



Teens work on black-and-white comics at Lake Erie Ink.

Sarah Kloos

Fall in the Heights is in full swing as schools and students are buzzing. Buses streak the streets with yellow, and parades of kids in backpacks have become a regular sight. Lake Erie Ink (LEI) is bursting with creativity and excitement for all that fall has to offer, which includes new creative writing program offerings for teens. This fall, LEI is expanding its after-school programming for those in grades 6-12. For youths eager to get their hands on a fresh notebook, daydream jumbles of words into stories and observe their world with open eyes, LEI has an array of programs available.

In addition to its longstanding

"Evening Ink" drop-in creative writing workshop on Wednesday nights, young writers have more exciting opportunities for creative expression. Among these, LEI's "Stage Write: Comedy Club" takes place on Monday nights and allows youths to explore the funny side of theater. Creative arts teacher Nicole Rossa, who earned her living as a stand-up comedian and emcee before joining the LEI team, leads this fun-filled program that teaches students how to write a joke and deliver it through improv games, monologues, stand-up and sketch comedy.

LEI has also introduced a new program on Mondays, the "628 Writers' Studio," which offers an

afternoon of creative writing for those in grades 6-8, who bring their homework and join LEI for writing and snacks in a stimulating environment.

Finally, LEI is offering "Wiley Writers Club," a new after-school creative writing program at Heights Middle School on Tuesdays.

A portion of these expanded opportunities is made possible through the generosity of the city of Cleveland Heights and the Cleveland Heights Community Development Block Grant program.

Jill Levin, LEI's program director, said, "LEI is responding to a need that adolescents have for creative discovery and self-expression by providing not only an academic outlet, but a social environment as well."

LEI is dedicated to expanding opportunities for adolescents and teens to engage in self-expression, which, LEI believes, can be a transformative experience. Creative writing is not only for kids and teens who already love writing, but also for youths who have something to say and too often feel that no one is listening.

For more information about these or other LEI programs, visit [www.lakeerieink.org](http://www.lakeerieink.org) or call 216-320-4757.

*Sarah Kloos is a staff member at Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth.*

## LWV hosts Oct 4 candidate forum in CH

Kim Sergio Inglis

The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland (LWVGC) will present a candidate forum for state representative and county races on Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m., at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd.

Slated to participate are Ohio House District 9 candidates Janine

Boyd and Joe Miller, and Cuyahoga County District 10 candidate Cheryl L. Stephens, currently a CH City Council member, who is running unopposed. [Candidates for Ohio Senate will not be participating.]

The moderator for the event, in which the candidates will address voters and answer questions, will be LWVGC member Mary Osborn. The forum is free

and open to the public, and the venue is accessible, and offers free parking.

The evening's proceedings will be recorded on video, which can be viewed after the event by going to the LWVGC's website, [www.lwvgreatercleveland.org](http://www.lwvgreatercleveland.org), and clicking on the YouTube icon.

LWVGC comprises the Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Shaker Heights, and Cleveland chapters.

The League of Women Voters

(LWV) encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The LWV does not endorse or support candidates of political parties.

*Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, and is a Cuyahoga County master gardener volunteer.*



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# Octavofest 10 is coming to town on Oct. 3



James Canary will be a featured guest at Octavofest 2018.

Laura Martin

Octavofest, an annual celebration of book and paper arts, is 10 years old this month, and it's bigger and better than ever. This year's theme is "Books and Pa-

per in Global Context," and will feature lectures, workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, museum tours, and hands-on experiences. Many of these events will take place in or near the Heights.

The festival's keynote presenter is James Canary, conservator at Indiana University's Lilly Library and an internationally respected specialist in Asian book forms. He has worked with the International Tibetan Archive Preservation Project in Lhasa, which provided equipment and training in document conservation for an archive containing around 3 million documents.

On Friday, Oct. 5, at Loganberry Books on Larchmere, Canary will

describe the history of books in Asia, including their social roles and content, the challenges of conserving ancient documents, and contemporary efforts to preserve and revitalize the ancient traditions of book and papermaking.

On Saturday, he will present "A Day of Asian Books" at the Lee Road branch of Heights Libraries. Following his illustrated lecture, attendees will have an opportunity to see and handle samples of handmade Tibetan paper, books in various styles, and carved woodblocks from which Tibetan books are printed. After a demonstration of printing techniques, audience members will be able to try the techniques themselves.

Cleveland Heights' Appletree Books is sponsoring several Octavofest programs this year, including a bookbinding workshop for kids, ages 6-9, on Oct. 3, given by Fran Kovac, local student and teacher of bookbinding. Kovac will also present an informal history of bookbinding on Oct. 26.

On Oct. 19, Glenda Thornton, director of the Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University (CSU) and a collector of movable books, will present an illustrated lecture titled "Around the World with Movable Books," which will include a pop-up exhibition of historic and contemporary examples. Appletree Books will feature a display by the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory in the store windows during the festival.

A retrospective exhibition of 10 years of artist books by members of Art Books Cleveland (ABC) is on view through Oct. 6 at the Galleries at CSU, 1307 Euclid Ave.

ABC, the organization that founded Octavofest, began in Cleveland Heights, and many of its members are well-known Heights residents, bookmakers, binders, and artists. An exhibition of recent work by ABC members is on view through Nov. 8 at the Fritzsche Library at Notre Dame College.

For more information about Octavofest and a complete schedule of events, go to [www.octavofest.com](http://www.octavofest.com), where you'll find something for booklovers of all ages and interests.

*Laura Martin, professor emerita at CSU, has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1991. She chairs the Octavofest Steering Committee.*

COSTUME continued from page 1

ies and Family Connections. The boxes will be out until Oct. 11. The collected costumes will be cleaned and sorted before the shop's Oct. 19 launch at the Lee Road Candy Crawl. The community is invited to stop in for a costume and to get pictures taken with the Heights Tiger mascot.

Additional costume donations will be accepted at the shop, during regular store hours. The Costume Exchange Pop-up shop runs Oct. 19, 20 and 21, and Oct. 26, 27 and 28. On Fridays and Saturdays, it will be open noon to 7 p.m., and on Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.

