As Stephens takes council seat, CH seeks replacement
Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights City Council is seeking a replacement for former Council Member Cheryl Stephens, who was elected to represent District 10 on Cuyahoga County Council on Nov. 6 and officially took her seat there Nov. 27. Stephens had served on CH City Council since 2010 and had been reelected to her third four-year term in November 2017.

The city has posted an application online (www.clevelandheights.com/councilapplication) and has set a deadline of 5 p.m., Jan. 15. The application asks candidates to answer several questions online and attach a resume or CV. A PDF of the form can be printed from the website and e-mailed, mailed or hand-delivered to CH City Hall. Applicants are asked to describe the “special qualities, abilities, skills, insights or perspectives” that they can bring to council.

“Garden finders” have been assigned to each zip code and will be looking for clusters of gardens within walking distance of one another. If you want to show your garden, nominate someone else’s garden, or join the planning committee, call 216-534-6172 or e-mail janekious@sbglobal.net.

Jan Kious, resident of Cleveland Heights since 1974, raised four children here with her husband. She is the founder of GardenWalk Cleveland Heights.

Kaye Lowe: 18 years building Cedar Fairmount
Shari Nacson

Kaye Lowe will retire this month as executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, after 18 years at the organization and in predecessor roles.

It’s an opportunity for anyone who has created a special corner, a water feature, a gathering place around a fire pit, a tree house, or a vegetable patch to share with neighbors, friends and even a front yard. If you want to show your garden, nominate someone else’s garden, or join the planning committee, call 216-534-6172 or e-mail janekious@sbglobal.net.

Kaye Lowes will retire this month as executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, after 18 years at the organization and in predecessor roles. Lowe has loved being at the hub of this interface. She said it is impactful, inspiring and heartening. “It has been such a pleasure to work with property owners who care so much about Cedar Fairmount and who want to continue to see it grow and maintain its viability,” she said, as she prepared for her final weeks on the job.

Vote for Best of the Heights in 2019
Deanna Bremer Fisher

Beginning Jan. 1, Heights residents can show their appreciation for local businesses by voting for their favorites in the FutureHeights 2019 Best of the Heights Awards contest.

Since 2005, FutureHeights—a nonprofit community development corporation—has conducted the Best of the Heights to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned Heights businesses, and their contributions to the local economy. Each year, residents cast their votes for their favorite businesses by nominating them for an award in a variety of categories.

FutureHeights’ Planning & Development Committee has selected 12 categories for this year’s ballot, including Best New Business and Best Bang for Your Buck. Residents are encouraged to vote for their favorite businesses online at www.futureheights.org or by using the paper ballot that will appear on the last page of the January and February print issues of the Heights Observer. Voting will conclude Feb. 15, and winners will be announced in the March issue of the Heights Observer.

All Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses are eligible to be nominated. It’s not just about the fun it is to discover something new in a favorite spot, or to know that I’m supporting hard-working entrepreneurs that make our local economy strong; it’s about taking the kids on a walk to pick up our bread before heading to the playground, or running into neighbors struggling to pick a gift for their...
In 2019, join your fellow residents in writing for the Heights Observer.

Deanna Bremer Fisher

As I look back at the 10 Janu-
ary issues of the Heights Observer that we published between 2009 and 2018, I am struck by how many frequent contributors we’ve had—folks like David Budin, who wrote a story for our first issue and whose current column is on page 24 of this one, and Shari Nacson, who wrote her first story for us in 2014 and has been con-
tributing almost monthly since March 2018 (she has two stories in this issue). But out of the 1,450 Heights residents who have created ac-
to submit articles to the Heights Observer’s Member Center, many of them are one-time or infrequent contributors—and that’s OK.

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, January seems quiet and calm. It’s a good time to reﬂect and set new goals for the year ahead. If you’ve enjoyed reading the Observer in the past, consider contributing a story in 2019.

Cedar Fairmount SID supports TOH project

To the Editor,

The Cedar Fairmount Special Im-
provement District (CFSID) is in sup-
port of the Top of the Hill (TOH) project at Euclid Heights Boulevard and Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights.

The area is on the former site of a Doctor’s Hospital that was 10 floors. This was built in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood, which was created for density in a planned community.

Flaherty and Collins, the devel-
opers for Top of the Hill, have been repre-
sented at numerous focus and community meetings throughout the process.

They have been cooperative and
listened to the community’s com-
ts. Flaherty and Collins have ad-
dressed the concerns of parking, and residential and commercial needs of the area.

Cedar Fairmount SID believes that the design and scale will enhance the business community and sur-
rounding neighborhood.

Top of the Hill will create a dy-
namic entrance to Cleveland Heights.

CFSID Board of Trustees: Sal Russo Sr., President Peter Axelrod, Vice President Lee Cavender, Secretary Brenda Ring, Treasurer Sal A. Russo Cheryl Davis Vince Pangle Rex Beck

Addendum to December letter re: Top of the Hill

One of our readers alerted Heights Observer staff to the fact that in publishing a letter by Richard Bozic [“Top of the Hill design should reﬂect Cedar Fairmount style”] in the December is-
 shuts, to talk about important issues. The Observer creates net-
works in our community and strengthens our capacity to re-
main vibrant.

I invite you to add your voice to the diversity of voices that are here.

It doesn’t matter if you are a professional or amateur writer. Just follow these 10 simple guidelines, and our volunteer editors will help make sure your story is ready to publish.

• Write about Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Other publications cover the region; this one exists to serve our local

community. Consider interviewing a Heights resident, store owner or community leader, or show how an issue affects people liv-

ing and working in the Heights.

• Submit a story, not a press release. We have no writing staff to follow up on press releases, so we rely on you to send us the story in a print-

ready format.

• Don’t write about yourself. If you’ve got some exciting personal news to share, find a friend to write the story for you.

• Give us the facts. Tell us the who, what, where and when in the first paragraph or two. Lead with what is newsworthy about your story and what you want readers to know.

• Keep your opinion out of the story (unless it is an opinion piece or letter to the editor). Quoting the opinions of others adds color to a news story, but be sure to attribute those views to a speciﬁc person. Disclose any relationship you have to the story in the short bio, that you attach to the end of your article.

• Be succinct. We have limited space in each print issue, and want to hear from as many voices in our community as possible. Our online Style Guide (at www.heightsobserver.org/read/how-to-contribute/) gives suggested word counts for various types of stories—news, features, opinion, announce-
ments for upcoming events, and letters to the editor. Nor-
thing is longer than 650 words, and shorter is usually better.

• Submit original work only. This may seem obvious, but when you submit a story to the Heights Observer’s Member Center, we trust that the work is your own.

• Be fair, accurate and civil—
even in opinion pieces. We hope that this publication will create dialogue around issues that are important to Heights residents, and following this guideline will encourage conversations.

• Provide a photograph. Photographs can help tell your story, and it’s fun to see people we know in print. Keep in mind that photos must be high-resolution (a mini-
um of 350kb) to reproduce well in print. Include a caption, name the people in the photo, and let us know who took the picture. Be sure you have per-
mission to use it.

• Respect our deadlines, so we can stay organized and sane. You can find our monthly dead-
lines at www.heightsobserver.org/ read/how-to-contribute/. A story submitted by the deadline has a better chance of inclusion in the print issue.

Make 2019 the year you write a story for the Observer. If you would like to discuss an idea first, call me at 216-320-1423, or contact our editor, Kim Sergio Inglis, at ksergio@heightsobserver.org. Once you are ready, go to www.heightsobserver.org, select Member Center in the left-hand column, and create an account. Then select Submit New Story; paste in the text of your story, include a 1-3 sentence bio, and hit Submit.

I look forward to reading new voices in the Heights Observer in 2019.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive direc-
tive of FutureHeights and pub-
lisher of the Heights Observer.

About the Observer

The Heights Observer is not an or-
Dining

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April 5, 2019

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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reﬂect the views and opinions of the Heights Observer, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, in staff and board of directors.

Seed funding for the Heights Observer gener-

ously provided by the Cyrene Foundation, the Dominon Foundation, the New Heights Foundation, and The Cleveland Foundation.

Produced by the MS State

The Heights Observer is an online, non-
profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to orga-
nizing and working in the Heights. The Observer is the only publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. We publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday. We have limited writing staff, and it is written by you—the readers.

The Observer has no writing staff; it is written by you—your neighbors, friends, and 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. If you’re writing about something unique to our two cities.

• To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org and click on “Member Center.”

• 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.

Articles to be considered for the February issue must be submitted by January 10, 2019. We publish one article online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

Heights Observer January 1, 2019 2
www.heightsobserver.org

EAT DRINK LOCAL

Rita Cassarino

Sal Russo Sr., President Peter Axelrod, Vice President Lee Cavender, Secretary Brenda Ring, Treasurer Sal A. Russo Cheryl Davis Vince Pangle Rex Beck
Top of the Hill design fails CH

Eric Silverman

I was disappointed to see Future Heights support the Top of the Hill (TOH) project in light of the current design. While I live near Future Heights on many points, and give the site plan an “A,” the TIF funding a “B” and the parking plan a “B,” I feel the design is so poor that it warrants a “D” and support should be withheld until a better one is presented.

