Heights Observer February 1, 2019

Scott Wortman

The search for the next superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is in full swing. The CH-UH Board of Education (BOE) began the process in November, and expects to interview finalists in February, with the goal of naming its new superintendent by March.

The BOE will name an interim superintendent to lead the district beginning in March, when the current superintendent, Talisa Dixon, leaves for Columbus City Schools. The new permanent superintendent is expected to begin work in CH-UH in the summer of 2019.

[Editor’s note: On Sept. 21, when the CH-UH City School District and Dixon announced her decision to take the position of Superintendent of Columbus City Schools, she “affirmed her commitment to complete the 2018-19 school year with the CH-UH district, citing the need to “finish important work and see through our initiatives.”]

‘Community of activists’ supports Haitian asylum seeker

Shari Nacson

Andy Damus recounts his migration journey and quest for asylum with warmth, with gentle humor. The former electrical engineer and professor-chains with his radiant smile, intellect, and storytelling. Periodically, he checks his phone because it is his sole connection with his family back in Haiti. It’s hard to picture him sitting in a county jail for two years without sunlight.

Damus would still be in the dark without the untiring efforts of the ACLU, his immigration attorney, and an involved Cleveland Heights community that includes an immigration activist, an empty-nest couple, and families who have provided friendship and support.

Damus crossed the Mexican border into the U.S. in October 2016 after a two-year trek that took him from Ecuador to Brazil and through Central America. His border crossing was an asylum request, which meant immediate detention. He fled Haiti because he openly criticized a powerful local politician, whose followers then threatened and attacked him. He left behind a wife, a 4-year-old daughter and an infant son.

Most U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees are housed at federal prisons, but some stay at approved jails, which lack prison resources. ICE moved Damus from Arizona, where he had entered the U.S., to Ohio. He spent two years in Chargers’ Geauga County jail—which has no outdoor area for detainees—while his attorney, Elizabeth Ford, and the ACLU fought on his behalf.

Heights resident Anne Hill, an immigration-rights activist, knew Ford through sanctuary movement work at Forest Hill Church. Hill organized visits to provide moral support for Damus.

In January 2018, when it became clear having a sponsor to host Damus would aid in his release, Hill began reaching out to people. A compassionate couple of empty nesters, Melody Hart and Gary Benjamin, agreed to become his sponsors. For months they visited Damus, developing a friendship that helped him through his detention and court process.

Marotta’s to close for renovations

Shari Nacson

Staying true to Brian and Alicia Limihan’s original vision and taste, Marotta’s, the Lee Road landmark, will close Feb. 3 for an estimated six-week renovation that promises to retain the warmth and charm that customers have always loved. According to the restaurant’s general manager—and the owners’ niece—Alexandrea Quinn, customers can expect a gentle facelift that will include updated tables, chairs, paint and light fixtures.

“Brian wanted to add a room for private wine dinners,” said Quinn.

Changes will include an expanded offering of wines and cocktails. While the menu will stay the same, customers will notice more aperitifs, staff guidance with the all-Italian wine list, and encourage...

Heights BOE to appoint interim superintendent

Scott Wortman

In Dixon’s time frame for leaving CH-UH, Wortman stated: “She is in CH-UH through the end of February. This timeline was covered in the announcement of her contract agreement with Columbus on Nov. 10. Here is the link to our announcement/statement: www.chuh.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?id=6G12G8B2daij-JYd4.

The statement reads in part: “Current Cleveland Heights University Heights City School District

...continued on page 12
When Heights residents support our local businesses, we all win

Deanna Bremer Fisher

We've been celebrating the first 10 years of publishing the Heights Observer by looking back—one month at a time—at headlines for that month that we've published over the past decade.

As I look back at a decade of Februarys, I'm struck by how many of the local businesses that were the subject of Heights Observer stories are no longer operating. Here are a few that you may remember: La Dolce Vita, Heights Guitars, Rockefeller's, Heights Floral Shoppe, Big Dog Theater, A Pizzerio Bistro, Katz Club Diner.

Those qualities are indeed city strengths. But the weakness comes about when they are applied inappropriately and result in community harm. I'm speaking of the civic version of "Love the sinner; hate the sin." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

Those qualities are indeed city strengths. But the weakness comes about when they are applied inappropriately and result in community harm. I'm speaking of the civic version of "Love the sinner; hate the sin." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

To the Editor:

The survey results from the Cleveland Heights Branding Initiative bring to mind the adage that "your greatest strength begets your greatest weakness." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

Those qualities are indeed city strengths. But the weakness comes about when they are applied inappropriately and result in community harm. I'm speaking of the civic version of "Love the sinner; hate the sin." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

To the Editor:

The survey results from the Cleveland Heights Branding Initiative bring to mind the adage that "your greatest strength begets your greatest weakness." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

Those qualities are indeed city strengths. But the weakness comes about when they are applied inappropriately and result in community harm. I'm speaking of the civic version of "Love the sinner; hate the sin." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

To the Editor:

The survey results from the Cleveland Heights Branding Initiative bring to mind the adage that "your greatest strength begets your greatest weakness." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.

Those qualities are indeed city strengths. But the weakness comes about when they are applied inappropriately and result in community harm. I'm speaking of the civic version of "Love the sinner; hate the sin." The survey found that diversity is the city's most valued characteristic, and that the most cherished traits are openness, welcome, and tolerance.
A consideration on Top of the Hill

Michael Knoblauch

I have been “sort of” aware of the Top of the Hill project, reading a few Web postings and local articles. Conversations with friends reveals a certain “ambiguity” about the project. My initial consideration on the design and plan: “Is this the best the city could do?”

As rendered in photographs, the design does not say, at least to me, “Welcome to Cleveland Heights!” I would expect a driver arriving at the top of Cedar Hill would have the same impression. If I were a resident of the Buckingham condos, I would not appreciate having to look at the back end of this building. I think/hope something more creative and less automobile-centric is possible.

My other concern is more systemic—the use of tax incentives and abatement for project justification. Every local project that receives these incentives is financed by the tax-paying residents of Cleveland Heights, who have lived for years with stagnant property values and rising tax millage. If a project cannot stand on its own given the prevailing tax structure, then maybe it is not something that should be undertaken. Abatements and TIFs are a slippery slope and once a community starts, it is nearly impossible to get off.

In the last analysis, it is all about design. Good design pays for itself in a multitude of ways and renders timeless value. The costs of bad design are continuing and never ending. The CH-UH school system’s open-plan elementary continues and never ending. The CH-UH value. The costs of bad design are countered in a multitude of ways and renders timeless value. The costs of bad design are countered in a multitude of ways and renders timeless value.

Future buildings are significant and valuable precisely because they cannot be replicated in our current time. We, therefore, support construction that is of our era and of high-quality materials that will withstand the test of time. We also encourage the project architects to further develop the concepts for the two public green spaces in the plan to ensure that they will meet the community’s needs.

Building anything in a developed area is always difficult. We have been inspired by the many residents and other stakeholders who have paid attention to this process, have asked good questions, and have made their concerns and aspirations known. It is important that we “get it right” and hold the developer to the highest standards. We are encouraged that the developer has continued to incorporate stakeholder input into the project and that the architectural and site plan have continued to evolve. This responsiveness engenders confidence that the project is proceeding in the right direction.

We trust that the city’s Architectural Board of Review will engage in a rigorous process. We are involved, and will continue to comment and question as we go forward.

Deanna Bremer Fisher, Executive Director of FutureHeights
Julia Kious Zabell, President, FutureHeights Board of Directors
In defense of density at Cedar Fairmount/Top of the Hill

Brendan Ring

Nighttown first opened for business in 1965. I started working there in 1992. When I bought the place in 2001, business was just so-so. Eighteen years later, Nighttown thrives because we added three outdoor dining areas, a world-class music calendar, a changed menu and other innovations that have made Nighttown a regional destination for a diverse clientele which benefits all of Cedar Fairmount.

However, with the cost of food, people and benefits constantly on the rise, as well as the addition of scores of new restaurants in Greater Cleveland (with a population that isn’t increasing), it’s a continual struggle to remain a destination location. So, too, do my fellow merchants and property owners face similar challenges in the Cedar-Fairmount area.

One hundred years ago, downtown Cleveland had excitement and density, as did Doan’s Corners, which was centered around 105th and Euclid. One hundred years ago, the Cedar Fairmount district was designed to be the urban gateway to the Heights, smaller in footprint, but with a similar muscular vitality, high atop Cedar Glen, truly on top of a big hill.

I happen to believe that the Flaherty & Collins project proposed for the Top of the Hill is the right project with the right mix of apartments, shops and green space. The time is right to return density to the Top of the Hill. From NewUrbanism.org: “Nearby every great city, the strip of neighborhood around the world are of higher density. That’s why everyone loves living there, and why so many tourists go there on holiday. Most early American cities built before 1945 were designed with higher densities, and are now the places with the highest property values, and are some of the most sought after places to live.”

