

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website – An Official Google News Source

Volume 2, Issue 3, February 7, 2006

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## Lakewood Superintendent Dr. Estrop Testifies Before House Education Committee



Dr. David Estrop

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Lakewood City School District Superintendent, Dr. David Estrop, testified yesterday as a proponent for House Bill 411. The bill would cut the current ties between the Ohio Education Accountability Plan and the accountability provisions of NCLB.

In his testimony, Dr. Estrop outlined some of the ongoing flaws currently contained in the NCLB accountability provisions. Dr. Estrop identified four main points that were shared in more detail with members of the House Education Committee. (His full testimony is attached.) These points are:

1. The federal AYP – Annual Yearly Progress standard presents more opportunities for large diverse school districts to fail than small homogenous school districts.
2. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) actually leaves some children behind, especially in small homogenous school districts because of AYP.
3. The Ohio Educational Accountability Plan is superior in that it provides for and recognizes improvement. The AYP provisions of No Child Left Behind do not provide for, nor recognize improvement, only perfection.
4. The penalties for not meeting the federal AYP standards must be imposed by the state, not the federal government, and essentially provide for federal funding penalties and various degrees of takeover by the state.

In recent months, Dr. Estrop has met with local and state leaders, as well as staff members of our federal representatives. To date the Lakewood effort has received the support of the Lakewood Board of Education, the Lakewood PTA Council, the Lakewood Mayor and Lakewood City Council.



Photo by Ivor Karabakovic

### Lakewood Project Packs House of Blues

The Lakewood Project rocks them at the House of Blues last week. The performance was well attended and as usual the Lakewood Project wowed them. One of the great gems of Lakewood and our schools. If you get a chance, see them!

### An Offer Too Good to Refuse

## Vic Nogalo Steps Down

Vic Nogalo, ex-Finance Director to the City of Lakewood, received an offer that was too good to refuse.

“Walton Hills is close to my home, the hours are about half of what I was spending at Lakewood. But more importantly, it will give me the chance to spend more time with my family, especially my father who moved in with us this past November,” said Vic on Saturday morning. “The toughest part of leaving Lakewood was informing the Mayor of my decision. Mayor George had a lot of confidence in me and that goes a long way with me. He picked the toughest time to be the Mayor of Lakewood and definitely has the toughest job in the city.

Rumors quickly spread around town, that it was for: health; because of frustration; because of drive time. Vic laughed and said, “Nothing like that at all. It was the opportunity of a lifetime; I would have second-guessed it the rest of my life.

“Three rumors that I would like to put to rest are: First, that I left because of the budget problems. This is just outrageous, I was at the City of Cleveland a few years after the ‘Default’ in 1985 under Mayor Voinovich, when we were reestablishing accountability and fiscal

stability and emergence from default.

“In 1988, upon accepting the Deputy Auditor position with the City of Parma, I found myself taking over a General Fund that was in a deficit situation. We managed to balance the budget for three straight years.

“I then left Parma to be the Finance Director at the City of Cuyahoga Falls in November 1990. I remember when the Assistant Finance Director threw his arms up a month after I started and said that the City of Cuyahoga Falls General Fund would finish the year in the red. We quickly called the County and requested 75 percent of our estate tax on hand, which typically would have been distributed to the City the following year.

“We finished that year in the black, which continued over the next eight years, and built up the General Fund balance to well over \$3 million. Several key moves were made in Cuyahoga Falls that put us over the top: the municipal court increased the court costs it assessed to cover the costs of its operations; we moved the cost of retiree hospitalization to the pension funds; and we increased the income tax from 1.5 percent to 2.0

See **Nogalo**, page 3

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# Lakewood Valentines



## MaMa's Sponsors 2006 Cupid's Crawl

Madison Avenue Merchant's Association (MAMA) is thrilled to sponsor Cupid's Crawl! Check out some unique and cool boutiques, shops and art along Madison Avenue and pick up the perfect gift for any Valentine!