*Benjamin Rossa said of himself, "Mostly, I get roped into things by my wife but I always have a good time."*

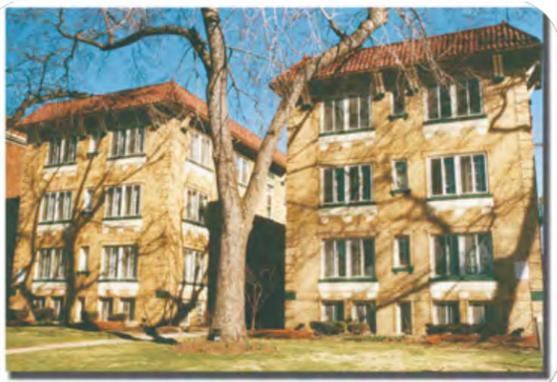


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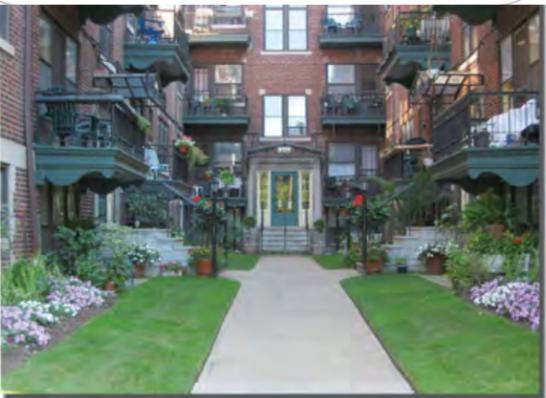
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# Backyard music gives boost to dog rescue group

Jan Milic

On Sunday, Aug. 25, Cleveland Heights residents Jeeyoun and Youngjin Yoo hosted an outdoor concert at their Stillman Road home, to benefit SecondhandMutts.

The Tremont-based organization helps homeless dogs receive medical care and find new homes, treating and assisting more than 150 dogs each year through the efforts of volunteers.

About 65 people attended the concert, donating approximately \$1,600.



Eunho Kim, left, plays the violin in concert with Jeeyoun Yoo, on the cello.

Jeeyoun Yoo is principal cellist with Heights Chamber

Orchestra. Her violinist partner, Eunho Kim, plays in the City

Music Chamber Orchestra. Kim's husband, Jungho Kim, is conductor of the Kent State University Orchestra. He will be guest conductor for the Heights Chamber Orchestra's Nov. 18 concert.

Both the Kims' Maltipoo, Kobi, and the Yoo's Cocopoo, Candy, checked out the audience during the program.

Yoo hopes to have more concerts like this at her home.

*Jan Milic, a Forest Hill resident for 42 years, is a past president of Forest Hill Home Owners.*

# Peace Lutheran offers free permaculture class

Louise Gerlak

Local permaculture expert Tom Gibson will teach a special abbreviated course on the topic on Saturday, Oct. 6, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3470 Mayfield Road. Over a continental breakfast, Gibson will lead a review of permaculture techniques. Hands-on construction of a "lasagna" bed will follow, and then a hot lunch will be served in appreciation.

Lasagna gardening, also known as sheet gardening, is a no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that produces rich, fluffy soil with very little effort. The name refers to the method of building the garden bed, by adding layers of organic material that will "cook down" over time, resulting in soil that will help your plants thrive.

The first (bottom) layer of a lasagna garden is corrugated cardboard that is laid directly on top of the grass, delineating the new garden bed. Layers of compost, mulch, and soil follow. The layers break down over the winter, creating a dark, moist area that attracts earthworms that loosen the soil as they tunnel through it.

Permaculture benefits the environment by using organic

compost made up of food waste and, essentially, further composting it in place to make a new garden.

This Oct. 6 permaculture class is the second to be held at Peace Lutheran Church. At last fall's class, the approximately 25 volunteers who attended built a lasagna bed that was planted last spring.

Gibson's talk will include a description of those plants and discuss the role that perennials play in carbon sequestration—a process that pulls carbon out of the atmosphere and puts it in long-term storage elsewhere. Class participants will measure the circumference of four nearby trees, to determine the amount of carbon they sequester every year.

The Oct. 6 class will begin at 9 a.m. and run through noon. [Note: the rain date is Oct. 20.] There is no fee, but advance registration is requested. To register, contact Binnie Eiger at peaceclehts@gmail.com or 216-382-4545.

*Louise Gerlak is an avid gardener who maintains a plot at the Hampshire Community Garden and volunteers at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. She is a member of Peace Lutheran Church.*



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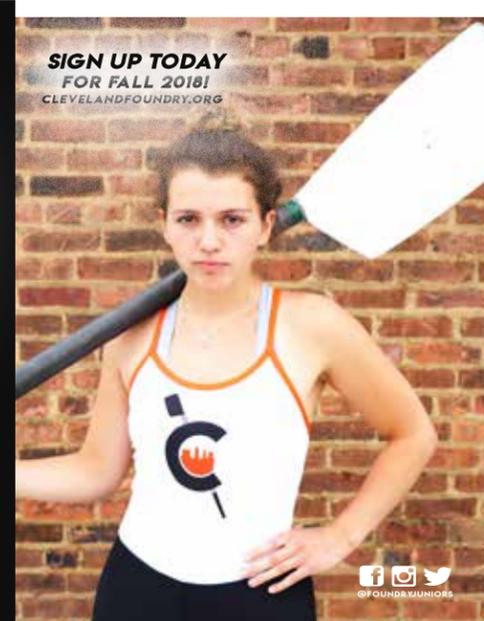
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# Library launches 'In My Day' storytelling project

Jay Rosen

Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents alike are well aware of the diversity and rich history of this area. From October through May, Heights Libraries is inviting community members to celebrate this history by sharing memories of the Heights through "In My Day," a unique storytelling project.

"With this program, we'll be gathering stories from residents in the hopes of sharing and preserving the Heights' unique history for future generations," said Jessica Robinson, local history librarian at Heights Libraries. "There are so many important stories waiting to be told here, and we can't wait to start weaving this tapestry together."

The project—facilitated by Robinson and made available to Heights Libraries through a grant from the Ohio Arts Council—

debuted Sept. 8 with interview sessions at Denison Park and Heights Libraries' Lee Road branch.

Going forward, community members are encouraged to contact Robinson directly to set up an interview.

Interviews will be conducted using the SimplyTold storytelling app. A collaborative tool created by Cleveland-based tech start-up Digital Mosaic, SimplyTold allows users to record interviews on their phones and upload them to Digital Mosaic's website to share. True to its name, the app is user-friendly, easy to install and free of charge.