Here’s a little history of the Cedar-Fairmount area known as Top of the Hill. Around 1920, two apartment buildings were built directly west of where Nighttown now exists. An eight-story apartment building (actually, closer to 10 stories if you take into account the fact that the front door was above the Cedar Road grade, plus the building had a tall parapet at the top) was built where Nighttown’s Stephan’s Green outdoor dining area is now located. In 1946, that apartment building was converted into a general medical and surgical hospital with around 200 beds, generally referred to as Doctors’ Hospital. The other apartment building, directly to the east and up against the still-there Buckingham, was quite wide and five-stories tall. Both apartment buildings were torn down in 1969 and the land converted to a parking lot, until the creation of Nighttown’s Stephan’s Green outdoor dining area 33 years later. Photos of the historical buildings formerly on the site can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/TOHPics.

Density encourages activity for residents and visitors who bring spendable dollars, thereby energizing an area. That’s why the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (which is funded by a voluntary property tax over and above the taxes levied by the city and county, paid for by myself and a dozen or so commercial property owners in the district) unanimously supports the proposal to return density to the Top of the Hill area.

The proposed project is a 21st-century investment offering scaled buildings with residential density distributed throughout the site. In the words of local architect Paul Volpe, the design that’s been submitted to the city’s Architectural Board of Review, which continues to evolve, as do all similar projects at the point of submission, “offers architecture that is fresh, modern, enduring and contextually appropriate.”

The Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District believes this project will enhance and complete the Cedar Fairmount mixed-use district, all within the geographic footprint intended by the architects and planners who originally planned the Cedar Fairmount commercial district, offering new vitality to our neighborhood.

Brendan Ring is owner of Nighttown and the CFSD District treasurer.

Locations to fit your lifestyle.
City, suburb and in-between.

Judson’s three unique locations offer engaging and comfortable lifestyles, free from the hassles of home ownership. Whether you choose the cultural excitement of Judson Manor, the scenic village charm of South Franklin Circle or the picturesque neighborhood of Judson Park, there is a Judson location perfect for you.

Judson is bringing community to life with our beautiful locations, 5-star rated healthcare and wide range of educational, cultural and social opportunities.

Learn more at judsonsmarthousing.org/its-all-here or call us at (216) 350-0326.

Judson PARK CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
Judson MANOR UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
SOUTH FRANKLIN CIRCLE CHAGRIN FALLS

“Staying connected to all the things I enjoy. Judson has been the perfect solution.”

Judson
Before ‘diversity’ — the integration of Cleveland Heights [part 2 of 3]

Recalling racially motivated bombings in 1965 and 1966, members advised the Allens to put the children in a back bedroom.

In addition to receiving support from white fair housing activists, the city’s new black residents formed close ties with one another. This solidarity enabled them to stick it out and ultimately to challenge racism throughout the city’s institutions.

Many, including the Allens, Bernice and Lacey Lott, Cornelius Edwards, Betty Nelson and Robert and Leatrice Madison, went on to become community leaders and barrier-breakers.

By early 1972, another effort by white “housewives” was brewing in Suzanne Nigro’s living room. Nigro and other members of St. Ann Catholic Church had been trained and encouraged by the recently formed Commission on Catholic Community Action to work for social justice in their community.

The women were aware, anecdotally and through personal experience, of steering and blocking in Cleveland’s near-east suburbs. They decided, according to Nigro, “as our first step we needed to document what was happening relative to home sales in Cleveland Heights.” They formed the St. Ann Social Action Housing Committee, and masterminded the St. Ann’s Audit (which would later become a national model).

The method they adopted, known as checking, had been used to document discrimination in rental housing, but the St. Ann committee was the first to apply it to housing sales. Studying real estate ads, they would identify a house on the market, and assign two volunteer couples, one black and one white, to pose as prospective buyers.

The checkers sought the same type of house, and were assigned identical incomes, numbers of children, etc. They differed only by race, and were trained to carefully record their experiences. The audit documented blatant steering and starkly different treatment. A mere eight years after HCHR began welcoming black home buyers to Cleveland Heights, it was clear agents were steering white buyers away.

In September 1972, the St. Ann committee presented its results to Cleveland Heights City Council. The following year the newly formed Heights Community Congress made real estate checking an ongoing part of its housing program, and ultimately sued several realtors for discrimination, testing the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968.

CORRECTION: In our January column we stated, “In the summer of 1970 a group of white youths attacked black youths at the YMCA.” The agency was the YM-YWCA. According to witness Doris Allen, no physical attacks took place. The behavior of the white youths is more accurately described as menacing. We regret the errors.

Carla Rautenberg is a writer, activist and lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, and has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
Boulevard is focused on developing powerful learners. Mistakes are an expected part of the process. During the 2017-18 school year, teachers asked students to explain what makes a good learner. They were shocked by the responses: Follow rules, listen to the teacher, don't talk, be nice. Being compliant is useful, but it doesn't help a student tackle the boss (the teacher) for help. A group activity asks class members to brainstorm ways to proceed when they are stuck. Students are encouraged to use their brains, a book or a buddy before turning to the teacher. Another strategy is a “putdown zone.” Learning is hard work, and failure is a part of it. Pointing out something that was not previously understood. This is what it looks like when a school is not dealing with the debilitating emphasis on test-based accountability.

During my time as a tutor, I've seen kids give up because they were faced with something they didn't already know, but it is possible to give them the tools to keep their natural curiosity alive and stay engaged until the light goes on! Boulevard teachers are now busy sharing those tools. One strategy is to ban erasers. It communicates that making mistakes is proof that you are trying—a far cry from the emphasis on the right answer. Teachers also encourage student risk-taking by making their classroom a “no-putdown zone.” Learning is hard work, and failure is a part of it. Another strategy is a “wonder wall.” Teachers can reward being inquisitive by encouraging kids to identify things that interest them and spending time talking about those interests. Learning should include things that kids want to know!

I like the activities that promote persistence. Students are encouraged to use their brains, a book or a buddy before turning to the boss (the teacher) for help. A group activity asks class members to brainstorm ways to proceed when they are stuck. Learning is hard work, and mastery is rewarding and empowering! Discovering your ability to learn is a tremendous source of hope and joy.

If Jenkins has his way, Boulevard's children and staff will keep their eyes on the big prize, building a community of learners who experience the reward of figuring out something that was not previously understood. This is what it looks like when a school is not dealing with the debilitating emphasis on test-based accountability.

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

Susie Kaezer

I like to learn. It keeps me alive, keeps boredom at bay and, I hope, makes me a better citizen. My curiosity has led to satisfying employment.

While “learner” is the job title we most frequently assign to students, learning is, in fact, a lifelong necessity for all of us. For that reason, I am thrilled to report that the teachers and principal at Boulevard Elementary School are paying a lot of attention to helping their students master the skills and enjoy the thrills of being learners.

While test-driven public policy makes it advantageous to help students build their test-taking muscles, and puts a premium on getting the “right” answer, Boulevard is focused on developing powerful learners. Mistakes are an expected part of the process. During the 2017-18 school year, teachers asked students to explain what makes a good learner. They were shocked by the responses: Follow rules, listen to the teacher, don’t talk, be nice. Being compliant is useful, but it doesn’t help a student tackle new subjects.

Teachers are learners, too, and when the Boulevard teachers realized they had missed something profoundly important, they jumped into John Hattie’s research on the essential skills for learning. Helping children become engaged learners has been the focus of their professional development work for more than a year.

To translate their learning into action, the teachers named six essential characteristics of a good learner. Walk through the school and you will be greeted by superheroes whose names are tied to those qualities: Reflective Roxanne, Problem-Solving Sam, Persistent Pablo, Collaborative Corey, Engaged Emma and Inquisitive Imani.

Principal Michael Jenkins used his arts background to draw the characters. Students can identify with the superheroes, and they know these attributes will make them powerful! It’s a great message.

School is full of ideas and information and tasks that students don’t already know about but are expected to conquer. If you don’t have a way to find your way through the unknown, it can be terrifying, overwhelming, discouraging. During my time as a tutor, I’ve seen kids give up because they were faced with something they didn’t already know, but it is possible to give them the tools to keep their natural curiosity alive and stay engaged until the light goes on! Boulevard teachers are now busy sharing those tools.

One strategy is to ban erasers. It communicates that making mistakes is proof that you are trying—a far cry from the emphasis on the right answer. Teachers also encourage student risk-taking by making their classroom a “no-putdown zone.” Learning is hard work, and failure is a part of it. Another strategy is a “wonder wall.” Teachers can reward being inquisitive by encouraging kids to identify things that interest them and spending time talking about those interests. Learning should include things that kids want to know!

I like the activities that promote persistence. Students are encouraged to use their brains, a book or a buddy before turning to the boss (the teacher) for help. A group activity asks class members to brainstorm ways to proceed when they are stuck. Learning is hard work, and mastery is rewarding and empowering! Discovering your ability to learn is a tremendous source of hope and joy.

If Jenkins has his way, Boulevard’s children and staff will keep their eyes on the big prize, building a community of learners who experience the reward of figuring out something that was not previously understood. This is what it looks like when a school is not dealing with the debilitating emphasis on test-based accountability.

Susie Kaezer has been a public school advocate and resident of Cleveland Heights for 40 years. She is a co-founder of the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the retired director of Reaching Heights.
A wish list for the new superintendent

Ari Klein

I am only the third president of the CH-UH Teachers Union in 48 years. There is considerable job stability and longevity among school employees, but this does not seem to extend to administrators. During my more than 30 years at CH-UH, there have been at least eight superintendents (including interims), and I would have a difficult time counting the number of principals with whom I have worked. Administrators who have stayed for any significant amount of time have been few.