The current design fails Cleveland Heights on multiple levels, both in process and appearance.

From a process standpoint, while city materials state community feedback will be included, in calendar year 2018, I know of no formal process to solicit this input from the general public. There have been no design charrettes and the only input from the public has been generated by questions when status updates on the project have been given. I have seen none of that feedback translated into the design, as the original images, which were reported to just be “massing studies,” have only been refined with more detail. I continue to see a boring, bland, banal “Developer Modernism.”

A narrow focus group of “design professionals” was created by the city to give its input (none of which can be found on the city’s website), and this committee has in effect created a feedback loop: a committee filled with advocates for Modernist architecture, completing the loop. This committee has in effect created a feedback loop: a committee filled with advocates for Modernist architecture, completing the loop. A committee filled with advocates for Modernist architecture, completing the loop.

I want to see TOH developed, as I have for over 20 years. I just want a design than is not an embarrassment and not being underwritten (further) by the city.

Eric J. Silverman has been a member of the CH-UH Board of Education (1994-2001, 2014-17), and the CH-UH library board (2003-09).

Lost in the debate over density and design is the financing. If media reports are correct, the city is looking to cover a “funding gap” of $1.5 million for the project.

So after receiving rights to the site for next to nothing from the city, and having future property tax revenue cover the cost of the parking garage (which makes the project possible) instead of going to the public schools, the developer needs money from the city to develop in the most appealing walkable neighborhood in Cuyahoga County?

I find it incredulous that council would entertain pouring money into a horrid design at the same time that the city owns a large number of vacant parcels at Noble-Nela that lay inactive; two large vacant lots (one owned by the city, the other where the Center-Mayfield building once stood) sit moribund at Noble-Mayfield; Severance plods along like a zombie; and South Taylor seems to be collecting vacant storefronts.

If the city has $1.5 million for TOH, where is the money for these business districts, or a comprehensive housing renovation program coupled with efforts to attract millennials seeking high-density, walkable neighborhoods close to downtown?

I want to see TOH developed, as I have for over 20 years. I just want a design than is not an embarrassment and not being underwritten (further) by the city.

Consider risks of TOH Project

Don King

On Oct. 27, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported the upcoming closing of Happy Dog at the Euclid Tavern. It’s been a rocky couple of decades for “the Euc,” but Happy Dog co-owner Sean Watterson, quoted in the Plain Dealer, summed up the current situation in University Circle by saying, “The area changed pretty quickly with building going up rather than through organic growth.” [The Euclid Tavern is owned by University Circle Inc.]

This could serve as a cautionary tale for the Heights’ Top of the Hill Project. Could any of our organically grown treasures, such as Appletree Books, Luna, or The Fairmount, suffer the same fate? What seems to be working is a feedback loop: a committee filled with advocates for Modernist architecture and ornamentation drawing from two millennia of design aesthetics, is dismissed as fearing the future or stuck in the past. The irony with this premise is that people move to Cleveland Heights for its buildings built in the first four decades of the 20th Century. This is an era when we built most of our greatest buildings, structures that drew from centuries of designs.

This is supposed to be a landmark building for the Heights. What is proposed could be built by a child with a basic set of Legos.

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This is supposed to be a landmark building for the Heights. What is proposed could be built by a child with a basic set of Legos.
The new year is all about fresh starts. A recent change in Ohio law means that more people are now eligible to have their criminal records sealed. Effective Oct. 29, 2018, the definition of “eligible offender” changed and is now much broader.

In Ohio, an adult criminal record can be sealed so that the conviction or criminal charge is filed separately from a person’s record. However, the record can never be completely erased. It is still available to some; for instance, judges, law enforcement, certain employers (such as schools), and most professional licensing boards can gain access to the sealed record, but most employers, landlords, and the public cannot see the record.

Prior to the change, a person could have not more than one felony conviction, not more than two misdemeanor convictions, or not more than one Felony Conviction and one misdemeanor conviction. That still applies, but now, you can also have as many as five felonies and an unlimited number of misdeemeanors, provided you have no convictions for violent or sexually oriented felony offenses, and none of your convictions are for misdemeanor offenses of violence, and you do not have any first-, second-, or third-degree felonies.

Even with the expanded definition, there are certain convictions that can never be sealed. For example, first- and second-degree felonies, or any offense with a mandatory prison term, cannot be sealed. Similarly, most offenses of violence, such as domestic violence, cannot be sealed. Traffic offenses also cannot be sealed; however, most of these offenses are not counted as a criminal conviction.

There are also other limitations as well. For example, an application to have a record sealed cannot be made until the expiration of three years after an offender’s final discharge if convicted of a felony, or one year after an offender’s final discharge if convicted of a misdemeanor. That final discharge means the offender has finished serving any jail or prison sentence, any term of probation or parole, and paid all fines and court costs.

If you wish, or someone you know wishes, to apply for this fresh start for a conviction in Cleveland Heights, the process begins with the filing of an Application to Seal with the clerk of court. You will be given a hearing date for when the application will be heard. Between the date of filing and the date of that hearing, you may need to meet with the Probation Department so that it can prepare a report concerning the potential sealing.

At that hearing, 1, as judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, will determine whether you are an eligible offender. If so, I will listen to your reasons for requesting that your record be sealed and determine whether you have been rehabilitated. If the city prosecutor objects, I will consider the reasons against granting the application. Finally, I will weigh your interests in having the conviction sealed against the legitimate needs, if any, of the government to maintain those records. If I grant your application, you are on your way to that fresh start.

There is a packet available at the clerk’s office that sets forth the statutory requirements and steps that must be followed to apply to have your record sealed. The packet also includes an Application to Seal form to fill out. If at any point you feel that the process is too confusing or intimidating, you should speak to an attorney. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland may assist with record sealing for qualified low-income people. Otherwise, you can contact the local bar associations to find an attorney to assist you. This article provides general information and is not a substitute for individualized legal advice. For answers to specific questions, you should consult an attorney.

James Costello is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court.

James Costello
Before “diversity”— the integration of Cleveland Heights [part 1 of 3]

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleeft

How many transformative social movements have started over a pot of coffee?

Just as the campaign to stop the freeways from decimating the near East Side suburbs was driven by women through a network of garden clubs, the movement to integrate Cleveland Heights began with a handful of women in a living room. In the early 1960s, some Cleveland Heights residents involved in the struggle for school desegregation in Cleveland began to question the virtually all-white composition of their own neighborhoods and schools, and to focus their attention closer to home.

In that era, women married to white professional men rarely held paying jobs. Cleveland Heights, located near University Circle, attracted many families of doctors and college professors. Early in 1964, Barbara Roderick invited some friends over to discuss integrating their community and its schools. In June of that year, Heights Citizens for Human Rights (HCHR) officially launched. HCHR members documented the role of the real estate business in maintaining segregation and worked to open their neighbors’ minds. A simple survey of realtors operating in Cleveland Heights found none who were willing to show houses to black prospective buyers. In response, HCHR organized street watches to identify residents preparing to move. The organization would try to persuade them to sell by owner, or through the regional nonprofit Fair Housing Inc. As black residents gradually moved into Cleveland Heights, HCHR recruited them to the ongoing effort.

Resistance to integration was not subtle. Homes rented or sold to African Americans were periodically bombed and vandalized. Meanwhile, the Cleveland Heights municipal government took a dim view of integration, rejecting HCHR demands. City council’s only response to racist violence was to increase the penalty for vandalism, and call for “stability.”

By the early 1970s, violent incidents led to the formation of two key organizations. In the summer of 1970 a group of white youths attacked black youths at the YMCA. Black parents responded by forming the Committee to Improve Community Relations (CICR). CICR skillfully built relationships to advocate for fair treatment of black residents by city institutions. In 1974 it filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding institutional racism in the schools.

In January 1972, a fight between white and black students occurred at Heights High. CICR member Doris Allen, who had witnessed the 1970 incident at the YMCA, called a community meeting the next day. As a result, religious and civic leaders formed the Heights Action Committee, also known as the Carmelita Group, which met in the Carmelite monastery at Fairmount Boulevard and Lee Road. Their work, along with the soon-to-be-famous St. Ann’s Audit, would lead to the founding of Heights Community Congress in 1972.

The movement to racially integrate Cleveland Heights deserves book-length treatment. Heights Observer columnist Susie Kaeser has authored an as-yet untitled volume to be released next year by Belt Publishing. She generously shared her research, which we have drawn on extensively. Suzanne Nigro’s monograph, “The St. Ann’s Audits: Personal Reflections,” was another source. We had to omit many, many names and accounts of people central to this story simply for lack of space. Our apologies.