Asked who is eligible to contribute to this project, Robinson responded, "We are truly hoping to capture the diversity of our wonderful community through this effort and to help share voices that might have previously gone unheard. As far as we're concerned, the more stories we're able to collect, the more colorful and complete a picture we'll

have of this wonderful area. We encourage Heights residents of all ages and backgrounds to contact us for an interview."

Those interested in scheduling an interview can contact Robinson at [jrobinso@heightslibrary.org](mailto:jrobinso@heightslibrary.org) or at 216-932-3600, ext. 1248. Interviews last 20 minutes and generally take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on

weekday afternoons. Other time slots can be arranged by special appointment.

To learn more about "In My Day," go to [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) or give Heights Libraries a call at 216-932-3600.

*Jay Rosen is communications coordinator at Heights Libraries.*

## What's going on at your library?

### Coventry Village Branch

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 7-9:00 p.m.

*All American Boys: Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely.* Join the library at Ensemble Theatre for an evening of side-by-side personal stories and inspiration from the authors of *All American Boys*, Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely.

### Lee Road Branch

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Monday, Oct. 8, 7-8:30 p.m.

*Tech Talk: Little Bytes: Get Your Child Coding.* Want to get your child or teen interested in the STEM field of coding? Learn about the toys, apps, and books that can help get your child a jump start in this growing field. Registration began Sept. 24.

### Noble Neighborhood Branch

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Thursday, Oct. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

*Ohio Hauntings: Stories from Haunted Ohio Places with Jim Kleefeld.* In this program, Jim Kleefeld will share stories and legends taken from real accounts of ghostly investigations and haunted happenings. Kleefeld will also showcase some of his personal collection of ghostly artifacts to try to initiate contact with spirits. Registration began Sept. 27.

### University Heights Branch

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Thursday, Oct. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

*Survival Mode: Refugee Video Games.* Play a variety of video games that focus on the experiences of refugees. These works of interactive fiction provide a unique way for creators to tell the stories of refugees. (This program is part of Heights Libraries' On The Same Page initiative.)

### Local news that speaks to you

Catch the HeightsNow podcast from WJCU

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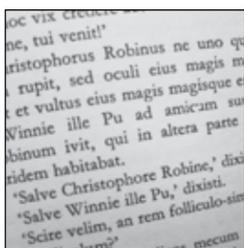
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[wjcu.org/media/heights-now](http://wjcu.org/media/heights-now)

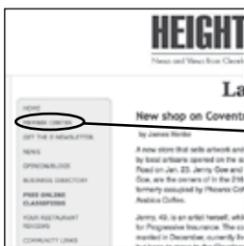


# Observe!

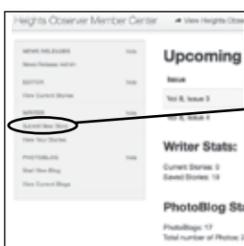
## Submitting an article to the Heights Observer is a piece of cake!



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2. **Register/log in** at the Member Center ([www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)).



3. After logging in, click the **Submit New Story** button in the left-hand column (Don't see it? It's nested under "Writer"). Then follow the prompts. Hint: keep your original file open so you can easily copy and paste into the text box.



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

*LIBRARY continued from page 1*

served populations in non-traditional settings, including homeless and transient people living in temporary housing. That led staff members to Thea Mozingo, coordinator of volunteer engagement and supportive services at Family Promise.

"We were contacted by a librarian at the Coventry branch because they were interested in hosting story times for our families at a Heights location," recalled Mozingo. "In the past, our families rotated between local congregations who would host them overnight. We were no longer doing that model, and all of our families were staying in a static location."

The library agreed that if it could partner with a Heights organization, it could bring story time to the Family Promise building on Kinsman Avenue in Cleveland.

Forest Hill Presbyterian agreed to partner with the library. It provides snacks, while library staff bring songs, books and crafts. They also give the families, many of whom are from the Heights area, backpacks containing literacy information, coloring pages, and books.

The visits occur once a quarter, with plans to increase the number of visits in the near future.

"The adverse effects of homelessness on learning and literacy for children is well documented," said

Assink. "But in cases where children and families are given access to these kinds of resources, the children do much better."

Mozingo agrees. "Living in a shelter can be stressful and story time allows them to just be kids," she commented. "The story times are fun for the children and the parents, too. Oftentimes, the parents are enjoying the books, singing the songs and doing the crafts right alongside their children."

In recent years, Heights Libraries has focused on expanding services beyond its four buildings—an intention reflected in its new slogan, "Here for you, wherever you are."

"Not everyone can get to our buildings, so we're finding more and more ways to bring our services to them," said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. "That can mean online services that people access from home, or it can mean a visit from a staff member at an offsite location like a school, a retirement home, or even a shelter."

"We are grateful for the librarians' time and support," said Mozingo. "They are able to create a fun space here in the shelter, where families can just enjoy time together as a family."

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



# Community Open House

Tour our schools. Meet our teachers and staff. Learn more about what makes our district special.

- Heights High School**  
Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Heights Middle School**  
Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Boulevard Elementary School**  
Monday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Canterbury Elementary School**  
Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Roxboro Elementary School**  
Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Oxford Elementary School**  
Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Noble Elementary School**  
Thursday, Oct. 18, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Fairfax Elementary School**  
Thursday, Oct. 18, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Gearity Elementary School**  
Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights  
City School District

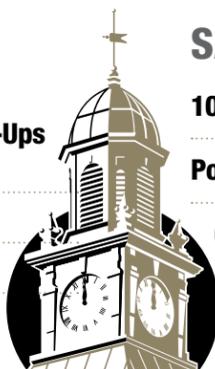


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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 5 pm Parade Down Lee Road  
Watch Parties / Alumni Meet-Ups  
Family Rock the Block
- 7 pm Varsity Football Game
- 8 pm After Party



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 10 am High School Open House
- Pop-Up Gear Store
- Community & Alumni Cookout  
to Benefit Graduating Seniors

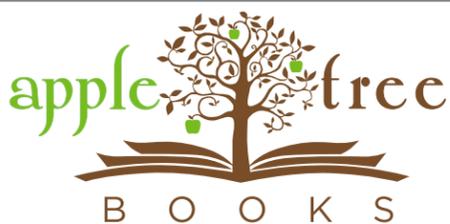


## Bishop Perez visits Communion of Saints



FRANK MATHIAS

On Tuesday, Aug. 27, the morning started with lively music, and coffee and donuts provided by the PTO as Communion of Saints students, in preschool through eighth grade, gathered in the parking lot with their families. A blessing given by Communion of Saints pastor, Father John McNulty, followed. That evening, Bishop Nelson Perez presided over an all-school mass held at St. Ann's Church. The day ended with a reception in Walsh Hall honoring the bishop's first visit to the church.