That being said, CH-UH will be hiring a new superintendent this spring, and with this important decision will probably come a host of other changes. I have noticed that within a year of the arrival of a new superintendent, most of the central office administration changes, as well. The central office structure will change to accommodate the new leadership, and a certain amount of upheaval will occur as people are assigned new responsibilities.

Little of what goes on in central administration has a direct impact on what happens in the classrooms, though there will be a trickle-down effect as new procedures are put in place. This can be disruptive, although sometimes in a good way.

The teachers union has as much input into the selection of a new superintendent as everyone else. In other words, we were invited to focus groups and to fill out leadership surveys concerning which 10 aspects of leadership, out of 33 choices, are most important in a leader.

Personally, I do not have much confidence that the search firm hired to identify potential candidates will use this information to find someone who really fits well in CH-UH. There are very few people in education with the ideal credentials who want to be a superintendent of a district of our size and demographic.

My wish list of attributes for the new CH-UH superintendent is long. I hope that we hire someone who doesn’t believe that standardized test scores define children, and who doesn’t believe the misleading data compiled by the state of Ohio regarding our students. I want someone who is willing to speak out against the inequalities and injustices in school funding in our state, and someone who is not reluctant to mobilize the community around these issues.

I want us to hire a leader who will take the time to learn what we do well in our schools and in our community, and what makes us unique. Many school leaders come with a mindset that whatever they did in their last school district is the way to do it here. We want someone who is open-minded, who will listen to different points of view, and who will make decisions that can be explained and accounted for.

We need someone who can admit a mistake and then work hard to correct it. We need someone who cares for the good work they do, and is willing to hold people accountable when improvement is needed. We want someone who is compassionate, energetic, and willing to compromise, but who also has a vision to make us better.

How will our board of education find and retain such a leader? I wish our board well as it takes on this formidable task. I can offer the board assurances that the teachers and support staff I represent will continue to serve our students well, and that the union will continue its collaborative efforts with district administration.

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

kellenNational

Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Insurance

For all your personal and business insurance needs

An independent agent Dedicated to your unique needs

3109 Mayfield Road, Suite 203
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
216-965-0646

Call Jared Lavender

www.KellerNational.com

Neighborhood Hardware

We can help.

5145 Mayfield Rd. 216-831-1595

Explore our website

Attorneys and financial professionals use our services.

www.kellernational.com

Interior Painting

FREE PAINT

Book your job prior to Feb. 28th and we’ll pay for the paint!

MCALLISTER

216-533-2936

INTERIOR PAINTING

BREMEC

WATCH YOUR MONEY GROW WITH A Bremec Bond

PAY ONLY $35 WORTH $50 Through February 28
In the Garden Center April 1 - July 1

www.bremec.com

Bonds cannot be combined with other coupons.
We are not responsible for lost or stolen bonds.
Additional restrictions apply; see website.
University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

DECEMBER 17, 2018

Present were Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Pamela Cameron, John Rach, Michelle Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. The meeting was held from 7 to 8:42 p.m.

Public comments

Tax relief promises: Kate Uhls of Ferwick Road once again asked for an update from Mayor Brennan on the tax relief promised during his campaign. She also filed a freedom of information request and was surprised to be charged 25 cents per page instead of the customary 5 cents, and requested a refund. Award for video: Firefighters Local 974 President Keith Konnar reported that the video produced by Caleb Schuster for Mayor Brennan’s election campaign won first prize in the International Association of Fire Fighters category of “Best affiliate public relations or political campaign or project” in 2018. The video can be viewed at http://netnews. wfcf.org/login/view/affiliate2018winners/34447/729134.

Mayor’s comments

Mayor Brennan reported that for 31 of the previous 36 days leaf crews have been out picking up leaves. He also noted that his own street’s leaves have not been picked up in several weeks, so nobody is receiving preferential treatment. He said, “I will continue through the end of the week, weather permitting. If leaves are not picked up, residents are urged to bag them and leave them out for trash collection.”

Guide Studio proposal

Guide Studio, which recently completed the plan for a new (city) logo, was approved for the next phase of the project, to develop proposals for new signage and wayfinding, based on the needs of the city. The proposal for $10,000 will include surveys, interviews and analysis leading to a complete concept plan for new signage and wayfaring, including a plan for a new [city] logo, was approved by the expenditure, as money has already been approved for trash collection.

Council assignment changes

John Rach will take over as council’s planning commission liaison, and Mark Wiseman will become the alternate. Wiseman had requested this mid-term change due to his recent appointment to the new community improvement corporation.

Community improvement updates

The new traffic signal at the Speedway gas station at Cedar and Green roads is awaiting the acquisition of a small piece of property from Speedway for installation of the pole. Speedway has until the end of December to respond. The mid-block crosswalks and the new bike lanes on Warrensville Center Road are needed, and even more would be welcome. You can help. The only requirement is that LWV observers be impartial and unaffiliated with any party or organization, and be a University Heights Council member or mayor. Although preferable, you do not have to be on LWV or a University Heights resident. The LWV observer program helps our democracy through citizen oversight of governing bodies. If interested, please contact Maryann Barnes at mbarnes@lwvgreatercleveland.org to receive email postings of full reports, send an email to heightsobserver@lwvgreatercleveland.org or join through Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer reports” as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. The observer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

Lack of volunteers has weakened LWV’s coverage of University Heights City Council. We now have only one University Heights observer where a minimum of two are needed, and even more would be welcome. You can help. The only requirement is that LWV observers be impartial and unaffiliated with any party or organization, and be a University Heights Council member or mayor. Although preferable, you do not have to be on LWV or a University Heights resident. The LWV observer program helps our democracy through citizen oversight of governing bodies. If interested, please contact Maryann Barnes at mbarnes@lwvgreatercleveland.org to receive email postings of full reports, send an email to heightsobserver@lwvgreatercleveland.org or join through Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer reports” as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. The observer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

Lack of volunteers has weakened LWV’s coverage of University Heights City Council. We now have only one University Heights observer where a minimum of two are needed, and even more would be welcome. You can help. The only requirement is that LWV observers be impartial and unaffiliated with any party or organization, and be a University Heights Council member or mayor. Although preferable, you do not have to be on LWV or a University Heights resident. The LWV observer program helps our democracy through citizen oversight of governing bodies. If interested, please contact Maryann Barnes at mbarnes@lwvgreatercleveland.org to receive email postings of full reports, send an email to heightsobserver@lwvgreatercleveland.org or join through Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer reports” as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. The observer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

Lack of volunteers has weakened LWV’s coverage of University Heights City Council. We now have only one University Heights observer where a minimum of two are needed, and even more would be welcome. You can help. The only requirement is that LWV observers be impartial and unaffiliated with any party or organization, and be a University Heights Council member or mayor. Although preferable, you do not have to be on LWV or a University Heights resident. The LWV observer program helps our democracy through citizen oversight of governing bodies. If interested, please contact Maryann Barnes at mbarnes@lwvgreatercleveland.org to receive email postings of full reports, send an email to heightsobserver@lwvgreatercleveland.org or join through Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer reports” as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. The observer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.
University Heights kids ‘name that chicken’

Thanks to Clare Dolan, 13, and Jackson Lovato, 9, the University Heights chicken has a name.

Of all the swag items bearing the University Heights logo for sale at UH City Hall, the most popular by far is the plush chicken. Inspired by the recent local ordinance allowing residents to keep chickens, the chicken proudly models the new city logo on his dark blue t-shirt.

In a few short months, the chicken has become the unofficial city mascot; but, the chicken needed a name. Thus, city officials invited local kids to “name that chicken.”

“There were many proposed names submitted,” Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan explained at a recent UH City Council meeting. “Names like Patty, Tender, Nugget, Curry, Piccata, Cordon Bleu, Extra Crispy, Marsala and Lincoln Park—these delectable names were all submitted by adults and, thankfully, were not valid entries in the contest, as we accepted entries only on behalf of children.”

There was only one winning name, but two winning entrants, as two children nearly simultaneously submitted the same winning name—Cooper.

Brennan presented Clare and Jackson with their very own swag bags, including their very own Coopers. Cooper the Chicken plush toys are on sale for $10 at University Heights City Hall, during regular business hours.

State of the City address set for Feb. 13

University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan will give his first “State of the City” report to residents on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m., at the Jardine Room on the campus of John Carroll University.

In his speech, Brennan will review 2018 accomplishments, and look ahead to plans for 2019.

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

UH joins with USO to assist Coast Guard families

When the federal government shutdown, U.S. Coast Guard families were among those not receiving paychecks. The USO of Northern Ohio teamed up with local governments, including University Heights, to collect items to assist local Coast Guard families. The USO is still collecting, just in case the shutdown starts again on Feb. 15, and University Heights City Hall continues to be a drop-off location for donated goods. As of Jan. 28, residents from University Heights and surrounding areas had filled the box nine times, and donated more than $1,200 in gift cards. During regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), you can continue to assist families by dropping off the following items: non-perishable foods, personal hygiene products, household cleaning items, laundry soap and supplies, baby diapers, paper products, grocery gift cards and gas cards.

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

SUITES AVAILABLE

Shaker Heights
Cleveland Heights
Lakewood
Cleveland

- Large 1, 2 and 3 Bedrooms
- Walking distance to CWRU, Shaker Square and RTA
- Refinished Kitchens
- Hardwood Floors
- Parking
- Laundry Facilities
- Dishwasher and Disposal

“All together sunny, spacious, superbly maintained and well located apartments!”