Cleveland Heights’ annual Democracy Day public hearing inspired us to start “Heights of Democracy.” The event was created by a November 2013 ballot issue supporting a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating that only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to Constitutional rights, and that money is not speech. On Thursday, Jan. 17, Cleveland Heights City Council will host the city’s sixth Democracy Day in Council Chambers at 7 p.m. Citizens may offer testimony (up to five minutes each) about the influence of corporations and big money on our political system. Come to have your say, or just to listen!

Carla Rautenberg is a writer, activist and lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleeft is a musician and writer, and has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
CH-UH kindergarten teachers spoke in unison during public comments at the Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Nov. 5. Their concerns ranged from the excessive time spent assessing our young learners to how our current testing of kindergartners is developmentally inappropriate.

One teacher stated that by the 25th day of school, teachers had administered five tests. Others stated that some of the tests must be given one on one, which results in a tremendous loss of instructional time. Nearly 30 colleagues and community residents attended the board meeting to support our teachers. Each teacher who spoke asked for time to meet with district officials to rethink what and how we test kindergarten students.

Later that same week, during our labor-management commit-
tee meeting, we discussed the points raised by our kindergarten teachers at the BOE meeting and how to move forward. We agreed that giving these teachers a professional day to discuss the testing regime and make recommendations would be a good use of time.

A full-day meeting with kindergartners and administra-
tion was held, and a testing plan was hammered out—one that aligns well with what our teachers want for their young students.

Many of the tests were replaced with standards-based checklists that organize the data that teachers acquire through a variety of daily assessments that they use to inform instruction. This collaborative effort brought forth a recommenda-
tion for “learning school” at the beginning of the year, to help our kindergarten students become familiar with how to “do school.” For example, teachers pointed out that students know what the United States flag looks like because of the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Yet, when the new social studies test asked students to circle a picture of the U.S. flag shown next to the flag of Mexico, most students chose the Mexican flag.

Why? Kindergarten teachers know, through their experience, that most students are right handed and the Mexican flag was on the right—where students circled what they saw first.

The professional day resulted in positive outcomes. Teachers need and want relevant informa-
tion to guide their instruction, and they were frustrated enough to go public with their concerns—something we, as teachers, rarely do at board meetings. Many thanks to the board members for taking this matter seriously, and to the administration for working with and listening to the classroom professionals.

At the board’s work session, later in November, the focus was on testing data and how the central office uses this information. Board members were interested in how much time is used to collect, monitor and analyze test data.

The director of data research and assessment services contacted me about the information our teachers union already has regarding first-, second- and third-grade testing. We determined that more information was needed, and to get it we developed a survey for those grade-level teachers. We will compile the survey results and report back to the BOE.

These efforts represent positi-
tive steps toward fixing some of the concerns that I expressed in an earlier column about our testing culture. I hope that our BOE continues to openly ques-
tion the testing requirements and procedures of the state and of our district.

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

The midterm election is over. We elected people to represent us, and now it is our job to make sure they do.

Advocacy—speaking in support of a cause or an issue—is part of our civic responsibility. It may feel intimidating to address an elected official or testify at a public meeting, but such participation is important to the democratic process. It’s the way we inform our representatives about what matters to us, their constituents.

After the November election, the Heights Coalition for Public Education held a workshop to inspire supporters to advocate for public education with neighbors, friends, community leaders and elected officials at the local, state and national levels.

A high point of the evening for me was the down-to-earth advice provided by school board members Dan Heintz and Malia Lewis about how to effectively communicate with them and other public officials.

School board members understand that listening is an essential part of their role. Lewis expects people to speak to her during unplanned encounters in the grocery store or at community events, and, in her view, these situations have the best outcomes when constituents don’t hold her for too long, are able to clearly express what they want her to understand, and don’t expect a complete answer while chatting with her in the produce department. It’s also important to remember that the solution you want may not be something she has the authority to provide.

If you want the entire board to hear your concerns, attend a meeting. There is time for public comment before the business portion of the meeting begins.

Open-meeting laws limit board action to items on the agenda, so members will rarely engage with speakers who address them at these times, but that does not mean they are not listening.

While the lack of response can be off-putting, the public comment period is the best time to let the board know if you think it is headed in the right direction or giving a topic adequate attention. Issues have become a part of the public record, and any issues you raise may prompt board action or show up on future meeting agendas.

Heintz provided advice that would be useful in communicating with any elected official:

- Citizens should not assume that elected officials will disagree with them and should also keep in mind that the officials are most likely not prepared to respond to the issue being raised and will need some time to consider what is being told to or asked of them.
- Board members should not be expected to disparage their colleagues, district administrators, teachers or community members, and, when a district resident presents a problem, it is helpful if the resident has a few reasonable solutions to suggest. Written messages should be brief, and citizens should write to board members only at their official district e-mail address for school-related communication. “Silent disagreement sounds exactly the same as silent agreement,” Heintz noted.
- Disagreement and input are both valuable to responsive governance and can lead to good solutions and useful policy. That’s why advocacy is fundamental.

Susie Kaeser has been a public school advocate and resident of Cleveland Heights for 40 years. She is co-chair of the Heights Coalition for Public Education and a former director of Reaching Heights.

Susie Kaeser

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- Citizens should not assume that elected officials will disagree with them and should also keep in mind that the officials are most likely not prepared to respond to the issue being raised and will need some time to consider what is being told to or asked of them.
- Board members should not be expected to disparage their colleagues, district administrators, teachers or community members, and, when a district resident presents a problem, it is helpful if the resident has a few reasonable solutions to suggest. Written messages should be brief, and citizens should write to board members only at their official district e-mail address for school-related communication. “Silent disagreement sounds exactly the same as silent agreement,” Heintz noted.
- Disagreement and input are both valuable to responsive governance and can lead to good solutions and useful policy. That’s why advocacy is fundamental.

Susie Kaeser has been a public school advocate and resident of Cleveland Heights for 40 years. She is co-chair of the Heights Coalition for Public Education and a former director of Reaching Heights.

Susie Kaeser
UHFD to get new ladder truck

University Heights Council Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, Vice Mayor Susan Parkes, and council members Pamela Cameron, Phil Ertel, Steven Sims, John Reck and Mark Wiseman were present, as were Law Director Luke McDonnell, Finance Direc- tor James Goff, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. The meeting was held from 7 to 9:40 p.m., at which time council went to executive session.

Mayor’s comments

Mayor Brennan explained that 1-888-Chops-Donated 100 turkeys to the city, which were given away within minutes to residents in need. He also noted that, in addition to key rings with the city’s new logo, the city also has knit hats, tote bags, and plush chickens avail-

able for purchase.

Storefront renovation grant

Susan Drucker, economic development direc-
tor, received approval from council to apply for a grant from the 2019 Cuyahoga County Community Development Supplemental Grant Program to fund storefront renovations. This is the program that distributes casino revenue funds in grants of $25,000.

Current financial reports

Goff initially requested a motion to acknowl-
edge receipt of financial reports for September and October. Council discussed options and decided that simply reporting to council and having that report recorded in the minutes would create a sufficient record. In addition to reconciling accounts for 2018, Goff is also working to reconcile 2017, which was not done by the previous finance director.

Fund transfers

Council approved the transfer of funds for 2018, moving funds to pay vendors’ comp, which was higher than budgeted, and making other miscellaneous transfers into the correct funds. (Ordinance 2018-69)

New Department of Housing and Community Development

Council authorized the establishment of a new Department of Housing and Community Development, and positions for department director and housing inspector.

The Building Department will continue to focus on inspections, and will now be able to act more proactively to help home, apart-
ment and commercial building owners. The Housing Department will focus on enforcing the housing code, including the new rental ordinance. It will also build relationships with vendors and outside resources to better help residents. Patrick Oreson-Myers will lead this new department, which includes her current work on community development.

Jim McReynolds, building commissioner, said he is pleased to have added additional support for housing in University Heights and looks forward to being better able to serve residents.

Amend the U.S. Constitution

Pamela Cameron and Mark Wiseman pre-
sented a request from resident Scott Walker, who was not present at the meeting, for the city to approve an ordinance asking Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech. The proposal is that the city conduct a biannual review of the impact of the U.S. Su-
preme Court Citizens United decision on local residents and businesses, hold a “Democracy Day” event, and call on Congress to make a change. There was discussion about whether this could be done by Congress or if it would require a constitutional amendment. There was also concern about obligating future administrations to conduct this activity without an amendment. The proposal was presented at first reading and will be discussed further.

Electronic parking permission process

Police Chief Rogers announced that the city will be developing a web-based process to allow people to request overnight street parking electronically instead of by calling the department. The police department receives some 2,300 permission requests annually.

DECEMBER 3, 2018 - The LWV Observer was unable to cover this council meeting.

University Heights City Council LWV observers needed

Lack of volunteers has weakened LWV’s coverage of University Heights City Council. We now have one observer in each city, who was not present at the meeting, for the city. The observer coverage of University Heights City Council does not have to be a League member or even a University Heights resident. While these reports are published in the Heights Ob-
server, you don’t have to be a master writer (we have editors to make you look like one). What is most important is to be willing to observe and learn about government in ac-
tion, and share your knowledge with others. Democracy is healthier when citizens exercise stewardship of their governing bodies. The LWV observer program is designed for that purpose.