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## Cleveland Heights University Heights Board of Education

### Meeting highlights



AUGUST 21, 2018

President Jim Posch, Vice President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Heintz and Malia Lewis were present. Beverly Wright was absent. Superintendent Talisa Dixon, Treasurer Scott Gainer, IT Director Frank Cikach and IT staff were also present. The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

#### Middle school facilities cost update

Doug Myers of Projects Management Consultants (PMC) updated the board on the middle school cost summary. Roxboro's total cost is \$19 million and Monticello's is \$18 million. The total approved change order request is \$140,426. These orders include fire-rated partitions that comply with regulation requirements, which the prior cost summaries did not include. PMC is trying to stay within budget but is finding that additional items need repair.

#### Technology plan update

IT Director Cikach and staff updated the board on the IT program and forecasted future plans. Goal five of the Heights Strategic Plan states that the district is committed to inspiring success by providing curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices that will leverage the full range of technology and digital resources so students are engaged in rich, authentic, and relevant learning experiences. The technology plan empowers teachers by offering a robust updated infrastructure with careful use of space and time. The district is one-to-one with devices in the classrooms, meaning every student and teacher has a device, e.g., tablet or laptop. The staff is equipped with laptops. The district is aware of cost-saving strategies, such as sales of older equipment, E-rate cost savings and reimbursement by IT service providers for out-of-contract bills.

The district has been designated as "future-ready" by building the right infrastructure; imagining the classrooms of the future; ensuring teachers are ready to use and benefit from technology; preparing administrators to lead and support teachers as they use technology; and including parents, community members, school board members and others in discussions. Factors aiding a future-ready district are managing teams, analyzing data, assessing gap analysis, and completing leadership assessment.

#### Board approvals

The board approved a resolution authorizing the execution of a change order for \$85,362 with Roma Designs for the high school baseball and softball field dugouts.

The board approved the five-year forecast for the district. Treasurer Gainer said many factors can affect the forecast; for this year's forecast, some factors included the new tax bill, prepayment of taxes to obtain the current year's deduction, an increase in property values, interest rate fluctuations, and a positive cash balance.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

President Jim Posch, Vice President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Heinz, Malia Lewis and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. The meeting began at 7:08 p.m., after an executive session, and adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

#### Public comments

School closings due to temperature: Ari Klein, president of the teachers union, thanked the superintendent for closing the schools for several days due to high temperatures.

#### High school construction update

Scott Bindel, senior project manager of Gilbane Building, reported that work is progressing on landscaping, sidewalk cracks, ball fields and HVAC.

The flooring above the gym was anticipated to be one-half-inch thick but exceeded two inches in several areas. This required an increase in the cost to replace the floor.

#### Enrollment

Superintendent Dixon said that 5,000 students are currently enrolled in the district. Online registration is up and running.

#### Board president's comments

Posch commented on the testing calendar (now on the website), enrollment, Tiger Nation signs, and other topics. He asked the superintendent to investigate how the words "task force," "committee" and "commission" should be used, and whether some changes should be made in how the district uses them.

#### Reaching Heights report

Reaching Heights Director Krista Hawthorne reported. The annual budget is \$135,000 to \$165,000, with 50 percent coming from grants. The Heights musical program is March 5, 2019, and the spelling bee is May 1, 2019. More can be found at [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org).

#### Board approvals

The board passed a memo of understanding with the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation. The memo outlines the mutual understanding that exists between both bodies, that allows for continuing collaboration and pursuit of mutual interests.

It also passed a resolution asking cities to raise the age for buying tobacco products, including vaping products.

The board accepted donations of approximately \$800.

Upcoming meetings include a regular board meeting on Oct. 2, 7 p.m., at the board of education offices.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 6.

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[heightsfamily.org](http://heightsfamily.org) for registration information

# Tickets on sale for Heights High's 'Mary Poppins'

Joy Henderson

"Mary Poppins" will take the Heights High auditorium stage Nov. 1-4, with high school students in the lead roles, and middle and elementary school students in the chorus. Tickets went on sale Sept. 24.

The production comprises more than 180 high school students who will be performing in the show, in two casts, as well as managing the backstage operations.

"This is a great show for us because the music is amazing and loved by so many people," said Jesse Lange, the show's producer and Heights High's vocal music director. "And, we have the singing and dancing talent to really shine in this show."

Most of the lead roles are double-cast: Mary Poppins will be portrayed by seniors Judea Lowe and Olivia Sormaz, and Bert will be played by junior Will Davis and senior Emmanuel Vaughn.

All four lead actors are focused



COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Heights High production of "Mary Poppins" will feature students double-cast in the leading roles: Will Davis (11th grade) and Emmanuel Vaughn (12th grade) in the role of Bert, Jackson Marshall (10th grade) and Zach Brust (12th grade) in the role of George Banks, back row, L-R. Lila Schubert (11th grade) and Chip Vandall (10th grade) in the role of Winifred Banks, Olivia Sormaz (12th grade) and Judea Lowe (12th grade) in the role of Mary Poppins, middle row, L-R. Jesse Gross (12th grade) and Charlotte Pizsel (11th grade) in the role of Jane, Jonah Kerr-Jung (10th grade) and Nareus Hardin (11th grade) in the role of Michael.

on learning the show's music, lines and dance steps. They are also all good friends, and spend many hours practicing and encouraging

one another, outside of regular rehearsals.

Lowe remembers watching the "Mary Poppins" movie many times

when she was younger. "I loved it and am so happy to be playing Mary," she said. "She's pretty stern but is always on the side of the children. I like that."

Sormaz is excited to learn tap dancing. "That is new for me and a fun challenge," she said. "I grew up with Mary Poppins and it's great to play her on stage at Heights."

Vaughn is enjoying the dancing aspect of Bert's character. "I love to dance and am also enjoying the stunts," he explained. "I'm just so excited to have this role."

Davis, also playing the lead male role, said, "I identify with Bert; he likes to make people laugh and is a real optimist."