CALL NOW (216) 421-8400
12000 Fairhill Road
Cleveland, OH 44120
office@montlackrealty.com
www.montlackrealty.com

Zoma
Ethiopian Restaurant

2240 Lee Rd., Cleveland Heights

“Once you taste—you are ours!”

VEGAN NIGHT
Every Wednesday, 5-10pm
15% off all Vegan dishes

www.zomacleveland.com

SUITES AVAILABLE

Zoma
Ethiopian Restaurant

2240 Lee Rd., Cleveland Heights

“Once you taste—you are ours!”

VEGAN NIGHT
Every Wednesday, 5-10pm
15% off all Vegan dishes

www.zomacleveland.com
“After Gary and Melody came, my life changed,” said Damus. Through the couple, Damus was finally able to communicate with his wife and children in Haiti, albeit through a snail-mail relay of snap-shotted letters and Facebook messages. “Not only did Melody and Gary agree to be sponsors,” said Hill, “they took on his case and created a community around him.” They organized meetings and arranged for French-speaking visitors. “They are model organizers in a case like this,” said Hill.

Meanwhile, Damus’ attorney and the ACLU kept fighting. “Damus was denied parole multiple times after he had won asylum on two separate occasions. ICE was refusing to follow its own parole guidelines, which is why a case like this,” said Hill. “They are model organizers in a case like this,” said Hill.

Community support has grown since Damus’ case made the national media. After reading a Washington Post article about Damus, Heights resident Elana Baldwin and friends gathered their kids to make cards and gifts. For five families and their eight school-aged kids, welcoming Damus was a way “to get our kids active in social justice and community service,” said Baldwin. “When I told my kids about Andy, they were absolutely struck by the idea that he was here without his family.”

Genevieve Baldwin, age 6, said it was important “because he doesn’t have his family with him, and he doesn’t have any friends. He could look at our pictures to make him happier.” Her gesture had the desired effect. I watched Damus’ face light up as he received a hand-crafted picture frame, keepsake box, and beautiful children’s art to fill his room.

“The Cleveland Heights community has been a huge part of Damus’ parole case,” said Ford. “Not only have they provided a physical space for him to live, but they have emotionally supported Damus through some seriously tough times and continue to do so. The Cleveland Heights community has really become a community of activists—and that is what we need now more than ever.”

Damus’ asylum appeal is still pending. He will be a volunteer teacher of electrical skills at the Home Repair Resource Center this February and March. Community members are invited to a Feb. 23 fundraiser to contribute to Damus legal expenses and family needs. E-mail jeffsmith2756@gmail.com or carthya.crim@gmail.com for details.

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

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

JANUARY 7, 2019

Council members present were Mayor Carol Rose, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Siew, Jason Stein and Michael N. Ungar. The seventh council seat is unoccupied. The meeting lasted from 7:32 to 8 p.m.

Public comments

Immigration Task Force report: Robin Kosken, a member of the Immigration Task Force, stated that the body listened to divergent opinions from police and community members, and developed workable, livable solutions. She is concerned to see legislation voted on. Mayor Rose assured her that the report will be discussed at the committee of the whole meeting on Jan. 14.

Top of the Hill: Joyce Rajak noted the effort dedicated to the Top of the Hill project last year and stated that some meetings are not reported on the city website. City Manager Tanisha Briley responding that they will be published as soon as the minutes are approved.

Trash and recycling: Jordan Davis, representing the Sustainable Heights Network, is interested in network members becoming involved in consideration of city refuse handling. Ungar announced that a trash and recycling task force will be formed soon to study, evaluate and recommend an approach to refuse collection. The process will be transparent and public, the meetings recorded, and a portal for citizen input created. He suggested members of Sustainable Heights apply to participate.

Neighborhood safety: A resident of South Taylor Road discussed her concerns for neighborhood safety, prevention and security, and urged more cameras.

Council committee chairs

Due to the open seat, chairs of council committees will be changing. Yasinow will chair the Safety and Municipal Services Committee and Ungar will head Planning and Development.

Police salaries

Council unanimously passed an ordinance to incorporate the terms of the recent labor agreement with the Northern Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, covering the period April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2020.

Council seat applications

Applications for appointment to the open council seat will close on Jan. 15. There have been 24 filed so far. Stein also encouraged citizens to apply for positions on city boards and commissions.

Speed limits

Dunbar announced that the Housing and Transportation Committee will consider speed limits on city streets later this month.

Mayor’s report

Mayor Rose acknowledged the impending departure of Superintendent Talisa Dixon from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, expressing how much she has enjoyed working with Dixon. She stated that council will present input into the search for a new superintendent. Rose also noted that the Ohio Mayors Alliance met with both candidates for governor last fall to express concerns about diminished state funding for cities.

LVW Observer: Blanche Volancy

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8.
Cleveland Heights parent develops free service to connect special needs adults

Denise Walters

Craig Matis has lived in Cleveland Heights for nearly 40 years. The father of an adult son with special needs, Matis discovered that, once his son left school, the effort to socialize with others was difficult for him. He found that other parents shared his concerns—that outside of an academic environment, it was difficult for those with special needs to find and develop connections with others.

In 2013, Matis initiated Connect to One (www.connectto1.org), an online service that matches up those who are disabled, both mentally and physically, and seeking one-on-one friendships and/or relationships. Despite the significant growth, over the past 10 years or so, of social programs and activities that address the special needs population, the majority focus on group events, rather than on the development of one-on-one relationships.

Connect to One operates a private and secure database that enables individuals to create their own profiles and browse the site's directory for those with similar interests and lifestyles.

After a new registrant's online application has been reviewed and verified, Matis schedules a face-to-face meeting. After that initial meeting, the new member is able to access the website's directory, which has all of the members posted. The directory is password-protected, so only authorized members can view the information. Each member can view the directory at any time, and request a meeting with someone from the site. Matis will then arrange the meeting between the two parties.

The service is free to adults (18 years and older). Anyone who lives in a group home, with parents, or independently is welcome to participate.

Denise Walters, a friend of Matis, has lived in Cleveland Heights for nearly 10 years.

Free class is among HRRC’s February courses

David Brock

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will hold several workshops this month, beginning with a session on concrete countertops on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Participants in that workshop will learn the ins and outs of using concrete in countertops, including how to measure, pour, cut and finish it.

On Thursday, Feb. 7, HRRC offers its popular power tools workshop. Those attending will get experience using miter, circular and reciprocating saws, as well as angle grinders, nail guns, and different kinds of drills. This class is a perfect primer for those thinking of making costly home repairs themselves. The cost for each of the above workshops is $25, and discounts for residents of Cleveland Heights, as well as income-based discounts, are available.

A free class on natural building will be offered as a part of HRRC’s monthly Free Monday series on Monday, Feb. 11. The class will cover how to build durable, long-lasting structures using natural materials such as mud, clay, straw and sand.

All workshops begin at 7 p.m. and take place at the HRRC office, 2520 Noble Road. To register for workshops, get more information or apply for discounts, visit www.hrcc.org, or call 216-382-6100, ext. 16, or e-mail dbrock@hrcc.org.

David Brock is the outreach and education coordinator for HRRC.

I am thankful that the arts are still so strong and treasured, and inspiring from the elementary schools through the 2015 concert. “It’s an absolute delight to see how the music program reaching heights continued from page 1

a Capella Choir, Barbershoppers, Symphony, Symphonic Winds, and Jazz Ensemble. The Gospel Choir, a school club, will also perform.

Pam Kelly, a cellist and parent of a student musician, was impressed by the 2015 concert. “It’s an absolute delight to see how the music program from the elementary schools through the high school really excites and stimulates the creativity of our kids,” she said. “It’s also a real treat to have students in all those grades participate in such a grand event together. We live in a very special district, and

Stone Oven and Coventry P.E.A.C.E. receive Reaching Heights awards

Krista Hawthorne

On Dec. 11, Reaching Heights, the local nonprofit that connects the community to the Heights public schools, held its annual meeting in the former Coventry School building, home to the new Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus (a collaborative of seven arts and community organizations).

Each year, Reaching Heights invites members of the community to hear the highlights of the organization’s year and to recognize individuals and local businesses for the extraordinary support they give to Heights public schools.

Reaching Heights’ board and staff members thanked Ashly Dyer for her six years as an active board member, vice president and president. Dyer, a Heights alumna and avid Heights Tiger, will be missed for her energy, enthusiasm and endless good ideas. Mazie Adams was introduced as the newest member of the organization’s board of directors.

Reaching Heights then recognized this year’s Friends of Public Education and Outstanding Community Partner for their contributions to the shared responsibility for the successful education of all students attending CH-UH public schools.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. received a Friend of Public Education award for preserving and maintaining Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park. Originally established in 1962, the organization raised money and gathered hundreds of volunteers to build the multi-level playground and learning gardens on the grounds of the former elementary school.

The group continues to support and maintain the playground. Erick Kauffman and Ray Gonzalez, volunteer officers for the past 13 years, accepted the award, along with long-time volunteers Joanne Campbell, Pam Bertaud, Sue Datta, and Marilyn McLaughlin, a founding member of the park’s planning group.