If interested, please contact Maryann Barre of maryann@lwnwv.Resize.org.

Free books mailed to your young child!

If your child is 4 years or younger And lives in
44106, 44120, CH-UH, East Cle., Euclid or Shaker, visit heightsfamily.org for registration information.
Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Jason Stein, Kahlil Seren and Cheryl L. Stephens. Michael N. Ungar was absent. The meeting lasted from 7:43 to 9:05 p.m.

Public comments

2611 Fairmount Blvd: Five residents spoke about ongoing renovations at 2611 Fairmount Blvd, including the next-door households, their attorney, and several supporters. A document signed by 27 nearby households was presented. Comments cited a perceived neglect of established processes and lack of appropriae notice as causing confusion and frustration.

Mayor Roe apologized for their distress and promised to try to help resolve the dispute.

Top of the Hill plans: A resident expressed confusion that there appear to be two different site plans for Top of the Hill. He wondered if the design was final and was told it was not. The mayor mentioned future meetings citizens can attend, including a public hearing on Dec. 3.

County agreements

Council approved sewer maintenance and public health services agreements with Cuyahoga County. Sewer maintenance shall not exceed $600,000. The fees for health services shall be $218,614 for 2019 and $251,359 for 2020.

Transportation

Council approved the following:

• The installation of signs for the free Circle Link shuttle bus route. Mary Dunbar noted that an effort is underway to put bike racks on the shuttles.
• An annual resolution to permit over-night parking on certain densely populated streets.
• The implementation of bike lanes on North Road.

2019 and 2018 budgets

Ordinances regarding the 2019 budget and amendments of the 2018 budget received first readings.

Cheryl Stephens’ resignation

Council Member Cheryl Stephens submitted her letter of resignation from council, effective Nov. 26, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. She talked about her experiences and the importance of service. Members voted unanimously to accept her resignation, spoke in her honor, and presented a gift. She will be sworn in as District 10 representative on Cuyahoga County Council on Nov. 27.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

I V O W N E G L E N O B S E R V E R

DECEMBER 3, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Jason Stein and Michael N. Ungar. Kahlil Seren was absent. The hearing and meeting lasted from 7.29 p.m. to 9.58 p.m. A public hearing on the Top of the Hill project occupied the first hour and 50 minutes.

Top of the Hill hearing

Michael Ungar, legislative liaison for the project, conducted the hearing. Kara Hamley O’Donnell, city planner, presented the current status of the plan prior to taking questions from council and the public. She stated that the first request for proposals was issued in the spring of 2016 and there have been 26 community and focus group meetings, the latest being a five-hour planning commission session the previous week. The legislation on tonight’s agenda will create a Planned Development Overlay District (similar to those at Bluestone and Ceddarmount), which does away with the current S-2 zoning designation of the site.

A 99-year ground lease and a 40-year boycott option for the developer are included. A new parking and traffic study will be done in 2019. The project is to be completed by the end of 2022. A public hearing of the Architectural Board of Review will be held on Thursday, Dec. 27.

Several residents expressed opinions against the project and others spoke in favor of the project. Michael Ungar stated that questions raised but not answered during this hearing would be answered on the website. He concluded that the project “needs to over-communicate!”

Top of the Hill project ordinances

By unanimous vote, council amended the zoning map to establish a Planned Development Overlay District at the intersection of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Cedar and Edwards roads, on second and reading. Council also amended the agreement with Flaherty and Collins for the Top of the Hill project.

Application for open council seat

Due to Stephens’ resignation, a seventh member must be appointed to council. Applications are due Jan. 15, and can be found online at: www.clevelanheights.com/1085/city-council-application.

I V O W N E G L E N O B S E R V E R

Newcomers

New Year, New You!

MAC’S BACKS BOOKSTORE

Newcomers: Blanche Valancy.

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www.heightsobserver.org

11/01/18
Local foundation gets gold seal

Fred D’Ambrosi

The McGinty Family Foundation, a University Heights-based nonprofit dedicated to helping education, has received the 2018 GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency. The seal means that the foundation has provided financial statements, goals, and other key metrics that the GuideStar website says “give potential donors and funders better insight” into their work.

GuideStar is the nation’s largest nonprofit database, with information on 2.7 million organizations. It awards four transparency levels: bronze, silver, gold and platinum (https://learn.guidestar.org). The Foundation Executive Director TJ McGinty said receiving the seal “means we’ve done our due diligence,” and it “allows us to stand out among nonprofits.

Introducing Noble Community Center

Diane Hallum

Noble Community Center is a community center without walls.

Over the summer, the center provided games and sports activities on available green spaces along Noble Road for children and adults to play, meet one another, and have fun. Local businesses provided water and canopies to keep everyone cool, and residents provided snacks, refreshments and game equipment.

The mission of the nonprofit is to arrange opportunities where all residents who live on the north side of Cleveland Heights can get together, talk, play games and participate in other engaging social, civic and educational activities that build a sense of community. Noble Community Center’s objective is to lessen neighborhood tensions, support the underserved, and improve the well-being of neighborhood residents. The center wants residents to feel they are accepted and respected, and belong to something larger than themselves. Members drive residents together to help others, find shared interests, support the underserved, and participate in other engaging social, civic and educational activities that build a sense of community.

In the coming year, the center plans to do more to bring neighborhood residents together to help others, find shared interests, support the underserved, and participate in other engaging social, civic and educational activities that build a sense of community.

Noble Community Center welcomes suggestions, ideas, and volunteers. For more information, visit the Noble Community Center page on Facebook.

Noble Community Center is a community without walls.
Justice-elect swears in state reps at Beaumont

Fred D’Ambrosi

About 200 people packed the foyer of Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights to see the first African-American woman elected as a justice to the Supreme Court of Ohio administer the oath of office to two local state representatives. All three are graduates of the Catholic, all-girls school, whose motto is “Where young women lead, change the world.”


Stewart, currently a judge on the Eighth District Court of Appeals, will be sworn in to the Supreme Court on Jan. 2.

Boyd organized the event, which she said the legislature encourages to promote community participation.

Boyd said it can be difficult for some constituents, like her mother, who uses a wheelchair, to go to Columbus to see the mass swearing in ceremony at the Statehouse on Jan. 7.

“Her most gratifying projects,” said Ring, “are her personal connections and make my relationship with encouraging her to run for politics. She thanked her mother who ‘worked overtime at the post office so I could attend school here.’

Boyd, a Cleveland Heights native, was the first to take the oath. This is her third term as representative in the 9th district, where she succeeded her mother, Barbara Boyd, in 2014.

Prior to that, Boyd served as an appointed member of the Cleveland Heights City Council. She is a 1989 graduate of Beaumont, and currently serves on the school board.

In her welcoming remarks, Boyd asked all public officials present to stand, and about 12 people rose to their feet and received an ovation. Before her swearing in, Boyd thanked a long list of friends, family and supporters before placing her hand on a Bible held by her fiancé and daughter. Afterward, she presented her parents with flowers to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary.

Next, Brent stepped to the podium. A 2002 Beaumont grad, she was elected to a seat once held by her aunt, influential Cuyahoga County Democrat Vernell Wnelah, who died in 2013.

Brent choked up, wishing Wnelah were there to witness her swearing in.

Before taking her oath on a Bible held by her young goddaughter, Brent spoke directly to the current Beaumont students in the room, telling them, “Anything is possible . . . no matter what your age, what you look like, what your religion is. You can do whatever you want to do in this world.” She said when she announced she was going to run, “people would say . . . you’re too far, you’re too young, you’re too this. I feel like if God puts on your heart to do it, it’s meant for you.”

The future Supreme Court justice was even more direct to the future alumni. “I expect you to do great things,” Stewart said. “No pressure here, but we’re really looking for you to save the world.”

Fred D’Ambrosi has been a journalist for 40 years, most recently as news director of WOIO/WUAB.

Beth El hosts lunch-and-learn about autism

Carol Brunl

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue will host an open lunch-and-learn, “The ABCs of Autism Spectrum Disorder: A First Hand Account,” on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the synagogue (3246 Desota Ave.).

Attendees will receive a complimentary lunch and valuable information about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The talk will be facilitated by Mia Buchwald Gelles, co-founder of Milestones Autism Resources, a nonprofit located in Warrensville Heights that works to improve the lives of individuals with autism.

Joining Gelles is Molly D. Dann-Pipini, a young adult on the spectrum. Gelles will share her personal insight as a member of the autism community. Dann is a part of the Milestones staff and also serves as a Goodlife Ambassador with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

All members of the public are welcome. Lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m.; the talk will begin at 1 p.m.

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue strives to build a vibrant Jewish community, welcoming all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.

Carol Brunl is the communications chair and newsletter editor for Beth El - The Heights Synagogue.