The shows will take place at 7 p.m., Nov. 1-3, and at 4 p.m., Nov. 4. Tickets (\$12 and \$8) are available online or by phone; for information, visit [www.clevelandheightschoirs.com](http://www.clevelandheightschoirs.com), or call 216-432-3105.

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

## Two CH-UH schools earn PTA distinction

Cathan Cavanaugh

Canterbury Elementary School and Heights Middle School each have been awarded the two-year National PTA School of Excellence distinction for their commitment to inclusivity of families and enriching the educational experience for all students.

The national program helps PTAs become partners in identifying and implementing school-improvement initiatives based on PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. To qualify, each school had to enroll, conduct a survey, load data, and create an action team and action plan based on that data—all of which would support the school-improvement process. Each school then had to submit its plan and, finally, deploy a summative survey and narrative that showed improvement.

Canterbury Elementary School's and Heights Middle School's PTAs are two of only 278 PTAs and schools nationwide recognized as 2018-20 Schools of Excellence.

"All of our schools should be commended for their efforts to enroll in the program and make the commitment to increase buildingwide support of school improvement. PTA leaders were the ambassadors of the program which increases the building-level support; they led the way to help strengthen family-school partnerships," said Lisa Hunt, the district's family engagement specialist.

In recognition of their achievements, both schools will soon receive a banner from the National PTA.

Cathan Cavanaugh is the communications administrative assistant for the CH-UH City School District.



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# CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging invites Heights seniors to participate in the first NEO Mind Challenge for the New Majority.

The concept is similar to Academic Challenge, with teams representing as many as 16 senior centers competing in play-off tournaments similar to NCAA March Madness. If you enjoy trivia and want to be part of a team, this event is for you!

Participants can register as individuals or with a partner, forming a group of two. The cost to participate is \$15 per person, which can be paid at the CH Senior Activity Center.

All participants will receive a T-shirt and an opportunity to attend the championship round, which will be moderated by a local celebrity. Bragging rights and cash prizes will be awarded to the winning team members and their senior center.

The local competition schedule and play-off information will be

announced sometime in October.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC), located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center's newsletter, and is available online at [www.chparks.com](http://www.chparks.com).

SAC membership is \$5 for Cleveland Heights residents. 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](mailto:pgrogan@universityheights.com). Membership is \$10 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 216-691-7379 or [ajenkins@chobts.com](mailto:ajenkins@chobts.com).*



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Cedar LEE

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

**Oct. 4:** Speaker Lee Lazar is the executive director of the Rainey Institute, founded in 1904 as a settlement house providing services to Eastern European immigrants who were making new homes in Cleveland. Today it serves Cleveland families in neighborhoods around East 55th Street and Hough Avenue, and participates in The Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion program to connect immigrants to Cleveland.

**Oct. 11:** Speaker George Rodrigue is president and editor of the

Plain Dealer Publishing Company. A journalist since 1982, he has worked in the U.S. and abroad as a reporter, foreign correspondent, managing editor, and TV news director. Rodrigue won a Pulitzer Prize in 1986 for national reporting on discrimination in a federal housing program, and another in 1994, for international reporting on violence against women.

**Oct. 18:** Harrold Spicknall, conductor for "Hum and Strum," will host a sing-along to ukulele, guitar and mandolin music by the Cleveland Heights Senior Center Band.

**Oct. 25:** Rachel Kribbs, director of community programming at the Cleveland Institute of Music, will be accompanied by some of the school's gifted instrumentalists and vocalists. She recently welcomed a new member to the family—born and destined to be a great musician.



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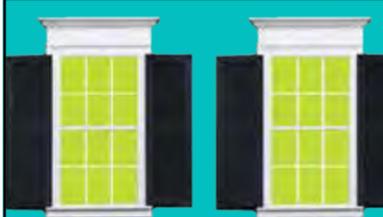
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# Heights businesses invited to submit holiday gift ideas



## Heights Observer Holiday Gift Guide

Deanna Bremmer Fisher

Each year, FutureHeights publishes a Holiday Gift Guide in the November issue of the *Heights Observer*, to help readers discover the unique items Heights retailers offer and assist them in “shopping local first” to support the local economy.

The 2018 guide will contain listings in each of the following categories: Stocking Stuffers (\$10 or less), Gifts Less Than \$50, Gifts \$50 to \$150, Gifts More Than \$150, and Gifts For the Person Who Has It All.

Cleveland Heights and University Heights retail businesses are invited and encouraged to e-mail photos and descriptions of items they would like to be considered for publication in the **2018 Heights Observer Holiday Gift Guide** to Jessica Schantz ([jschantz@futureheights.org](mailto:jschantz@futureheights.org)) no later than Oct. 19. Put “Holiday Gift Guide” in the subject line.

Submit the following for each

item: item category (one of the five categories listed above), item name, item price, name of business submitting the item, and a JPG photo of the item. Please limit descriptive text for each item to one sentence, or no more than 30 words. Photos of gift cards and gift baskets, for restaurants or service businesses, are welcome, too.

The gift guide will appear in the November print issue of the *Heights Observer*, as well as in weekly *Heights Observer* e-newsletters in the lead-up to the holidays, and online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

The Heights has more locally owned, independent businesses than many other communities, and—as business owners know—the holiday season is the most important time of year for them. Holiday sales often determine if they are in the red or the black for the year, and, for many, if they can afford to continue to operate in the coming year.

The annual Holiday Gift Guide is just one of the ways in which

FutureHeights and the *Heights Observer* seek to support and promote Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses, and remind readers of the importance of shopping local.

Several studies show that if more of the dollars Americans spend on holiday shopping were spent at locally owned, independent businesses, they would generate far more economic benefit in local communities than money spent online, at chains or businesses outside of the community.

While trends show that consumers are spending more of their dollars online, National Retail Federation data showed some positive news for brick-and-mortar stores. Specifically, nearly half of consumers browse physical stores to find the perfect gift idea, and because of the need to find that perfect gift now, many buy on impulse.