John Emerman and Tatyana Rehn, owners of The Stone Oven Bakery Café, accepted Reaching Heights’ Outstanding Community Partner award. They were honored for more than two decades of providing generous support to public school groups and events in the Heights, and for hiring many local students. Emerman and Rehn were touched to be honored, and Emerman commented that their daughters are proud graduates of Heights High.

Reaching Heights provides information, programs and events that enrich students and support teachers. For more information, call Reaching Heights at 216-932-9110, e-mail krista@reachingheights.org, or visit the office at 2843 Washington Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

Krista Hawthorne is the executive director of Reaching Heights.
Kaye Lowe retires with a party at Nighttown

Friends of Kaye Lowe gathered at Nighttown on Jan. 16 to honor her upon her retirement after 18 years of service as executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (CFSID) and its predecessor, the Cedar Fairmount Business Association. Members of Cleveland Heights City Council presented her with a plaque at the event. Pictured (left to right) are CH Council Member Mary Dunbar, Kaye Lowe, CH Mayor Carol Roe, and CH Council Member Michael Unrug. CFSID named Myra Orenstein as its new executive director (see article on page 18).

The Young Adult Group at St. Paul’s

All adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us at these upcoming events as we grow in relationship with each other and Christ through fellowship and service:

Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. Eucharist & Meal w/St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, 2555 Euclid Heights Blvd.

Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m. Service Project Sorting Books at Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank 2635 Perkins Ave. Suite 1E

Friday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. Theology in the Market Hall Van Aken District

Wednesday, May 1 at 6 p.m. Local Abundance Kitchen Cooking Class at St. Paul’s

Contact the Rev. Jessie Dodson for details: jDodson@stpauls-church.org

2747 Fairmount Blv., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106 (216) 932-5815 • www.stpauls-church.org

Advertise in the Heights Observer.

Do you like the Heights Observer?

Your donation helps to keep it coming

The Observer is published as a non-profit project.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY NEWS
CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

February is Heart Awareness Month. It begins on Friday, Feb. 1, with National Wear Red Day—a day designated to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) offers programs, activities and classes to help seniors lower their risk of heart disease.

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m., blood-pressure monitoring is offered through Case Western Reserve University’s student-run free clinic. (Check “News for Senior Adults” at www.chparks.com for days and times when other agencies visit to offer this service.)

In addition, an electronic blood-pressure monitoring device is available anytime the SAC is open; staff can demonstrate how to use it. Weight can be monitored and staff can demonstrate how to use it. Weight can be monitored and tracked using the scale located on the fitness center’s track. SAC members with a current card are encouraged to use the track for free any weekday, 2-2 p.m.

Many SAC exercise classes are free or can be taken for a small fee, and any fee-based exercise class can be taken for a small fee, or can be taken for a small fee, or can be taken for a small fee, or can be taken for a small fee.

Many SAC exercise classes are free or can be taken for a small fee, and any fee-based exercise class can be tried one time for free. Check SAC’s newsletter for a complete list of exercise programs.

Stress management has also been found to benefit heart health. The socializing that happens at SAC can reduce stress, and the center’s Relaxation and Meditation group meets weekly with this goal in mind.

If stress seems overwhelming, make an appointment to talk with a CH Office on Aging social worker. They can be reached at 216-691-7377, and are available to help.

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, available online at www.chparks.com.

SAC membership is $5 for Cleveland Heights residents. To sign up, bring a recent piece of mail (such as a bill) and a photo ID.

University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 303, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is $10 for University Heights seniors.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7377 or ajenkins@chghts.com.

UH Senior Happenings

Senior Happenings, sponsored by the city of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 105, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

Feb. 7: Felicia Adams, administrator of the Senior Companion Program at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, will discuss the work of the program. It provides trained volunteers, who have a passion for helping others, to give one-on-one personalized attention to a senior citizen who may be socially isolated, perhaps because family bonds have been stretched or frayed.

Feb. 14: David Lucas, professor of English at Case Western Reserve University, is the poet laureate for the state of Ohio. He’ll describe his mission to promote literacy and learning, and encourage an appreciation of poetry with his column, “Poetry for People Who Hate Poetry.”

Feb. 21: Harold Spicknall, conductor for “Hum and Strum,” will host a sing-along to ukulele, guitar and mandolin music by the Cleveland Heights Senior Center Band.

Feb. 28: Rachel Kribs, director of community partnerships at the Cleveland Institute of Music, will be accompanied by some of the school’s gifted instrumentalists and vocalists.

Submit an article to the Heights Observer

1. The Heights Observer is written by people like you. So write something. Use a computer.

2. Register/log in at the Member Center (www.heightsobserver.org).

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

4. Reward yourself: You’re about to be published. We’ll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.
Heights middle school students shine at Power of the Pen

Monticello and Roxboro middle school students wield a mighty power—the power of the pen. Last December, teams from both schools participated in the eighth Power of the Pen writing competition, hosted by Monticello at the Wiley campus.

More than 200 middle school students from 23 area schools attended the full-day Saturday event. After a get-to-know-you scavenger hunt, students participated in three rounds of intense competition. Groups of six students gathered in classrooms where they had 40 minutes to respond to an assigned writing prompt, for example, “describe a fate worse than death in your narrative,” or “live things up in an otherwise dull study hall.”

The stories generated in each session were judged on a series of criteria, including creativity, voice, grammar and spelling, and adherence to the assigned topic. Prizes were awarded to each student before they moved to the next room to compete against five different writers, using a new prompt. When the total points were tallied at day’s end, Heights middle school students did extremely well.

Roxboro’s seventh-grade team took the first prize, with Helena Duffy placing sixth overall, and Natalie Bier placing ninth. Monticello’s Laurel Buescher was the first-place winner in the seventh-grade competition, and Clare Dolan placed eighth among the eighth-graders.

Those students, who practice once a week after school, will move on to the regional tournament in April. Top scorers in that event will then advance to the state tournament at the College of Wooster in May.

Joelten Denk, Roxboro librarian and Power of the Pen coach, said, “This absolutely makes them better writers. Getting feedback from their peers and a teacher is incredible.”

Debbie Frost, district coordinator of Power of the Pen and intervention specialist at Monticello, added, “This is a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers.”

Other Power of the Pen coaches are English language arts teachers Caitlin Gerber, Jeannine Andres and Ashley Riolo. Special support was provided by administrators Toia Robinson and Jeff Johnston, as well as the Heights Middle Schools PTA.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and a former teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH city school district.

RoxArts event will benefit CH-UH students

Andrea C. Turner

RoxArts is hosting its first event benefiting a new fund promoting the arts and sciences for all 3,350 Cleveland Heights—University Heights elementary and middle school students. The art auction on March 9, at 5 p.m., will be held in the Harcourt Manor, a mansion that was a setting in a Captain America movie, and will feature some of Cleveland’s finest artists in photography, sculpture, jewelry and print. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be catered by fire and drink.

For nearly four decades, RoxArts has raised money for enhanced arts curriculum at Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools. Last year, the RoxArts board and the Heights Schools Foundation (HSF) partnered to form RoxArts in Tiger Nation: A Creative Arts and Sciences Fund to bring arts enrichment opportunities to K–8 students in all CH-UH schools. This will be the kickoff event for the new fund.

The Tiger Nation Fund supports enrichment opportunities that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression. The goal is to build self-confidence and cultural and historical understanding, and improve cognition of core concepts. Projects that directly connect to identified curriculum themes, strands and topics are given highest priority. Much of the programming ties into International Baccalaureate and STEM curricula, including resistant ways into International Baccalaureate Schools that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression.

This is a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers.”

Other Power of the Pen coaches are English language arts teachers Caitlin Gerber, Jeannine Andres and Ashley Riolo. Special support was provided by administrators Toia Robinson and Jeff Johnston, as well as the Heights Middle Schools PTA.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and a former teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH city school district.

RoxArts event will benefit CH-UH students

Andrea C. Turner

RoxArts is hosting its first event benefiting a new fund promoting the arts and sciences for all 3,350 Cleveland Heights—University Heights elementary and middle school students. The art auction on March 9, at 5 p.m., will be held in the Harcourt Manor, a mansion that was a setting in a Captain America movie, and will feature some of Cleveland’s finest artists in photography, sculpture, jewelry and print. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be catered by fire and drink.

For nearly four decades, RoxArts has raised money for enhanced arts curriculum at Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools. Last year, the RoxArts board and the Heights Schools Foundation (HSF) partnered to form RoxArts in Tiger Nation: A Creative Arts and Sciences Fund to bring arts enrichment opportunities to K–8 students in all CH-UH schools. This will be the kickoff event for the new fund.

The Tiger Nation Fund supports enrichment opportunities that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression. The goal is to build self-confidence and cultural and historical understanding, and improve cognition of core concepts. Projects that directly connect to identified curriculum themes, strands and topics are given highest priority. Much of the programming ties into International Baccalaureate and STEM curricula, including resistant ways into International Baccalaureate Schools that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression.

This is a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers.”

Other Power of the Pen coaches are English language arts teachers Caitlin Gerber, Jeannine Andres and Ashley Riolo. Special support was provided by administrators Toia Robinson and Jeff Johnston, as well as the Heights Middle Schools PTA.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and a former teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH city school district.