“Her passion is so tenacious,” said Ring, who called Lowe the backbone of the Blossom Friends of the Cleveland Heights Orchestra.

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‘Helping Hann’ furnace giveaway now in its third year

Bob Rosenbaum

Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc. is accepting nominations for its third annual Helping Hann furnace giveaway, in which a deserving member of the community will receive a free furnace and installation.

Chris Hann, co-owner of the Cleveland Heights-based heating, cooling and plumbing company, is asking for nominations from Cleveland Heights, University Heights and other east-side communities.

“It has been our honor to install a new furnace the past two years to deserving homeowners,” Hann said. “Again, we want to share our good fortune by continuing to give back to the community that’s been so good to our family all these years. We are hopeful that members of the community will nominate themselves or someone they know who is without heat or has an old furnace and is in desperate need of a new one.”

This year’s winner will receive a new high-efficiency heating system and installation, with a total value of up to $3,500.

Nominations are open Dec. 17 through Feb. 28.

Cleveland Heights resident Ardyce Daugherty, 2018 recipient of the free “Helping Hann” furnace, with company co-owner Chris Hann.

Hann and his brother/co-owner, Bill, will select a handful of semi-finalists from the pool of nominations, and make personal visits to their homes. Finalists will be chosen, with the winner randomly selected from among them.

Work that requires other contractors—such as electrical or chimney modifications—is not included in the giveaway. But the possible cost of such work is typically discussed with finalists during the selection process, Chris Hann explained.

Last year, the free furnace was installed for Ardyce Daugherty of Cleveland Heights, a single mother and grandmother whose 50-year-old furnace had stopped working during the winter storm.

Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc. created the program to help those who are in need. “The Helping Hann free furnace contest is the highlight of the company’s year,” Hann said. “We are grateful to provide heat for someone deserving, and look forward to continuing the tradition.”

The family-owned company has been located in Cleveland Heights for the past 67 years. Chris, Bill, and their sister Patty Siegfried represent the family’s fourth generation in the trade. The fifth generation is represented by their nephew Jason Franey, who manages the service department.

Nomination forms are available on page 5 of this publication, on the company’s website (see below), or by calling the office at 216-932-9755. Anyone who submits information will receive a $200 off coupon on an installation.

For more information on Verne & Ellsworth Hann’s Helping Hann free furnace giveaway, visit www.clevelandhann.com/helping-hann/. Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is co-chairman of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development.

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Book discussion to explore school ‘testing charade’

Jan Resseger

If you are the parent or grandparent of school-age children, there’s an important book that the Heights Coalition for Public Education urges you to read. The book—The Testing Charade: Pretending to Make Schools Better, by Daniel Koretz—concerns a topic that affects the CH-UH community: the overwhelming intrusion of high-stakes standardized testing in the public schools.

The Coalition invites members of the community to discuss The Testing Charade on Wednesday, Feb. 6, and Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7–9 p.m., in the Wiley Middle School cafeteria. Relevant and important conversation is promised, as well as a few surprises.

Parents and teachers have been expressing the concern that frequent and intrusive standardized tests place undue stress on children. In addition, preparing for and administering the tests takes time away from the most important and rewarding part of school life—education.

Testing may be damaging schools and communities in broader ways, such as when the state of Ohio uses test scores as the rationale for taking over school districts in less affluent regions of the state.

Macs Backs, at 1820 Coventry Road, is offering a 20-per cent discount on The Testing Charade for those planning to participate in the discussion in February. To order the book, call Mac’s Backs at 216-321-2665, e-mail suzanne@macsbacks.com, or order online at www.macsbacks.com/.

The discussion will bring together many perspectives, including those of Reaching Heights, Future Heights, CH-UH PTA, Northeast Ohio Friends of Public Education, CH-UH Board of Education, Notre Dame College, Cleveland State University Center for Urban Education, League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, and North Eastern Ohio Education Association.

Jan Resseger is a longtime advocate for public education, working to reduce standardized testing, increase awareness of educational opportunity gaps, and increase the public’s role in local school.
Two CH speedskaters race in national junior championship

Two members of the Cleveland Heights Speedskating Club were among approximately 50 skaters who raced in the US Short Track Junior Championship last month in Was-sau, Wis.

Ryan Shane, 14, and Hira Hanson, 16, represent-ing the Cleveland Heights Speedskating Club, were among 38 boys in the nation who qualified and raced in this year’s US Short Track Junior Championship.

Barb Rosenbaum, a longtime Cleveland Heights resident, is president of the Cleveland Heights Speedskating Club.

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Beaumont’s Rulison declares for CCU

Beaumont senior Ashley Rulison (at left).

Tim Ertle

On Nov. 14, Beaumont School senior Ashley Rulison signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country and track at Coastal Carolina University (CCU), a Division I school located in South Carolina.

Rulison, a Burton native, excelled as a Beaumont Blue Streak. She burst onto the scene as a freshman, finishing 10th at the 2015 Division II state cross country meet, and came back with a third-place finish as a sophomore.

That same year, she qualified for the state track meet in the 1600 (finishing 12th), 3200 (placing 16th) and as a member of Beaumont’s 4x800 relay quartet that took fifth. Last year, Rulison ran second on Beaumont’s 4x800 relay team that took third at the state track meet, and also an-chored the 4x400 team that finished fifth in the state.

Sidelined last fall due to injury, Rulison helped the Blue Streaks make a return to the state meet this year where they finished eighth as a team.

Rulison intends to pursue a degree in marketing at CCU, where she will be coached by Zola (Budd) Pieterse, the two-time Olympian who competed for Great Britain in the 1994 Los Angeles Games and represented South Africa at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Tim Ertle is athletic director at Beaumont School.

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Honesty, Value and Communication

Since 1982

Creativity Matters

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Creativity Matters
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Cleveland Heights University Heights Board of Education
Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 5, 2018
President James Josch, Vice President Jodi Souvini, and board members Dan Hantz, Malia Lewis and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talia Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. and adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Public comments
State assessments of kindergarten: Kindergarten teachers from every district, along with support staff, gathered in nominees to show concerns about state assessments administered to kindergarten students. They met with more than 100 years of collective expertise, and as research and data, to discuss their facilitated that the board propose to the state the elimination of some of the assessments. Kindergartners professionals to determine which assessments are needed and how to administer them. One teacher noted that state assessments are given in the first 25 days of school. A resident who has worked in elementary schools for more than 24 years brought additional data to show the outcome of taking these assessments at this early age.

School safety
Superintendent Dixon said that the Cleveland Heights police chief has shown data that active shooters frequently feel socially isolated. Dixon asked Chief Mecklenburg questions about gun control and whether teachers should have guns. She thinks that the police should do the policing and the teachers should teach—when they should be under legal protection.

The district received a state $30,000 school safety grant and awarded the funds by June 30. It is determining how to use those funds, such as for security staff, cameras and metal detectors.

Superintendent search form
The board discussed hiring the national executive search firm Ray and Associates Inc., on education leadership recruitment group that has been hired by three school districts in Ohio, but also offered consideration. That is looking for the next superintendent opening a national search would be great. Ray and Associates, has an extensive network of professional associates and relationships with other search firms.

The board voted to approve hiring Ray and Associates with Beverly Wright voting no. She preferred hiring a local firm.

Enrollment trends
The board discussed enrollment numbers and housing sales, which are up in the district. Members were asked to hold a work session on enrollment trends.

ECOT lawsuit participation
Don Hantz spoke about the ECOT lawsuit and whether the district should join it. He said legal counsel recommended not joining the suit, since the board has already adopted a resolution to support the local interfaith community, since 1999.

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The new Heights High varsity basketball coach, Michael Cruz, wants to provide both physical and social-emotional training for his team. That is why he partnered with Heights High “Lessons of the Holocaust” teacher Mark Sack to plan a Nov. 29 team visit to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage’s Stop the Hate exhibit, and a meeting with 92-year-old Holocaust survivor Stanley Bernath.

“Step into the shoes of people who lived through such a terrible experience and you can’t help but think of the worst things that could happen. To be able to learn from this experience and be able to pass it on to the students is important,” said Sack.

Bernath shared his story of survival during the Holocaust and offered advice to the students. He told the young men, “Believe in yourselves; never, ever give up, no matter how bad things look. Nobody is better than you, and you are not better than anybody else—we are just different!”

He also had a request for the athletes: “Please help erase hatred and help others, because a Holocaust is what can happen when no one helps victims.”

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
The Cleveland Heights High School robotics team has gone from trying to destroy its challengers to trying to beat them with finesse. For the past several years, they have designed and built Battle Bots, remote-controlled robotic units that battle other robots in a bulletproof cage. Last year the team placed 2nd at the regional competition and 5th at nationals. This year the 30-member team is using a new model, Vex Robotics, a system for designing, programming, building and operating robotic units that perform sophisticated movements.

“Think of an Erector Set on steroids,” said robotics team coach Greg Nachman. “The kits are very versatile, with more opportunities for students to program the robotic movements.”