**Goddess Blessed** will offer Valentine's Day Special Sat-Sat. purchase an aura report for \$35.00 and receive a color bath-color energy product! See the 'color' of love from your valentine. Gift certificates available at Goddess Blessed w/ free carnation plus Valentine Gift Baskets and Angel Readings by Kim on Valentine's Day.

**Scents and Accents Art Boutique** On Sat. 2/12 and Tues. 2/14 everything with be 15% off. Including gift certificates, gift baskets, double heart oil burners, and Valentine's jewelry, and will have Valentine Cookies and Wine for shoppers. **Preserving Tomorrow's Memories** will offer a sale on everything red on Valentine's Day; **Collector's Warehouse** will take 10% off all items on Valentine's Day, **Bela Dubby** is happy to give a fine Chocolate with every coffee or beer purchase while you check out their newest artists; **Star Spectrum** has many specials on Valentine's Day; and **Chain Link Addiction** will take 20% off anything in store on Valentine's Day; **The Coffee Pot** will have delicious specials like usual to take your special date!

Get hit by Cupid's Arrow and patronize your Lakewood businesses-you won't be disappointed!

MaMa is currently having a membership drive encouraging other Madison Avenue businesses to join in the fun. Together we can rebuild Madison Avenue to the shopping district it one was. 216.221.1450

Now at Hixson's Flower Barn:

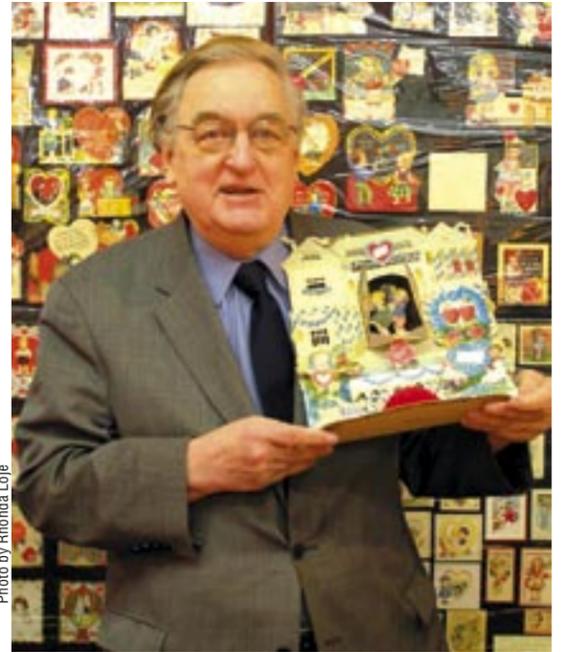
## Bill's Collection of Valentines

When Aristotle wrote, "Without friends no one would choose to live," the custom of exchanging greetings was already old. The Romans exchanged laurel or olive branches on new years. These often were gilded and symbolized good will and hope that the new year would be happy and lucky for the recipient. In pre-Christian times, during the feast of Lupercalia, February 15, birds supposedly began their mating and the valentine custom, legend has it, began. At the festival young maidens deposited love missives in a large urn. Their swains would draw a name and for the following year would court the maidens whose name they had drawn.

The early Christian church, in order to adopt and adapt the well-loved holiday, transferred the holiday to the feast of Saint Valentine. Saint Valentine, a bishop of Rome was martyred on February 14, 270 A.D., was said to have written a note for the daughter of his jailer on a heart shaped violet leaf. On it he

wrote of their friendship and signed himself "Your Valentine."

As early as 1669, "Valentine writers," books of love poems and verses for those not gifted as poets, appeared. By the 1800s Valentines had gained popularity in Europe. Early Valentines were elegant, refined, often hand colored and showed little of the gaudiness of later periods.



Bill Hixson in front of his Valentine collection currently on display.