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

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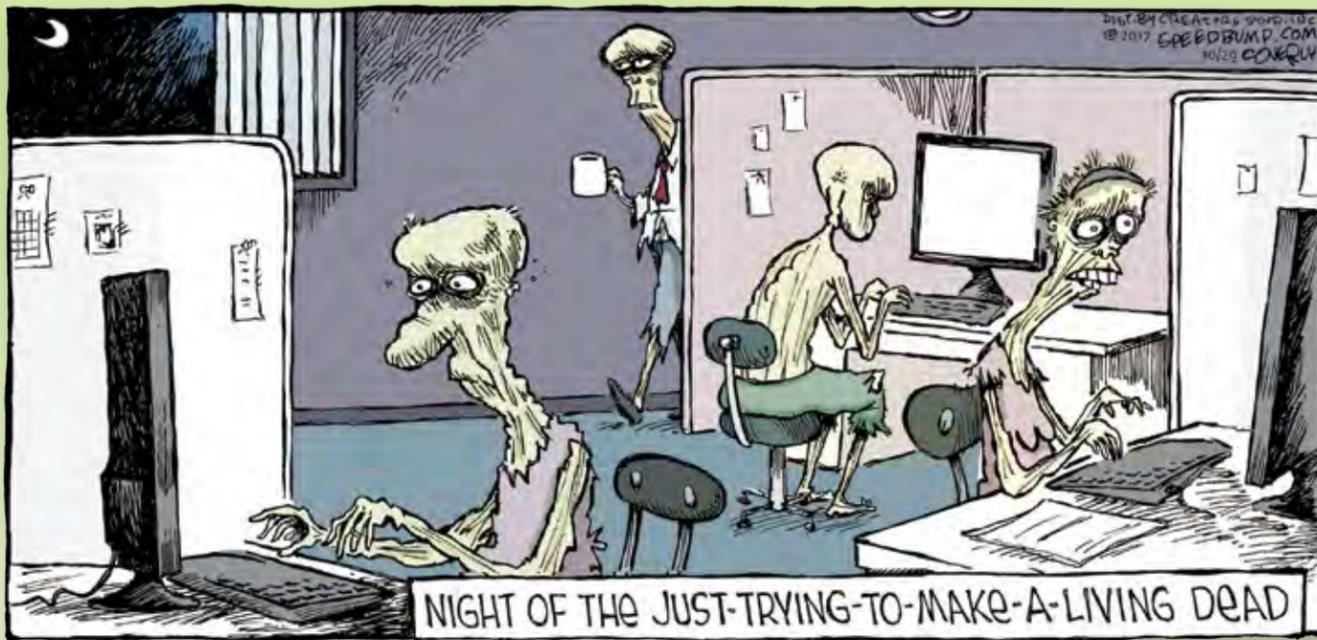
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# Concert series links past and present social issues

Shari Nacson

With the Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) down the hill, Cleveland Heights is blessed with a strong musical tradition. Living room concerts and chamber settings abound with a frequency unparalleled in most American cities.

Among these settings has emerged an ironically trend-setting ensemble that uses Baroque music to underscore present-day social issues—juxtaposing past and present—with powerful performances, salient commentary, and links to relevant nonprofits that address injustice. Heights-based Burning River Baroque was founded in 2012 with the goal of “bringing the drama, passion and vitality of Baroque music to life for contemporary audiences.” The ensemble’s work has been well-received in our musically rich community. St. Alban’s Episcopal Church has become its unofficial home, hosting several concerts a year since the ensemble’s launch.

Why choose music from the 1600s as a way to raise social consciousness and connection? Accord-



Burning River Baroque performing last March at The Wine Spot.

ing to CIM alumna Paula Maust, the general manager and harpsichordist at Burning River Baroque, “When one looks at the broad span of human history, patterns of war, power struggles and inequality have persisted for millennia. The first step toward change is acknowledging the problems exist, challenging people to really think about issues and opening respectful dialogues.”

Instrumentalist and composer Malina Rauschenfels, who teaches music from her Cleveland Heights

century home, said that Burning River Baroque’s current concert series, *Destructive Desires*, focuses on content that is “strikingly similar to the stories that have been brought to the forefront of public awareness by the ‘MeToo’ movement.”

The ensemble believes that when ancient stories are paired with current social issues, audience members will make their own connections about the prevalence of oppression throughout history. “It is our hope,” Rauschenfels said, “that these connections can inspire future generations to change the course of history. People from different backgrounds walk into a concert open and ready to listen. Then you give them a lens to look through as they experience

this music that is ‘not current.’”

For even the untrained listener, Baroque music is impassioned and evocative, using somewhat obscure instruments, such as the harpsichord. In *Destructive Desires*, Rauschenfels will also play on a 5-string cello—while singing a hauntingly beautiful aria. The audience is provided with historical context, English translation, and thoughtful commentary to enrich the intertwining of harpsichord, cello and voice, while grappling with ancient narratives that highlight the destruction that occurs when an individual’s humanity is denigrated by powerful others.

As concert-goer Ben Malkevitch described it, a Burning River Baroque program is “a lesson in how to demystify older music.”

Burning River Baroque performs nationwide. Upcoming Cleveland Heights concerts include *Destructive Desires* on Oct. 19 (house concert) and Oct. 20 (St. Alban’s Episcopal Church). The Oct. 21 concert at Lakewood Congregational Church is a benefit for The YWCA of Greater Cleveland.

Learn more at [www.burning-river-baroque.org](http://www.burning-river-baroque.org).

*Mostly a mom, Shari Nacson, LISW-S, is a freelance editor, child development specialist and nonprofit consultant who makes her home in Cleveland Heights.*

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## HYT alum directs ‘Guys and Dolls’

Pamela Fine

Heights Youth Theatre’s (HYT) production of “Guys and Dolls” opens Oct. 19 at Heights Middle School in University Heights, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 28.

The production features 65 actors in grades 1–12, from Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights, and surrounding communities.

Melissa Bertolone, an HYT alum, is the show’s choreographer, and Kelly Monaghan, another HYT alum, directs the production.

“I am so thrilled to be back directing one of the best classic musical theater shows in my all-time favorite theater,” said Monaghan. “The talents of the kids in the cast are truly unparalleled! It is so wonderful to have so many new faces from other communities join our HYT family. ‘Guys and Dolls’ has a great score and amazing dancing. It is bright, energetic and really quite funny. It is certainly a must-see!”

Music director Stacy Bolton, sharing Monaghan’s enthusiasm, stated,

“‘Guys and Dolls’ is a classic of classics and I am very excited to be music director for this production. We have a talented cast of elementary through high school-aged students and an expert production team to make this a fun and fabulous season opener for HYT!”