The school fielded six teams and competed in its first Vex competition on Dec. 1 at Wooster High School. The six Heights High teams all placed between 18th and 26th in a field of 30.

“We learned so much,” said Nachman. “We are very new to this kind of competition, and we saw what we need to do to improve.”

Each match is two minutes long and is held on a 12-by-12-foot field. Robots from four teams earn points by completing tasks on the field. Two teams form an alliance and work together, but each team also accrues individual points. Teams can score points by performing tasks, such as threading a nine-inch object onto a pole, throwing a ball at a hard plastic flag to make it spin a quarter-turn, and parking on a raised platform. In a nod to Battle Bots, teams can also score points by pushing an opponent off the platforms. (You can see a sample of Vex competition here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDDG9coTFzF&feature=youtu.be)

The Heights High robotics team will compete in at least three more competitions this school year. “We’re excited to learn this new model of robotics competition,” said Nachman. “And we look to improve our performance in the next several competitions.”

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

Teachers honored as diversity advocates

Cathen Cavanaugh

Four English Language Arts teachers in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District were honored at the state level for their work in promoting the importance of diversity among district educators.

Lorna Askew, Angela Coleman-Kirkland, Mikia Searcy and Sherice Thomas are recipients of the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (OCTELA) Diversity Award. They were selected as a result of their participation in the OCTELA Teacher Diversity Recruitment Program, and were among nominees from across the state.

“I think that it is important for students of color to experience school life with teachers who have a similar race or ethnicity because it is more likely that they will infuse multicultural perspectives and relate how the curriculum was influenced by diverse peoples,” said Askew, an intervention specialist at Heights Middle School. “Students of color need to see role models, and they need to know that people who looked like them influenced the subject matter that they are learning.”

The Teacher Diversity Recruitment Program was created to increase the number of teachers of color within OCTELA’s membership and in attendance at its annual conference. One of the perks of winning the award is complimentary registration to the OCTELA conference that will be held in Columbus in March. In addition to the conference registration, each teacher received a one-year OCTELA membership, and a small professional development stipend to be used to purchase resources to enhance their instruction.

“I am not only proud of their award, but proud to work alongside these phenomenal women each day,” said Yolanda Harris, Title I instructional coach at Heights Middle School and OCTELA diversity liaison for the district. “They represent, to me, the best of what CH-UH has to offer the field of education in the state of Ohio, especially as I watch the marvelous ways by which they show care and concern for our student.”

OCTELA is one of the oldest and most prestigious professional development organizations for literacy teachers in the state. It has been providing its national network of teachers with instructional and professional development resources and opportunities for more than six decades.

Cathen Cavanaugh is the communications administrative assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Library adds student newspaper to local history collection

Sheryl Banks
Heights Libraries recently expanded its local history collection by creating a new digital archive of the Heights High student newspaper, the Black and Gold.

Heights High students have published the Black and Gold since the 1920s, and the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation gave a collection of the paper to the library in hopes that the historic issues could be preserved and shared with the community.

For the past few months, Heights Libraries’ Local History Librarian Jessica Robinson has been scanning and uploading old issues to the library’s page on the Ohio Memory website. The online collection currently includes issues from the 1930s and 40s, and Robinson plans to add to the collection in the future.

“You can read all about life in the 1930s and 40s in the Heights from the vantage point of teens, including serious articles ruminating on the impending war with Europe and concerns about Hitler and the spread of fascism,” said Robinson. “But you also have lighthearted articles with titles like Fifty-Seven Varieties of Red Heads Add Spice and Color to Heights!”

Other articles dispense advice to fellow students on being courteous and conscientious, or sold them for behavior like doodling on desks and talking loudly during assemblies.”

Robinson said the articles are sometimes poignant as well, such as a Sept. 30, 1938 article, “Latvian Girl from Riga Likes U.S.,” which, while light in tone, describes the experiences in the U.S. of two teens who escaped Latvia and Austria, respectively, in the face of German aggression. “Reading that article in 2018,” noted Robinson, “it’s hard not to wonder about family members who may not have made it out of Europe.”

The Black and Gold archive is the newest addition to the library’s local history offerings on the Ohio Memory website, which also includes Home History Tour booklets dating back to 1977, and valuable books on Heights history, such as The Proud Heritage of Cleveland Heights: In Our Day, Cleveland Heights: Its People, Its Places, Its Past; and the history of the Heights Libraries system, More Than Just Books by Marion Kelly.

Robinson hopes that the archives will spark memories for Heights High graduates, and inspire them to share those memories with her as part of the library’s ongoing In My Day oral history project. More details on this project, and access to the library’s Ohio Memory page, can be found on the local history page of Heights Libraries’ website, www.heightslibrary.org/local-history.

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

Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights

November 19, 2018

Present were President Abby Botnick, Vice President Chris Mentrek, and board members Dana Fluellen, Max Gerboc, James Rossa, Vikas Tundhulkar and Suzanne Markowitz.

Mental Health First Aid certification

Twenty-five Heights Libraries employees attended Mental Health First Aid certification training provided by Recovery Resources on Oct. 8 and 9. Just as CPR helps instruct an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance-related crisis. Topics included risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for helping someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

The certification is good for three years.

Deaf services training

On Oct. 30, the deaf services coordinator at the Covington Village branch taught four librarians how to make libraries deaf-friendly, providing tips for collection development, resources, programming, and staff training. The session also included a basic lesson in American Sign Language that would be useful in a library setting.

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CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) invites seniors to dance in the New Year by joining one or more of the many dance classes it offers, including two free classes.

Line Dance (contemporary style) promotes physical fitness through dance exercise. Join instructor Gladyse McGlothlin on Mondays, Jan. 7 through March 11, 9:30–10:30 a.m. All levels are welcome and no partner is required. The class fee is $25 for eight weeks.

Zumba Gold is dance and exercise combined. Instructor Anita Bartel will keep you moving and having fun. The class meets on Tuesdays, Jan. 8 through Feb. 26, 11 a.m. to noon, and the fee is $25 for eight weeks.

Argentine Tango, a social dance based on the natural walk, is enjoyed by adults of all fitness levels. Instructor Ann Dobyns teaches the basics of the dance and a bit about its history and the culture in which it developed. Class participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring either leather-soled shoes or heavy socks that will slide on the floor. No partner is necessary to participate in this class, which meets on Fridays, Jan. 11 through March 8, 9:30–11 a.m. The class fee is $25 for eight weeks.

English Country Dance is an ongoing class that meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Participants will learn traditional dancing and enjoy a fun time with new friends; no partner or experience is necessary. Wes Senseman instructs this free class.

Dance 101 is an ongoing class that meets on Fridays at 11:15 a.m. Instructor Leslie Keller encourages everyone whether they can’t dance or try. Through dance movement, participants can improve strength, balance and flexibility while exploring the art of improvisation. Wear comfortable clothing and expect to feel energized and have a heightened awareness of your potential. This class is free.

Given all these options, why not add a dance class to spark your fitness routine?

The Cleveland Heights 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.clepark.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. Membership is $10 for University Heights seniors.

All God’s Children Worship Service
Sunday, January 21, at 5:00 p.m.

An adaptive worship service with Holy Communion designed to be sensory-friendly and welcoming for all children and families.

All are welcome!

Jan. 24: Kyle Drefuss-Wells, chief executive officer of Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, will discuss the district’s work: managing three wastewater treatment plants; handling the big tunnels, while local communities handle the local sewers; and taking water from homes, businesses and streets, cleaning it to proper standards, then returning it to the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. The district’s work covers 355 square miles, with 1 million customers in 62 communities.

Jan. 31: Rising sea levels, record-high temperatures, a polluted atmosphere . . . what does it all mean? Grant Goodrich, director of Great Lakes Energy Institute at Case Western Reserve University, will discuss it in the context of “Perspectives on Global Climate Change”—a May 2018 conference that featured talks by renowned climate scientists on the faculties of Penn State, Stanford and Princeton universities.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

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.

Jan. 3: University Heights Mayor Michael Dysan Breena will review 2018 activities and discuss plans under consideration for 2019.

Jan. 10: Jane Goodman, director of the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern, will discuss how this nonprofit agency works for removal of contamination and other impairments from the river, which is becoming a national symbol of recovery.

Jan. 17: Fred Bidwell, founder and executive director of Front International Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, will discuss the inaugural summer of this show of new art. It featured works by more than 100 artists from around the world, unfurled in vivid murals on down-town Cleveland buildings, and filling galleries throughout the region.

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A fine-dining gem opens on Noble

Diane Hallum

The comfortable and relaxing feel of Jewellz Fine Dining, 2204 Noble Road, carries through from the moment one enters this newly opened restaurant to the wonderful, unexpected flavors of the delicious food.