RoxArts event will benefit CH-UH students

Andrea C. Turner

RoxArts is hosting its first event benefiting a new fund promoting the arts and sciences for all 3,350 Cleveland Heights—University Heights elementary and middle school students. The art auction on March 9, at 5 p.m., will be held in the Harcourt Manor, a mansion that was a setting in a Captain America movie, and will feature some of Cleveland’s finest artists in photography, sculpture, jewelry and print. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be catered by fire and drink.

For nearly four decades, RoxArts has raised money for enhanced arts curriculum at Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools. Last year, the RoxArts board and the Heights Schools Foundation (HSF) partnered to form RoxArts in Tiger Nation: A Creative Arts and Sciences Fund to bring arts enrichment opportunities to K–8 students in all CH-UH schools. This will be the kickoff event for the new fund.

The Tiger Nation Fund supports enrichment opportunities that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression. The goal is to build self-confidence and cultural and historical understanding, and improve cognition of core concepts. Projects that directly connect to identified curriculum themes, strands and topics are given highest priority. Much of the programming ties into International Baccalaureate and STEM curricula, including resistant ways into International Baccalaureate Schools that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression.

This is a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers.”

Other Power of the Pen coaches are English language arts teachers Caitlin Gerber, Jeannine Andres and Ashley Riolo. Special support was provided by administrators Toia Robinson and Jeff Johnston, as well as the Heights Middle Schools PTA.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and a former teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH city school district.

RoxArts event will benefit CH-UH students

Andrea C. Turner

RoxArts is hosting its first event benefiting a new fund promoting the arts and sciences for all 3,350 Cleveland Heights—University Heights elementary and middle school students. The art auction on March 9, at 5 p.m., will be held in the Harcourt Manor, a mansion that was a setting in a Captain America movie, and will feature some of Cleveland’s finest artists in photography, sculpture, jewelry and print. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be catered by fire and drink.

For nearly four decades, RoxArts has raised money for enhanced arts curriculum at Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools. Last year, the RoxArts board and the Heights Schools Foundation (HSF) partnered to form RoxArts in Tiger Nation: A Creative Arts and Sciences Fund to bring arts enrichment opportunities to K–8 students in all CH-UH schools. This will be the kickoff event for the new fund.

The Tiger Nation Fund supports enrichment opportunities that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression. The goal is to build self-confidence and cultural and historical understanding, and improve cognition of core concepts. Projects that directly connect to identified curriculum themes, strands and topics are given highest priority. Much of the programming ties into International Baccalaureate and STEM curricula, including resistant ways into International Baccalaureate Schools that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression.

This is a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers.”

Other Power of the Pen coaches are English language arts teachers Caitlin Gerber, Jeannine Andres and Ashley Riolo. Special support was provided by administrators Toia Robinson and Jeff Johnston, as well as the Heights Middle Schools PTA.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and a former teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH city school district.

RoxArts event will benefit CH-UH students

Andrea C. Turner

RoxArts is hosting its first event benefiting a new fund promoting the arts and sciences for all 3,350 Cleveland Heights—University Heights elementary and middle school students. The art auction on March 9, at 5 p.m., will be held in the Harcourt Manor, a mansion that was a setting in a Captain America movie, and will feature some of Cleveland’s finest artists in photography, sculpture, jewelry and print. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be catered by fire and drink.

For nearly four decades, RoxArts has raised money for enhanced arts curriculum at Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools. Last year, the RoxArts board and the Heights Schools Foundation (HSF) partnered to form RoxArts in Tiger Nation: A Creative Arts and Sciences Fund to bring arts enrichment opportunities to K–8 students in all CH-UH schools. This will be the kickoff event for the new fund.

The Tiger Nation Fund supports enrichment opportunities that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression. The goal is to build self-confidence and cultural and historical understanding, and improve cognition of core concepts. Projects that directly connect to identified curriculum themes, strands and topics are given highest priority. Much of the programming ties into International Baccalaureate and STEM curricula, including resistant ways into International Baccalaureate Schools that introduce students to a variety of forms of creative expression.

This is a great opportunity for CH-UH to showcase our most talented and creative writers.”

Other Power of the Pen coaches are English language arts teachers Caitlin Gerber, Jeannine Andres and Ashley Riolo. Special support was provided by administrators Toia Robinson and Jeff Johnston, as well as the Heights Middle Schools PTA.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and a former teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH city school district.
Library to offer monthly culinary series for teens

Local chef Marie Finch will teach the classes. Finch graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor’s degree in food science and nutrition, and has five years’ experience as a chef. She currently works at Culinary Occasions, a catering company in South Euclid.

“Children need programs like this in the community,” said Finch, who participated in similar community-based educational programs as an undergrad. “These programs offer more than just cooking experience—they allow children to use basic math and science through measuring and mixing. They also teach children life skills and promote self-confidence and responsibility.”

Thanks to a generous donation from Friends of the Heights Libraries, the Youth Services Department purchased equipment for the programs, including pots, pans, induction burners, blenders, scales, measuring cups and spoons, and bowls and knives. The equipment will allow program participants to accomplish tasks as simple as boiling ramen noodles and as complex as sautéing carefully chopped meat and vegetables.

“Few schools offer home economics classes anymore, so there’s a basic knowledge gap about food and food preparation,” said Rosenberger. “Culinary literacy programs are great opportunities for teens to learn about food safety, cooking and nutrition, and to gain knowledge they can really use in their lives, whether for a job or just cooking for themselves.”

In addition to helping local teens, the program also meets two of the library’s strategic goals: to provide opportunities to positively impact community members’ growth and personal development; and to be a bridge builder for community concerns, in this case between teens and local businesses looking to hire skilled workers.

“The ultimate outcomes we hope to achieve with this program are increased knowledge of food and nutrition, as well as the development of important culinary life skills for our local teens,” said Rosenberger.

“Plus, it’s fun and delicious.”

For more information, visit www.heightslibrary.org and watch for the spring issue of the library’s programming guide, Check Us Out, in mid-February.

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

What’s going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-331-3400

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.
Great Lakes Theater Classics on Tour: Treasure Island. What is the price of adventure? Kids and families will venture out on the high seas with young Jim Hawkins as he searches for the lost treasure of Captain Flint. A brave band of characters embrace clowning, slapstick, puppetry, and music in the greatest pirate story ever told!

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-9165

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m.
Tech Talk: Social Media, Privacy & You. Social media has become invaluable, but information posted on these websites is visible to others and can be used for nefarious purposes. This lecture will provide information on protecting social media information from three threats: hackers, other users, and companies. (Registration required.)

University Heights Library
15866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Monday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m.
Impactful Documentaries. This series features documentaries about people, events and creations that had an impact. This month’s film, “Look Up in the Sky: The Amazing Story of Superman” (NR, 2006), history of the fictional superhero who first appeared in comics in 1938. It examines his portrayal in television and films, including the 1950s’ TV series starring George Reeves.

Funding from Friends of the Heights Libraries provided equipment for teen culinary literacy programs.
Library promotes wellness through programs and materials

Many people struggle to keep New Year’s resolutions of maintaining a healthy routine. For those looking for ways to stick to new goals, increase wellness literacy, or simply try something new, Heights Libraries offers programs and resources.

Heights Libraries’ Coventry Village branch has made it a priority to develop ongoing programs that meet the diverse wellness needs of the community by recognizing that wellness comes in many forms.

“At Coventry, we focus on wellness as a holistic condition of mind, body and spirit,” said Patricia Gray, Coventry Village branch manager. “Our ‘Step Out of Time’ series, for example, features a variety of ‘alternative’ health practices, from yoga and meditation to acupuncture and aromatherapy. We have also explored specific spiritual beliefs that community members are interested in, such as Buddhism, reincarnation, past lives, spiritual cleansing practices, and many others.”

Like all Heights Libraries’ programs, Step Out of Time is free and open to the public.

“This month’s session will take place on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m., and will feature a guided relaxation session and group meditation for both new and experienced participants.

While some of the library’s wellness programs are one-offs, others take place more regularly. ‘Tai Chi, which meets four times a week, is one of Coventry’s most popular programs. ‘It’s a slow-motion, low-impact routine that is fun and doable at any age,’ Gray explained.

In addition to offering dozens of in-library programs, Heights Libraries provides a wide range of traditional print and digital resources, on topics ranging from plant-based diets and exercise regimens to spirituality and budgeting.

Heights Libraries recently expanded its collections to include online streaming services, such as Acorn TV, Hoopla, and Kanopy. Gray hopes that these programs and resources will serve as a point of departure, inspiring residents to incorporate healthy behaviors into their individual routines.

“These programs are settings where people talk to each other, make new friends, or discover new interests,” said Gray. “Each will attract a somewhat different group, but the people who attend will learn a little bit about a new practice that they can apply to their lives or pursue further if they wish. I have had dozens of people thank me for the Step Out of Time series, saying that it has changed their lives for the better. And that, of course, is the goal.”

For details on Heights Libraries programs and online resources, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-5600.

Isabelle Rew is the community engagement associate for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library Board
Meeting highlights

DECEMBER 17, 2018

Present were President Abby Bateck, Vice President Chris Mientkiewicz, and board members Dana Hudlison, James Rosco, Vikas Torlakia and Susan Mavlakow. Max Gerboc was absent.