## Hot Off The Deck

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

### Observer Discussions

#### Lakewood General Discussion - 390 Topics - 3132 Responses

Very open and general public discussions about things on the minds of Lakewood residents. Let us know what you are thinking so that other good neighbors and the Observer can respond.

#### Global Discussion - 139 Topics - 1604 Responses

Very open and general public discussions about things outside of Lakewood. Let us know what you are thinking so that other good neighbors and the Observer can respond.

#### Chef Geoff - 26 Topics - 173 Responses

Cooking secrets, tips, recipes and discussions featuring The Lakewood Observer's head chef, Chef Geoff (Jeff Endress)

#### House Talk BRAND NEW! - 7 Topics - 44 Responses

Have questions? Answers? Experiences to share?

#### Thought of the Day BRAND NEW! - 5 Topics - 27 Responses

Please add your favorite quotes or thoughts for the day.

The Lakewood Observer is your best source for conversation and fact finding about Lakewood. We have over 30 discussion groups including City Hall, City Council, Schools, School Board, Volunteers, Civic Groups, Churches, Businesses, and the best Calendar of Events in the city. So stop, read, and take part. <http://lakewoodobserver.com>

## Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 15-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help.

If you are interested, e-mail to: [publisher@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:publisher@lakewoodobserver.com)

**News releases**—If you have information on an event, organization, program or news on *anything* that has to do with Lakewood, send it to: [city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com)

**Calendar of Events**—To appear on our calendar of events, e-mail: [events@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:events@lakewoodobserver.com)

**Newsies/Delivery People**—The Lakewood Observer is looking for people that would like to help deliver the newspaper. If interested, e-mail: [delivery@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:delivery@lakewoodobserver.com)

**We need you to get involved! If you have or know of a story, we want it!**



Your Independent Source for  
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff.

# Lakewood City Hall



Girl Scout Troop 188 with the Members of Lakewood City Council.

## Notes from New Lakewood City Council Member, Nickie J. Antonio

On December 27th I was officially sworn in to my new position as a Lakewood City Council member in one of the three at-large seats. It was important to conduct the ceremony that week in December so our daughters Ariel and Stacey, who were home for the holidays, could join the many friends and campaign volunteers at City Hall. The celebration continued with a reception at the Phoenix Coffee Cafe catered by our good friends at Italian Creations.

While I have been attending council meetings throughout the years in an unofficial capacity, January 3rd marked my first official meeting as a Council member, highlighted by a first time visit from Girl Scout Troop 188.

I have been appointed to the Public Works Committee, will serve as chair of the Housing Committee and will be one of two representatives to the Lakewood Hospital Board. The last two weeks of January have been filled with no less than seven sessions of Budget Hearings, providing the opportunity for Council members to review departmental proposed budgets for 2006. This information is critical to the budget approval process which will be completed in the months ahead.

I have also fielded constituent calls as I work to acclimate myself to the current division/department contacts at City Hall. As a new Council member I am appreciative of the cooperative response from city employees as I navigate my way through the divisions and procedures. Clerk of Council, Mary Hagan, has been especially helpful as I learn the protocol of being on the Council side of City Government. It has been a busy month. Nickie J. Antonio, Council at Large January 27, 2006.

## Nogalo Takes a Step Back *continued from page 1*

percent, with the additional monies earmarked for capital purposes.

"These are the kind of problems I thrive on. Every time, the city I was working for came out of the problem and I pride myself on that. They were all far worse off than what Lakewood is going through.

"Nor am I leaving because of contentious Lakewood politics. Lakewood

is filled with very passionate, engaged people. This is one of its strong points. Lakewood will need energized people in the future.

"Nor because the *Lakewood Observer* advisory board was served in seconds, while I waited 45 minutes for my lunch!"

Vic went on to make clear he has not abandoned Lakewood. "I love the city, I grew up in Cleveland and can relate very well to the whole Northeast Ohio region. I really never considered moving here because I love it in Cuyahoga Falls and I do not want to take my kids out of their school where they have grown up with their friends. I think that is very important.