Don’t expect fast-food or corner-diner-type fare here. This is a menu with grace, intelligence and warmth. The hard work and skills of chef-owner Dieesha Witherspoon come together in a multifaceted menu that may include rack-of-lamb chops, chicken Alfredo, and grilled salmon. Diners can also expect to find a variety of hot wing preparations, an “Amazing Burger,” and chicken spaghetti. What primarily fills the menu, though, are those types of meals that families might eagerly relish at their own home tables following Sunday church.

Come on Sunday to experience the warmth and flavor of those home-style foods. Called “Soul Food Sunday,” Witherspoon serves up delectable pot roast, steaks, oxtails, baked chicken, and side dishes that include extraordinary greens, broccoli and cheese, macaroni and cheese, and mashed potatoes.

Five years ago, Witherspoon, who began learning her skills and craft at her aunt’s elbow at age 12, turned her love of cooking into a successful carry-out-only restaurant at E. 179th and Woodland Avenue.

“We had a rule,” explained Witherspoon. “Customers weren’t allowed to open their carry-out boxes inside the restaurant because once they tasted it they would never leave! People would actually sit in their cars in the parking lot eating out of the carry-out containers. They told us the food was so good they didn’t want to wait until they drove home.”

Customers repeatedly told her and her staff that the food was too good to be carried out. “It made me want to cry,” said Witherspoon. “I decided I wanted to do better for my customers. That is why I decided to expand and open this establishment, so my old customers could have a place to dine in.”

More than 200 people showed up on a recent Sunday, causing the restaurant to run out of several entrees before the end of service.

“I love what I do. And I know that I can get better at it,” said Witherspoon. “I enjoy providing meals in a comfortable place where families can eat together. I also want to introduce different food selections to people that they may never have experienced before.”

“It’s hard work,” Witherspoon said. “But I love working hard and making magic in the kitchen. Every day, I know that it will get better and better. I’m looking forward to introducing my recipes to new customers and becoming a solid part of this neighborhood.”

The menu changes daily, with entrees and selections ranging from $5 to $35.

Jewellz Fine Dining (216-466-3429) is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 3-8 p.m. Reservations are accepted; no alcohol is served.

Diane Hallum is a longtime resident of the north side of Cleveland Heights.

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Child and teen wellness practice opens in Cedar Fairmount

Kaye Lowe

Richard Dempsey, a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) has opened a child and adolescent psychotherapy practice in the Cedar Fairmount Business District.

Fairmount Mental Wellness, located in the Heights Medical Building (4460 Fairmount Blvd., Suite 37), serves the social and emotional needs of children and their families.

Specializing in narrative therapy, Dempsey's focus is on helping angry kids, frustrated parents and disconnected families, and addressing concerns related to behavior, anxiety and depression.

"Narrative therapy proposes that people use certain stories about themselves like the lens on a camera," explained Dempsey. "These stories have the effect of filtering a person's experience of life and thereby selecting what information gets focused in or focused out. These stories shape a person's perspectives on their lives, histories and futures. Despite information to the contrary, these stories of identity can be remarkably stable. Narrative therapy provides a means to refocus the lens and help reshape a person's stories and life. In this way I help children, teens and families turn old stories into new ones."

"In the face of serious problems it's hard to believe that conversations can shape new realities," said Dempsey. "But they do."

Dempsey has more than 14 years of experience in the mental health field, including stints with Case Western Reserve University's Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Washington's Department of Public Behavioral Health and Justice Policy, Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau and private counseling practice. He is a specialist in working with K-12 school-aged children.

Dempsey attended graduate school at The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology, where he studied counseling psychology and Christian theology. His practice is informed by both psychological and theological assumptions about the world.

In 2014 he returned home to Cleveland and started work at Bellefaire. Today he is a school-based counselor in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where his focus has been on classroom behavior and academic achievement to support the social and emotional health of students in Cleveland’s elementary and middle schools.

For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, visit www.fairmountmw.com or call 216-714-2910.

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

Elite Bistro changes chefs

Fred D'Ambrosi

Just a month after its official opening, Elite Bistro (2195 Lee Road) named a new head chef. Executive Chef Alvin Harris, profiled in the November issue of the Heights Observer, has left. Assistant General Manager Leanna Miller said the restaurant is moving in a “new direction.”

Elite Bistro’s new head chef is Anthony Ford, who worked for the last 20 years at J. Alexander’s Lyndhurst Grill. Miller said the restaurant has a new menu, keeping some items from its original menu, and a more extensive Sunday brunch menu. Miller described the cuisine as Contemporary American.

Elite Bistro had its grand opening at the site of the former Fix Bistro on Sept. 30. Despite the similarities in names, the restaurants are unrelated. The interior has been remodeled and includes a full bar.

For more information, go to the restaurant’s Facebook page, facebook.com/elitebistrocle.

Fred D’Ambrosi has been a journalist for 40 years, most recently at news director of WOIO/WUAB. He grew up in Queens, N.Y., but has lived all over the country and has been a Heights resident since 2015.

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Heights Arts launches internship for CHHS students

Shari Nacson

As executive director of Heights Arts—and as a Cleveland Heights High School (CHHS) parent—Rachel Bernstein was in a unique position to cultivate a partnership between Heights Arts and the high school. “Heights Arts was long searching for an authentic way to connect with CHHS,” she said, noting that the organization’s strategic plan includes a goal of increasing audience diversity and engagement.

Last spring, an idea took shape that would allow this collaboration to flower: adding student interns to the organization’s longstanding exhibitions committee. The students would gain valuable experience about developing and presenting art exhibitions, and Heights Arts would tap the students’ perspectives.

Heights High teacher Laura Skehan quickly identified about a dozen students who would be good candidates. Heights Arts narrowed the field to a half-dozen and conducted individual interviews with the finalists in the summer and early fall. The inaugural Heights Arts Exhibition Committee interns, who officially began in October, are junior Ava Collyer and senior ShaDonnah (Mia) Miller. Designed to accept one high school junior each year, the two-year internship allows the prior year’s junior to serve as a mentor for the new intern.

Greg Donley is a former Heights Arts board member and current chair of the Exhibitions Committee, which selects, plans, and installs five group and five spotlight exhibitions a year. “The applicants were all eloquent, committed and talented,” he recalled. “It was tough to pick just two. We hope that we not only get new ideas from the students, but that over the future years of doing this, we help produce a bunch of people who are savvy about the arts. It’s a good experience for any artist to objectively evaluate other artists’ work,” he said, noting that the students will also learn how to lay out and hang exhibitions, and often meet the artists. A show called VIEW points, opening Jan. 18, will be the students’ first opportunity to participate in an exhibition installation.

Collyer said that she was most intrigued by the behind-the-scenes experiences of how the committee works to create what ultimately is viewed in gallery. Miller feels she will gain critique skills through sitting on the committee and said that she is building her resume with real-world work experience.

Upon hearing about the internship, artist Andy Curlowe donated the proceeds from the sale of his artwork during the gallery’s summer show, Sticks and Stones, to pioneer the inclusion of an internship stipend. The students appreciate the stipend. “It feels like it’s in my name,” reflected Miller, “that I worked hard to receive it.”

Even at this early stage, the experience has been impactful for the interns. Both felt included as equals on the 12-person committee, having reviewed art submissions independently before the meeting and coming to the table ready to share comments. Committee members are excited about the student interns’ “noticed things that I didn’t,” said Collyer, which she found interesting and exciting. Miller liked the perspective-taking, as well, and said she felt energized that seasoned artists noticed some of the same aspects that she did. This internship, Bernstein said, “is a great first step of our relationship development.” Collyer likes being part of the first year. “The program itself is new and we are new to it,” she said.

Bernstein hopes this is just the beginning of a rich partnership with CHHS, envisioning opportunities for cross-disciplinary field trips to the gallery, just a short walk from the high school.

She noted that Heights Arts is looking for people to sustainably fund the partnership initiative so that the stipend can continue to be offered in future years. This ability to put vision into action matters. As Donley noted, “We are preparing a future generation of people who are interested in the arts as part of this community.”

Mostly a mom, Shari Nacson, is a freelance editor, social worker, and nonprofit consultant who makes her home in Cleveland Heights. More than anything, Nacson is inspired by kids and adults who build connection through kindness.

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Heights High teacher Laura Skehan quickly identified about a dozen students who would be good candidates. Heights Arts narrowed the field to a half-dozen and conducted individual interviews with the finalists in the summer and early fall. The inaugural Heights Arts Exhibition Committee interns, who officially began in October, are junior Ava Collyer and senior ShaDonnah (Mia) Miller. Designed to accept one high school junior each year, the two-year internship allows the prior year’s junior to serve as a mentor for the new intern.

Greg Donley is a former Heights Arts board member and current chair of the Exhibitions Committee, which selects, plans, and installs five group and five spotlight exhibitions a year. “The applicants were all eloquent, committed and talented,” he recalled. “It was tough to pick just two. We hope that we not only get new ideas from the students, but that over the future years of doing this, we help produce a bunch of people who are savvy about the arts. It’s a good experience for any artist to objectively evaluate other artists’ work,” he said, noting that the students will also learn how to lay out and hang exhibitions, and often meet the artists. A show called VIEW points, opening Jan. 18, will be the students’ first opportunity to participate in an exhibition installation.