Performances will be presented in the Heights Middle School auditorium, at 2181 Miramar Blvd., on Fridays, Oct. 19 and 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturdays, Oct. 20 and 27, at 2 p.m.; and Sundays, Oct. 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](http://www.heightsyouththeatre.org), or call 216-410-7500.

Founded in 1954, HYT offers kids year-round opportunities to enhance their theatrical skills in a nurturing environment that encourages social and emotional growth. Its goal is to make theater affordable and accessible to people of all incomes and backgrounds.

*Pamela Fine is executive director of Heights Youth Theatre.*

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# Heights Arts announces season 13 of chamber music series



A moment captured at a Heights Arts Close Encounters concert at the Dunham Tavern barn. From left, Isabel Trautwein, Tanya Ell and Kirsten Docter.

Isabel Trautwein

Heights Arts is proud to announce the 13th season of its Close Encounters chamber music concerts. These popular salon-style performances take place in private homes or unusual venues in or near Cleveland Heights. All musicians this season are members of the Cleveland Orchestra or on the faculty of Oberlin Conservatory of Music. This is chamber music as it is meant to be: up close and personal. A wine and pastry reception is provided to audience members and musicians during the intermission of each concert.

The season begins Nov. 11 at an art-filled carriage house in Herrick Mews, with the string ensemble We Too presenting a program of chamber music written by women between five and 1,000 years ago. The oldest work is from a vast collection of religious chants written by Hildegard von Bingen, a German nun born in 1098. The newest composition is by 2013 Pulitzer Prize-winner Caroline Shaw, a composer and college friend of Cleveland Orchestra violinist Katherine Bormann, who will be leading and providing remarks to Shaw's string quartet *Entre'Acte*.

The second concert takes place on Feb. 10, in the acoustically outstanding barn next to Dunham Tavern in Midtown. Featuring the talented Omni String Quartet, the show opens with Claude Debussy's fiery *String Quartet in g minor*, an Impressionist masterpiece, and, adding four more players, concludes with one of the most popular chamber music works in the genre: Felix Mendelssohn's *String Octet*, written by the composing genius

when he was only 16. By design, this is a virtuosic violin concerto with a seven-piece mini-orchestra, abounding with youthful energy and optimism.

Next, on March 10, musicians will perform at a stately mansion on Eaton Road in Cleveland Heights. Richard King, the beloved principal horn player of the Cleveland Orchestra for more than 20 years, will fill the room with his magical sound in Johannes Brahms's *Horn Trio*. In the

first half, the audience will be treated to violin and keyboard works by J.S. Bach and Igor Stravinsky. It is well known that Stravinsky was deeply influenced by Bach, and experiencing works by these composing giants next to each other will highlight their creative and counterpointed connections.

The last event of the season, on May 19, is a double-feature at a newly renovated century home in Chestnut Hills. Audience members can reserve a double-feature ticket for a home tour plus concert, or a ticket for just the concert. For patrons selecting both, a tour of all four floors of this grand estate and a champagne reception will be provided by the homeowner.

The concert will take place in the lower salon of the home and present a new work for electric violin and looping pedal created by Cleveland Heights composer Chris Auerbach-Brown and written for Isabel Trautwein, plus Maurice Ravel's imaginative *Duo for Violin and Cello*. The concert will close with the nostalgic *Clarinet Quintet* by Brahms, featuring

Cleveland Orchestra clarinetist Robert Woolfrey and four friends—one of them his wife, cellist Tanya Ell.

The musicians will dedicate this final concert to Heights Arts, an organization that has been a loyal friend to artists and to the Heights community for nearly 20 years.

All four concerts take place on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m., and all, except the May 19 concert, are fully accessible. To reserve tickets, visit the Heights Arts gallery at 2175 Lee Road, call 216-371-3457, or visit [www.heightsarts.org/concerts](http://www.heightsarts.org/concerts). Advance reservations are required as there is limited seating available in these intimate venues.

Parents are encouraged to bring students to these concerts, where closely observing and approaching the musicians with questions or for autographs is welcome. Student and parent tickets are available at a 75-percent discount for all concerts.

*A violinist in the Cleveland Orchestra, Isabel Trautwein is the artistic director of the Heights Arts Close Encounters chamber music series, and an enthusiastic Cleveland Heights bungalow owner.*

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— Courtney Bradney



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— Phillip Martin



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# Dobama presents Midwest premiere of 'John'

Colin Anderson

Dobama Theatre continues its 2018-19 Mainstage Season with "John," an intimate and elusive ghost story, running Oct. 19 through Nov. 11.

Written by Annie Baker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of "The Flick," the play centers on Elias and Jenny, a young couple struggling to stay together, who stop at a bed-and-breakfast in Gettysburg, Pa. During their visit they encounter a cheerful innkeeper, her blind friend, and an eerie world crammed with toys, figurines and one very odd American Girl doll. This mystic puzzle of a play is full of surprises, both human and supernatural.

Dobama's production features legendary Cleveland actor Dorothy Silver, in her first collaboration with Dobama Artistic Director Nathan Motta in the director's chair. The cast also features Luke Wehner, noted for his performances as Peter in "Peter and the Starcatcher," and as both Jason and his possessed puppet, Tyrone, in the devilish comedic hit

"Hand to God;" Catherine Albers, a well-respected actor and master acting teacher; and Kat Shy, last seen on Dobama's stage in the hit Pulitzer Prize-finalist "4000 Miles."

"John" debuted at the Signature Theatre in New York in 2015, in a production directed by Sam Gold. It was ranked in the Top Ten Plays and Musicals of 2015 by *Time*, and #8 in *The Hollywood Reporter's* "Best New York Theater of 2015." It was nominated for the Lucille Lortel Award, the Drama Desk Awards, and the Obie Awards.

*The New York Times* stated of the production, "Annie Baker's 'John' is so good on so many levels that it casts a unique and brilliant light . . . [It's] a haunting and haunted meditation on topics she has made so singularly her own: the omnipresence of loneliness in human life, and the troubled search for love and lasting connection."

In "John," Baker acknowledges struggles that are "very specific to one's 20s and early 30s" and how those struggles appear to others who are far past that point in their own lives.

Between the doll and other

ghostly qualities associated with a battlefield town like Gettysburg, Baker invites those in the audience to confront what may be haunting them, be it a poltergeist or the ghost of an old relationship.