Annual performance reviews

The annual staff appraisal process began on Dec. 7. A revised job performance evaluation form has been reduced from 10 performance factors to five: customer focus, job productivity, teamwork, initiative and problem solving. Employees will complete an employee evaluation form at the beginning of each year and the form will be sent to their supervisor. There is a separate process to evaluate the supervisor.

2019 board meeting calendar

The board approved a resolution to schedule the 2019 board meetings as follows (all meetings are Mondays except where noted): Jan. 22 (Tuesday), Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 5, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16.

Website and e-newsletters report

The quarterly report for July, August and September 2018 showed that unique visitor count were up for the quarter, from an average of 16,227 to an average of 16,708. Overall visits were up slightly, with an average of 24,827 compared to the previous quarter’s average of 23,855.

What’s Going on @ Heights Libraries is a twice-monthly general information e-newsletter sent to more than 9,200 subscribers/community members. The newsletter promotes Heights Libraries programs and provides a wide range of traditional print and digital resources, on topics ranging from plant-based diets and exercise regimens to spirituality and budgeting.

Heights Libraries recently expanded its collections to include online streaming services, such as Acorn TV, Hoopla, and kanopy. Gray hopes that these programs and resources will serve as a point of departure, inspiring residents to incorporate healthy behaviors into their individual routines.

“These programs are settings where people talk to each other, make new friends, or discover new interests,” said Gray. “Each will attract a somewhat different group, but the people who attend will learn a little bit about a new practice that they can apply to their lives or pursue further if they wish. I have had dozens of people thank me for the Step Out of Time series, saying that it has changed their lives for the better. And that, of course, is the goal.”

For details on Heights Libraries programs and online resources, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-5600.

Isabelle Rew is the community engagement associate for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

One step away from an amazing smile

FAIRMOUNT CIRCLE DENTISTRY
Robert E. Schneider, DDS
GENERAL, RESTORATIVE & ESTHETIC DENTISTRY
• Warm and welcoming office
• Comfortable stress-free visits
• Life changing smile makeovers
• Tailored to busy families
• Experience digital dental technologies

Dental Office
2050 John Carroll Blvd., Suite #201
www.fairmountcircledentistry.com
216-321-2545

Looking for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8.
The project has been a labor of love for the two longtime Cleveland Heights residents, who have more than 40 years of restaurant experience between them.

The gastropub is located at the corner of Kensington and Lee roads, formerly the site of The Tavern Company, which moved across the street to the site of the former Colony Restaurant and Tavern.

Poe and King have respected the history of the space by restoring the familiar bar, tables and chairs, while adding a new floor, windows, doors and fully remodeled bathrooms.

Poe promises a “very nice, upscale gastropub” with a full menu of sandwiches, salads, appetizers and entrees.

The kitchen will stay open until 2 a.m. daily, serving a late-night menu. Weekends at Kensington Pub will feature Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch.

“We love the people here. We wanted to bring something special to the area,” said Poe, who envisions Kensington Pub as an exciting and fun place to which people will want to bring their kids.

“Inviting, comfortable, and kind of homey,” he said, is the goal.

For more information—and for sneak peeks inside the pub—follow The Kensington Pub on Facebook.

More than a year after they first hoped to open, in December 2017, the co-owners of Kensington Pub (2260 Lee Road) now hope to open within the next month—or two. Brad Poe and Jeff King faced bigger remodeling challenges than they expected in opening their first restaurant—what Poe called a “perfect storm of obstacles.”

“The original proposed opening was totally unrealistic in retrospect,” said Poe. “We encountered more renovations than we anticipated, especially since it was our first foray into restaurant ownership.”

He noted that he’s “very pleased with the exterior renovations, even with construction delays.” The exterior work was financed by the building’s landlord as part of a block-long renovation.
Cedar Fairmount SID names director

Brendan Ring

The Board of Directors of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (CFSID) has appointed Cleveland Heights resident Myra Orenstein as its new executive director. Orenstein follows in the footsteps of recently retired Kaye Lowe, who occupied the position for 18 years.

“As Kaye did a remarkable job as executive director,” said Orenstein. “She helped grow the district from a merchants’ association, through its development as a Special Improvement District and, most recently, helped spearhead its streetscape. She has left me with big shoes to fill, to say the least.”

As she assumes her new role, Orenstein is particularly excited about working with CFSID and the city of Cleveland Heights in the development, and ultimate completion, of the Top of the Hill Project.

“I am honored that the Board selected me for this position,” Orenstein stated. “What an exciting time to be involved with Cedar Fairmount! The evolution of this project will mark a new chapter for Cedar Fairmount and the city of Cleveland Heights.”

Mouriño joins Cedar Fairmount clinic

Kayle Lowe

Dr. Laura Mouriño has joined the Options Naturopathic Clinic practice of Erin Holston Singh, N.D., in the Cedar Fairmount Business District’s Heights Medical Building.

As naturopathic doctors, both Mouriño and Holston seek to support individuals in their journey to optimal health through natural means, and stress the important connections between social issues, environmental concerns and human health.

A graduate of the National University of Natural Medicine (formerly the National College of Natural Medicine), Mouriño attributes her pursuit of this field of medicine to her “complex medical history as a child.”

“When I removed the benign brain tumor,” Mouriño explained, “my mother’s family used ‘folk medicine,’ along with conventional medicine, to assist in my recovery. The herbs and natural ingredients used allowed me to heal faster, and without scars.” Mouriño became interested in good food, and the medical aspects of healing with naturopathic methods.

At the university, Mouriño took two years of basic science courses, including anatomy, biochemistry and pathology—the same as required for medical doctors. Two years of clinical sciences and clinical rotations followed. After taking her clinical licensing exams, Mouriño chose to move to Cleveland Heights from Portland, Ore., to join Holston Singh’s practice.

Laura Mouriño

“Having had difficulty managing as the solo N.D. in Cleveland Heights,” said Holston Singh, “I am thrilled to welcome another naturopathic physician to our practice. Laura embodies the heart and soul of naturopathic medicine from the inside out; we are so grateful for her having come to Ohio.”

Trained as a primary care physician, Mouriño seeks to provide effective, sustainable, and “least harmful” natural health care options. She performs minor surgeries, such as stitching wounds and removing abscesses, and can recommend other conventional and naturopathic treatments.

She offers a free 10-minute consultation in her office or on the phone for both English and Spanish speakers.

For additional information, visit www.optionsnaturopathic.com, or call 216-707-9137.

Kaye Lowe is currently retired as executive director of CFSID.
Ring names Lynch partner in Nighttown

Brendan Ring, owner of Nighttown, has made event manager Melissa Lynch a partner in the iconic, long-lived restaurant and music club. In making the announcement, Ring quoted Nighttown’s former owner John Barr, who said, “It took me 27 years to find a partner in Brendan.” For his part, Ring said, “It took me only 25 years to find Melissa.” “I am extremely honored to be able to be part of this amazing restaurant and to be working with such a wonderful team and, of course, Brendan Ring,” said Lynch. “I am excited to work with our guests and staff.”

Her goals are to work closely with Ring, to bring Nighttown’s everyday costs down and increase traffic into the restaurant. The partners plan to offer fresh new food items, while keeping the entrees that their regular customers love. Lynch anticipates that small changes in décor will be made, but the familiar Nighttown atmosphere will remain.

A resident of Cleveland Heights, Melissa Lynch, née Bodamer, grew up in Lakewood. She met her husband, Daniel Lynch, while on vacation and married him in 1997. They produced a daughter, recibed her to Ring, and she began working at Nighttown as a server. When the position of event coordinator became available, Lynch interviewed and was hired. “I was nervous coming to a new city and working for an independent restaurant,” Lynch recalled, “but it ended up being the best decision I ever made.”

Lynch credits her first job, as a restaurant server at the age of 16, with starting her career in the restaurant business. Before Nighttown, Lynch held management positions at Ruby Tuesday and TGIFridays restaurants, and opened new restaurants for both companies. She has worked as a kitchen manager, assistant manager and general manager, and cites her experience in the world of corporate restaurants with teaching her how to budget and cut everyday costs.

Kaye Lowe is recently retired as executive director of CFSID.

Sharing our good fortune with those in need... enter to win a FREE furnace!

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Nominations - Due 2/28/19

Your Information:
First Name: 
Last Name: 
Street Address: 
City: ___________ Zip Code: ______ State: OH
Daytime PH: ___________ Evening PH: ___________
Email: __________________________

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

Receive a coupon for $200 off the installation of a furnace, boiler or air conditioning system just for nominating someone in need. Expires 6/30/19

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

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

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

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

OH LIC #24462
#MeToo manifesto now on stage at Dobama

Dobama Theatre continues its season with the Cleveland premiere of “Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.”—a theatrical manifesto for the #MeToo era. Written by Alice Birch, and directed by Sarah Elizabeth Wansley, the play runs through Feb. 17.

A wildly experimental and inventive grouping of vignettes, “Revolt” asks how to revolutionize language, relationships, work and life while bursting at the seams of conformity. An ensemble of four powerful women and one token male bring this unapologetically provocative, in-your-face text to life—with humor, strength, and a punk-rock attitude that refuses to behave.

“Revolt” was commissioned in 2014 as part of a series for the Royal Shakespeare Company. The series, Midsummer Mischiefs, highlighted the creativity of four female playwrights, Timberlake Wertenbaker, E.V. Crowe, Alice Birch and Abi Zakarian, who all worked from the same prompt: “Well-behaved women seldom make history.” The quote, taken from a 1976 article by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, has become a cultural phenomenon and a well-loved slogan of the feminist movement.