Collyer said that she was most intrigued by the behind-the-scenes experiences of how the committee works to create what ultimately is viewed in gallery. Miller feels she will gain critique skills through sitting on the committee and said that she is building her resume with real-world work experience.

Upon hearing about the internship, artist Andy Curlowe donated the proceeds from the sale of his artwork during the gallery’s summer show, Sticks and Stones, to pioneer the inclusion of an internship stipend. The students appreciate the stipend. “It feels like it’s in my name,” reflected Miller, “that I worked hard to receive it.”

Even at this early stage, the experience has been impactful for the interns. Both felt included as equals on the 12-person committee, having reviewed art submissions independently before the meeting and coming to the table ready to share comments. Committee members are excited about the student interns’ “noticed things that I didn’t,” said Collyer, which she found interesting and exciting. Miller liked the perspective-taking, as well, and said she felt energized that seasoned artists noticed some of the same aspects that she did. This internship, Bernstein said, “is a great first step of our relationship development.” Collyer likes being part of the first year. “The program itself is new and we are new to it,” she said.

Bernstein hopes this is just the beginning of a rich partnership with CHHS, envisioning opportunities for cross-disciplinary field trips to the gallery, just a short walk from the high school.

She noted that Heights Arts is looking for people to sustainably fund the partnership initiative so that the stipend can continue to be offered in future years. This ability to put vision into action matters. As Donley noted, “We are preparing a future generation of people who are interested in the arts as part of this community.”

Mostly a mom, Shari Nacson, is a freelance editor, social worker, and nonprofit consultant who makes her home in Cleveland Heights. More than anything, Nacson is inspired by kids and adults who build connection through kindness.

Heights Arts launches internship for CHHS students

Shari Nacson

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‘A Raisin in the Sun’ continues Ensemble’s season

Tyler Whidden

After directing both parts of “Angels in America” last season, Ensemble Executive Artistic Director Celeste Cosentino again takes on an American classic, bringing Lorraine Hansberry’s “A Raisin in the Sun” to the Cleveland Heights theater (2843 Washington Blvd.), Jan. 25 through Feb. 17.

“A Raisin in the Sun” was the first play by an African-American woman to appear on Broadway (1959). The award-winning play is about an African-American family facing racism while trying to find a better life.

When the matriarch of the family, Lena Younger, puts a down payment on a house in a better neighborhood, the family is approached by a man representing the residents of the new neighborhood, who would prefer to keep their neighborhood white. Depicting three generations of the same family, the play explores the value of dreams, the fight against discrimination, and the importance of family.

Cosentino feels connection to the play, as her mother had long championed playwright Hansberry’s work.

“Many years ago my mother created/compiled/adapted an educational touring show called ‘Langston and Lorraine.’ A beautiful tribute to two very influential and ground-breaking writers,” Cosentino said.

“I can say that as I reflect on that show and having started to work on producing and directing ‘A Raisin in the Sun,’ I feel that I am becoming a part of the rich and storied history of Lorraine Hansberry’s masterful play, its themes and its message.”

The mainstage production of “Raisin” will be the centerpiece of Ensemble’s in-season project, “What Happens to a Dream Deferred,” which is supported by Caryohga Arts & Culture and the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

The project will feature talkbacks, writing workshops, free play readings, open mics, poetry slams, and other events surrounding the production and inspired by the play.

Cosentino said that having the community be able to participate in different ways is a big component of Ensemble’s mission.

“I hope audiences and partici-

cpants feel a part of something bigger than themselves, like I do,” she said.

“This is a story that needs to be told and told well. So let’s all have a hand in telling it.”

The play’s production team and cast will feature Cleveland talent, including Cleveland Heights residents, the Sumlin family. Nicole and Eugene Sumlin have graced Cleveland stages for some time. Their son Eason will also appear in “Raisin,” making it a true family affair.

For tickets, and more information on participating in “What Happens to a Dream Deferred,” visit www.ensembletheatrelcro.org, or call 216-332-2910.

Tyler Whidden is a playwright, director, and actor with Ensemble Theatre.

Heights Arts explores mapping and cubism in new exhibitions

Genevieve Schwartz

Heights Arts is exploring the concept of mapping in the group exhibition VIEW-points, curated by Helen Liggett and Sharon Grossman. “This exhibition is based on questions of what mapping is and how maps mediate between viewers and the world,” Liggett said. The exhibition, which runs Jan. 18 through March 3, will show viewers different perspectives of locations both close to home and distant from everyday life.

The show features artists G.M. Donley, Michael Loderstedt, Wendy Partridge, Sai Sinbondit and Rebeckah Wilhelm. They use a variety of media, from photography and prints to locally-sourced pigments made from plants, coffee and dirt.

“Mapping is a way to make sense of things by directing attention,” Liggett explained. “This terrain blurs the distinctions between art and science, diagrams and cartoons, play and politics. The artists and viewers participating in VIEW-points explore, provoke and reflect on mapping as orientation rather than destination.”

The exhibition opens with a public reception on Friday, Jan. 18, 6–9 p.m., at Heights Arts (2175 Lee Road). On Thursday, Feb. 14, a related gallery talk, “Ekphrastacy: Artists

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The old neighborhood

My mother was born in Pittsburgh. Her mother died when my mother was 11 months old. Her father married a woman from Cleveland when my mother was 2 or 3. But when my mother was 10, and right before her stepmother gave birth to my mother’s brother, my mother’s father died. Within a couple of years, her stepmother brought my mother and her baby brother to live in Cleveland Heights. My mother’s older sister stayed in Pittsburgh to finish high school.

That was during the Great Depression. They lived in an apartment on Coventry Road, where most of the buildings are the same ones that stand there today. My mother attended Roosevelt Junior High. When the interior of their apartment building (above what is now the Hunan Coventry Restaurant) was destroyed by fire, they moved in with relatives nearby.

So, then my mother had cousins to play with. On many Saturdays during the Depression, the kids’ entertainment consisted of trying to scrape together 10 cents so that one of them could go to the movie at the Heights Theater (later the Heights Art Theater, then the Centrum, and then a lot of other things). The kid whose turn it was to go to the movie that day would then come home and spend the rest of the afternoon regaling the other kids with every detail about the movie—telling the whole story and describing every scene.

In her teens, my mother became friends with Mrs. Mitchell, at Mitchell’s Candy, which was next door to the Heights Theater, and is now on Lee Road; and she shopped at Heights Hardware, which is still in its original location on Coventry near Mayfield Road; and did her banking at the bank at the corner of Coventry and Lancashire roads, which is still a bank (a different bank, but it still looks—and, oddly, smells—the same). And, as a teen, she worked in a dentist’s office above what is now the Pacific East restaurant, at the corner of Coventry and Mayfield. And she shopped at the fish market on Coventry (the site of which became the original location of Big Fun) when my father worked there delivering fish.

My father’s family moved to Cleveland Heights, from the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland, when my father was 3—the same year the Heights Theater showed the first talking picture, “The Jazz Singer,” starring Al Jolson. They first lived in a house, which is still there, on Washington Boulevard, a few houses back from the Coventry Library, which is still there. During the Depression, they moved two or three times, but always stayed in the same neighborhood.

My father also attended Roosevelt Junior High, two years ahead of my mother. They both were also members of Euclid Avenue Temple, two or three miles west of Cleveland Heights, and both sang in the temple’s junior choir. My mother thought my father was cute, so when he brought in some music he had written, and the choir director asked if anyone was interested in writing lyrics for his melody, my mother immediately volunteered. That’s how they met. And neither of them ever dated anyone else, all through their years at Heights High. And then they got married shortly after high school, during WWII, when my father was serving in the Navy.

During the war, they lived in San Francisco, where my father was stationed—sailing back and forth from there to the Philippines on a troop transport ship, delivering soldiers to the combat area and returning with wounded ones; and my mother worked in an office for the U.S. Department of the Navy (where, believe it or not, she met, and processed the papers of, future President John F. Kennedy). After the war, my parents moved back to Cleveland Heights.

My brothers and I also grew up around Coventry Road, where I took my first guitar lessons, for what became a very long, and still going, career in music. We also attended Coventry School, Roosevelt Junior High and Heights High. I moved to New York City for a few years, but I came back to Cleveland Heights. I got married and we had two kids—who went to City Heights Schools. My son got married to a woman he had gone to school with, starting at Roxboro Elementary and through Heights High. They both were members of the Heights High Swim Team. After graduating from college, his wife began teaching at Heights High. My son is the coach of the Heights High Swim Team.

Now they have two little kids. The plan is for their kids to attend Heights schools.

My grandparents, my parents, my generation, my kids, and my grandchildren. All of us live or lived in Cleveland Heights. It’s a new year, and this year is almost 100 years since the year my father was born. The world has changed in thousands of amazing ways during that time. But, it occurs to me, some things stay the same.

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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