"But Lakewood has some tough issues, and needs the income tax hike that was being asked for. I would hope it would reappear in the fall after some consensus-building. I hope I can stay involved in Lakewood as an advisor or consultant. I believe that the new tax department is in good hands with Patti Chittock."

Expect an in-depth look at Vic Nogalo and his replacement in upcoming issues of the *Observer*.

## Lakewood City Council Appoints New Members to Hospital Board

Two of Lakewood's newest council members were appointed to the Lakewood Hospital Board of Trustees at the council meeting on Tuesday, January 17th. Nickie J. Antonio and Kevin Butler were appointed to serve as council's representatives to the Hospital Board.

"I am honored to be chosen for this appointment and look forward to working with the dynamic group of citizens that make up the board of our city's largest employer," said Nickie Antonio. These folks rate their community and our hospital highly, so I am proud to join them," said Ward 1 council member, Kevin Butler.

Council members serve a two-year term on the Lakewood Hospital Board working to foster communication and an ongoing relationship between the city and the hospital. Antonio, were newly elected to City Council in November of 2005. This is the first time either have held public office.

**Contact: Nickie J. Antonio, Council at Large:** 216-221-4421

**Kevin Butler, Ward 1 Council:** 216-221-7953

### These are the Council Committees

#### Rules & Ordinances

**Chair** - Kevin Butler,  
**Member** - Ed FitzGerald

#### Finance

**Chair** - Bob Seelie, **Members** - Kevin Butler, Mary Louise Madigan

#### Public Works

**Chair** - Mike Dever,  
**Members** - Nickie Antonio, Ryan Patrick Demro

#### Housing

**Chair** - Nickie Antonio,  
**Member** - Mary Louise Madigan

#### Health & Human Services

**Chair** - Mary Louise Madigan,  
**Members** - Ryan Patrick Demro

#### Public Safety

**Chair** - Ed FitzGerald,  
**Member** - Ryan Patrick Dever

#### Youth & Recreation

**Chair** - Ryan Patrick Demro,  
**Member** - Kevin Butler

## No Meeting, But Still Working

By Stan Austin

Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

There was no Lakewood City Council meeting at the end of January to coincide with the publication of this issue of the *Lakewood Observer*, but not having a meeting did not mean they were not working! Council is looking into the critically important issue of the annual budget. This series of budget meetings runs over two weeks. *The Lakewood Observer* covers these meetings, unlike any other news source, usually having our exclusive reports online within hours at lakewoodobserver.com. The Observation Deck is the only board in town whose membership includes the Mayor, all members of City Council, the entire Board of Education, members of almost every department at city hall, the Lakewood Public Library, The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, LakewoodAlive and others. It is the best place to ask questions and join discussions.

This is a good opportunity to remind *Observer* readers of the online version of *The Lakewood Observer*, LakewoodObserver.com, in an exclusive series, the *Observer* features in depth articles about these hearings. And since the *Observer* is the only news source that covers Lakewood government so comprehensively we can also be the most timely. By checking in online during the day you can learn about breaking news within minutes of its happening. As part of the Google® News Family, you can set up a "Google Alert" that will update automatically.

This past week as the *Observers* scooped the news about Ed Favre being appointed to help the mayor implement Grow Lakewood and other projects, that the tax increase was being pulled from the docket, and that Vic Nogalo had taken a new job and got the exclusive interview. Online readers of the *Observer* were the first to have this information.