Birch was irritated by Ulrich’s statement, attributing her anger to her confusion with the quote’s sentiment. She dove headfirst into feminist literature, including work by Kat Banyard, Caitlin Moran, and Andrea Dworkin, as inspiration for her play. The work that most shaped “Revolt” was The SCUM Manifesto by Valeria Solanas, who attempted to kill Andy Warhol in 1968. While Birch is clear that she doesn’t agree with the message of Solanas’ work, it inspired her to think of “Revolt” as a manifesto.

The play calls out the pervasive-ness of sexual harassment and assault. Throughout its four acts, it picks apart gender roles and stereotypes that have seeped into our collective consciousness. The characters work to upset these expectations and revolutionize their lives in the process.

“Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.” challenges the audience to confront how a history of discrimination impacts us.

In its review, The New York Times said, “Ms. Birch’s work finds the rheumatic exhilaration in civil disobedience.”

Birch wrote the play in three days. Asked about the process in an interview with The New York Times, she said, “Most things that I write do tend to come out like that, which is why there’s always so much fury. It feels like a need to say these things now.”

“Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.” debuted with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the summer of 2014, and had its American premiere at Soho Repertory Theatre in 2016.


Performances are Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, at 8 p.m.; and Sundays, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $29 to $35, with senior, student and military discounts available.

To purchase tickets online, or for information on purchasing tickets at the box office, visit www.dobama.org, or call 216-932-3396.

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

Cain Park art festival applications due March 1

Ksenia Roshchakovsky

The 2019 Cain Park Arts Festival, July 12–14, is accepting online artist applications through www.zapplication.org. The application deadline is March 1.

Now in its 42nd year, this juried fine arts and crafts event features the work of artists from across the country, working in painting, photography, prints, jewelry, ceramics, glass, leather, sculpture, wood and other materials.

This all-ages and family-friendly festival will be open Friday, July 12, 3–8 p.m.; Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, July 14, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free on Friday, and $5 per person on Saturday and Sunday (with children 12 and younger admitted for free).

Sunshine Artist, an art and craft show magazine, named Cain Park Arts Festival to its annual list of the top 200 fine art and design shows in 2017 and 2018.

The artist application fee is $40. The booth fee for accepted artists is $40.

Ksenia Roshchakovsky is the p.r./marketing manager for Cain Park.
Forest Hill Church celebrates ‘An Evening of Wonder’

Laura King

Bridging mediums to further the arts

The new-music ensemble No Exit will perform at Heights Arts, 2155 Lee Road, on Friday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. In recent years, No Exit has appeared frequently at the gallery, so it can be easy to forget that two decades ago neither organization existed.

In 1999, participants in a Cleveland Heights civic visioning process identified the potential of the arts to positively impact the community. Soon after, the nonprofit Heights Arts was formed by a group of residents intent on tapping that potential.

Two decades later, strategic collaborations, such as the one between Heights Arts and No Exit, have enhanced the regional arts scene and invigorated the community.

When Heights Arts Executive Director Rachel Bernstein, a classical cellist and teacher, succeeded founding director Peggy Spaeth in 2013, she envisioned that the newly expanded gallery space could become a known destination for both visual art and music.

Laura King provides administrative support to Cleveland Heights’ No Exit.

Deion Williams, Mark Burto and Jarred Goldwebber.

The concert will also include dance by Cleveland native and choreographer Rashawn Kadeem, and poetry by Cleveland spoken-word artist Tierra Khali. Co-pastors John Lentz and Veronica Goins will end the evening with a message on love, life and music.

Forest Hill Church is located at 5031 Monticello Blvd.

Reg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and publicity coordinator for Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.
Have an ‘Ekphrastic’ Valentine’s Day at Heights Arts

Genevieve Schwartz

Art, poetry and music warm Heights Arts this February. Valentine’s Day weekend starts with a free artist talk and poetry event focused on the work of the artists participating in the current exhibition.‘VIEW-points.A series of gallery talks, Ekphrastacy: Artists Talk + Poets Respond, offers an opportunity for exhibition artists to share insights on their work.

“Ekphrasis” means that one form of art is used to describe a completely different form of art in order to illuminate an idea or help an audience understand the spirit of the work. The Poetry Foundation defines an ekphrastic poem as “a vivid description of a scene or, more commonly, a work of art. Through the imaginative act of narrating and reflecting on the ‘action’ of a painting or sculpture, the poet may amplify and expand its meaning.” Heights Arts explores this idea on the fourth Thursday of each of its group exhibitions.

The public is invited to hear the exhibition’s artists, G.M. Donley, Michael Loderstedt, Wendy Partridge, Sai Sinbondit and Rebekah Wilhelm, speak about their process and intentional reads of the work. Cleveland luminary and poet Laureate Damien Mc-Clendon, and invited poets Raja Free- man, Quartz Harris and Kai Flowers follow, sharing their poetic responses to the corresponding works.

The following evening, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m., the public is invited to join No Exit New Music Ensemble for an intimate evening of music as it performs the second part of its spotlight on Cleveland composers with world-premiere works by Greg D’Alessio, Keith Fitch, Chris Auerbach Brown, Buck McDaniel and Nasim Khorasani.

For more information on upcoming events and other community arts offerings, visit www.heightsarts.org or call 216-377-3457.

Genevieve Schwartz is the program manager at Heights Arts.
The same thing was happening in the place to build their big mansions. Of the area to wealthy Clevelanders as developers promoted the western end started increasing. Especially when from Cleveland to get up the big here. But streetcars enabled people later, there were 5,000 people living 2,000 residents. By the time the in the early 1800s, with only about Heights was mostly farms and quarries to condominiums). Heights church has been converted (though at least one old Cleveland into coffee shops and clothing stores (though at least one old church, a mosque, a theater, and, most recently, a Jewish be) into schools and churches, and social clubs and delis, all those shops, filling their cloth bags than it is today) walking in and out of every day. That changed in the 1960s. Many Jews took off for points east, and Yiddish. That changed in the 1960s. Many Jews took off for points east, and conversing in Russian, Polish, German and Yiddish. That changed in the 1960s. Many Jews took off for points east, and living here. But streetcars enabled people from Cleveland to get up the big hills, on what are now Cedar and Mayfield roads, and population started increasing. Especially when developers promoted the western end of the area to wealthy Clevelanders as the place to build their big mansions. The same thing was happening in Lakewood, too. Cleveland’s streetcar lines were extended into Cleveland Heights and Lakewood, the first villages to the east and west of Cleveland. With population growth, these villages became cities in the early 1920s. Besides the rich people coming into Cleveland Heights, much of Cleveland’s Jewish community moved here, too, centering around Coventry Road. My father’s family moved here in the early 1920s, to the Coventry area. I’m just old enough that I can remember the end of the Old World—when the commercial strip of Coventry Road was home to Jewish bakeries, meat markets, fish markets, delicatessens and restaurants, and all the little old Jewish men and women (who were probably around the age I am now, which was much older back then—not just to me, because I was young, but because it really was older than it is today) walking in and out of all those shops, filling their cloth bags with goods, and standing on the street conversing in Russian, Polish, German and Yiddish. That changed in the 1960s. Many Jews took off for points east, like Beachwood. Houses in my old neighborhood became rental properties for the first time, and students and other young transients moved in. Coventry became a haven for hippies, like me. It was still a neighborhood, just a different neighborhood. Then in the mid-’70s, it all changed again. The older Jewish people, who still owned the houses they had been renting out, now began selling those properties, mostly to African Americans, who finally found housing they could afford, and were not blocked from buying and living in, outside of the inner city.

Today, that neighborhood, like most of the rest of Cleveland Heights, is an indefinable mélange of cultures, races and lifestyles. It is what we like to call diverse. Cleveland Heights embraced the concept of diversity. It took the subject seriously enough to make it official policy. Its mission statement says: “Cleveland Heights proudly connects with its history as a first suburb of Cleveland and as a mature, integrated, residential community.” For more than 40 years, the city has hosted and nurtured several groups and programs whose goals include bringing people and neighborhoods together, encouraging and helping people representing minorities of every kind to purchase homes here, and facilitating dialogue among diverse groups.

When I’m in places like the Home Depot, I marvel at the mix of people—Orthodox Jews and Arabs, whites and blacks—all shopping and working together. The city has also embraced the arts and artists of every kind. Its motto is “Home to the Arts.” And, for instance, Cain Park seeks to book musical artists that will bring in diverse audiences.

The neighborhood where I was born and raised, while it represented a minority culture, was not actually diverse then. It was fairly homogeneous. It was an ethnic neighborhood that looked and felt like it had been there forever and would stay that way forever. Looking back, it’s easy to see now that it hadn’t and, of course, it didn’t. But after decades of evolving from one type of neighborhood to another, it did gather in enough influences to really become a diverse community.

My grandparents and their contemporaries probably would not like all this diversity. But most of their offspring, my parents’ generation, did come to appreciate it. And most of their offspring are more comfortable with it. My generation’s children never thought much about it. And their children don’t think at all about whether or not this is a diverse community; it’s just normal to them. And that’s where we were headed all along.

David Badin 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.