Performances are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$27 to \$35, with senior, student and military discounts available.

Tickets to two preview performances, on Oct. 16 and 18, are \$15 (general seating).

In an effort to remove economic barriers and make Dobama's productions accessible to everyone, the theatre offers a Pay-As-You-Can performance at 7:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every production. For "John," that performance will take place on Sunday, Oct. 21.

Call the Dobama box office at 216-932-3396 for information or to purchase tickets and season memberships, or visit [www.dobama.org](http://www.dobama.org).

Walk-up box office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. during

performance weeks; and one hour before all performances.

*Colin Anderson is the assistant to the managing and artistic directors at Dobama Theatre.*

## One-woman show will benefit Ensemble Theatre

Brian McFadden

Molly McFadden will perform "Living on the Moon," an original one-woman show, at a one-night benefit for Ensemble Theatre. The performance will take place Saturday,



Molly McFadden

Oct. 27, 6 p.m., at Ensemble Theatre, 2843 Washington Blvd. A \$20 donation is suggested; proceeds will help enable the theatre to continue to provide productions, classes and workshops.

In "Living on the Moon," McFadden explores her own journey and her relationship with her mother, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. The show is a unique mixture of storytelling, original music, known standards and puppetry. It examines many facets of human life, helping the audience discover its rich complexities and its rituals and sorrows.

McFadden, a Heights resident for two years, participates in the Stagewrites group at Ensemble. She formerly lived in New York, where she performed at a variety of Manhattan theaters and clubs, and she sang with Margaret Whiting and Rosemary Clooney, both of whom encouraged her as a song stylist.

"I feel that all my performing and writing have culminated in this evening's performance, and I'm excited to share it with others," said McFadden. She also expressed her belief that "Living on the Moon" provides a different experience and perspective of Alzheimer's—one that, in her words, "doesn't just focus on the negative." Instead, McFadden explained, "It explores the dependency those with the disease have on their loved ones, as well as the dependency the caregiver has on the individual, and [the feeling of] not wanting to let them go."

Pianist Jonathan Hooper will join McFadden for the performance. She describes Hooper as "an exquisite musician, with a style reminiscent of that of the legendary Bill Evans."

Reservations and donations can be made online at [www.ensembletheatre.org](http://www.ensembletheatre.org), by phone 216-321-2930, or at the door.

*Brian McFadden is a playwright and a Eugene O'Neil recipient. Along with his wife, Molly, he also participates in Stagewrites at Ensemble Theatre.*

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# The World Series and other connections



**SONGS AND STORIES**

October 1953 was the first time I heard the term “World Series.” I was 4 years old, and I heard it at my grandfather’s house a few days after my grandmother died.

My father, who had grown up in Cleveland Heights, joined the Navy shortly after the United States entered World War II. He was stationed in San Francisco. My parents got married during the war. After the war, my parents stayed in San Francisco. My father got a good job selling records in a big department store, which was the only place you could buy records then. The record department was next to the furniture department, because that was the only place you could buy record players, which, in those days, were pieces of furniture.

My parents were happy out there. Then, in 1948, my father’s brother, David, died. My father came back to Cleveland for the funeral, while my mother stayed in California with my older brother, who was still a toddler. During my father’s visit to Cleveland, my grandfather convinced him to move the family back here. He told him there was a good job for him, and that they were building a nice house for them. He told my father a lot of great things that would happen. He was, as my family sometimes said,

exaggerating—or, as I call it, lying.

They returned and found there was no job, no house, nothing. So, they moved into the upstairs unit of a duplex on Belmar, where my grandfather’s brother and sister-in-law—who owned Budin’s Delicatessen on Coventry—lived downstairs.

A few months later, I was born. When I was 4, in 1953, my grandmother died. That year, Queen Elizabeth II had her coronation in England; Dwight Eisenhower was elected President of the United States; Elvis Presley made his first recording, a one-off acetate disc, which inadvertently became his amateur audition at Sun Records in Memphis; and transistor radios and color televisions became available.

I saw my first color TV when I was 8 at a kid’s house on our way home from Coventry school and the World Series was on. It was the New York Yankees versus the Milwaukee Braves. I still remember how it looked, how unnatural the colors were, but, still, how cool it was.

The advent of the transistor radio was one of the elements that allowed rock ‘n’ roll music to flourish. Elvis was one of its first stars, and, arguably, the most important of that initial era. But rock music was not yet a factor in 1953—the Number-1 record of that year was Dean Martin’s “That’s Amore,” from the Martin and Lewis movie of that year, “The Patsy.” They were the biggest stars of that time, appearing in movies, on TV, and in

nightclubs and theaters, and putting out records, on the Capitol label.

Jerry Lewis told me, when I interviewed him in the 1990s, that when they played places like the Paramount Theater in New York in 1953, “the kids screamed for us like we were Elvis Presley or the Beatles.” He didn’t know, in 1953, that they were screaming for them like they were the Beatles, because the Beatles wouldn’t be screamed at till 10 years later, starting when they got signed to Capitol Records in this country and arrived here from England to make their first appearance on American television, on “The Ed Sullivan Show,” shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, who had succeeded President Eisenhower.

It was also around this time that Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights started its transition into a hippie haven, and I was right there, still living on Belmar, a couple of streets away.

So, when I was 4, and my grandmother died, I tagged along with my father, every morning for the seven days following my grandmother’s funeral, to my grandfather’s house, where my father served as part of the *minyán*, a group of 10 Jewish men who gather to recite prayers of mourning.

It was early October. My father was the only man there not of his father’s generation. He had learned Yiddish growing up in the 1920s and ‘30s. He could hear the older men conversing in Yiddish in between the



COURTESY DAVID BUDIN

A 1958 baseball card featuring stars of the ‘57 World Series, the Yankees’ Mickey Mantle and the Braves’ Hank Aaron, with same kind of poor-quality color as a 1957 color TV.

Hebrew prayers, and every day, for the first six days, he told my mother that there were a couple of Yiddish phrases these guys kept saying that he couldn’t understand. On the last day, he actually listened to their conversation and in the middle of the prayers of mourning, he said, “Ohh . . . that’s what you’re saying—‘Brooklyn Dodgers’ and ‘New York Yankees.’” I asked him what that meant and he told me those were the teams playing in the World Series. I had no idea what that meant. But I recall that scene every October.

*David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Live, an author, and a professional musician and comedian. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop-music history.*



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