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# Lakewood Developments

## The Ohio Main Street Program: *What Is It?*

The Lakewood community may recall hearing about or may have attended the D.A.R.T. presentation in March at the Beck Center Armory. That visit by the Downtown Assessment Resource Team was the first step in a process for Lakewood to become an officially designated Ohio Main Street. Simply put, the Main Street Program is an economic development tool that focuses on downtown commercial district revitalization and renovation. The Program advocates the rehabilitation of the historic character of downtowns while pursuing traditional development strategies such as marketing, business retention and recruitment, real estate development, market analysis and public improve-

**By Jennifer Hooper**  
Executive Director Lakewood Community Progress Inc. (LCPI)

ments. The goal is to sustain and grow an economically healthy and physically attractive Main Street.

Based on tremendous community response to the DART presentation, plans were formalized to move forward with the Main Street application. It was announced at a Columbus ceremony on December 8, 2005 that Lakewood has officially been accepted into the Program. The application process is competitive and Lakewood is one of only a few communities to be accepted on the first attempt. Lakewood was one of three communities selected this year

out of five applications.

Lakewood was selected because the community demonstrated a commitment to establishing a volunteer board of directors as well as the procurement of stable funding for a sustained downtown revitalization program.

Lakewood Community Progress, Incorporated (LCPI) is the organization that will manage Lakewood's Main Street Program. LCPI is an independent, private non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors with representatives from downtown businesses, residents, the City administration and the Cham-

ber of Commerce. Initially Lakewood's Main Street is defined as Detroit Avenue from Bunts to Arthur; however the District may be expanded in the future.

Watch for monthly updates on Main Street initiatives in *The Lakewood Observer* and on their website. Members of the community who are interested in being involved with the Main Street Program in Lakewood are encouraged to call Jennifer Hooper, Executive Director of LCPI at 521-0655 or email at [jhooper@lcpi.org](mailto:jhooper@lcpi.org). There are many volunteer opportunities available. More information on the Ohio Main Street Program can be found on the Downtown Ohio Inc. website: [www.downtownohio.org](http://www.downtownohio.org)

### Galion, Ohio - A Main Street Sister City



Downtown Galion, Ohio, during Main Street construction. It sounds easy, but it is not. How do you save a 100-year-old city's identity and brand, while bringing it into the 21st Century?



It is easy to see the nice roads, brick walks, flower planters, and lush gardens, but Main Street is much more than that. Main Street is a proven way to preserve and renovate downtown business districts. In over 2000 cities, Main Street provides a way to get businesses, events, and promotions all working together, while breathing life back into downtown areas and cities.

### LakewoodAlive Finds

## Housing, Commercial Development on the Minds of Lakewood Residents

#### Citizen Survey Reveals Sense of Urgency, Some Unexpected Priorities

Lakewood, OH, January 26, 2006 – Residents of Lakewood, one of Greater Cleveland's key inner ring suburbs, are concerned about the maintenance of their housing stock and the need for commercial development and view both as "urgent priorities," according to a survey conducted by Lakewood citizens' advocacy group LakewoodAlive. Also of concern was the city's tax base. Less than a quarter of the respondents expressed concern about city services.

The survey, conducted over a two-month period in November and December 2005, was designed to gauge citizen attitudes toward the Grow Lakewood Report, a 25-year strategic roadmap for the densely populated city formulated by a 12-member citizen committee created last year by Lakewood's Mayor and City Council. Respondents to the survey — more than 300 individual Lakewood residents — validated the credibility of the report and clearly want action by their city officials.

Among the survey's highlights:

- Asked to identify the strategic recommendation subjects in the report that fit most closely with their own concerns, nearly 76 percent selected housing as their primary concern. Commercial development followed with more than 71 percent, with just under 60 percent citing the city's tax base.
- Less than half (41 percent) were concerned with safety issues, and only 31 percent cited city services as a primary area of concern.
- When asked which strategic recommendations in the report offered the "best long-term" return on investments of time, money, and/or

resources, 64 percent selected commercial development, 52.7 chose the creation of a Housing Commission (none currently exists in Lakewood), and just under 40 percent cited the creation of an economic development fund for the city. Lakefront preservation and development called for attention from 39.2 percent and a Street Improvement program also scored strongly at 37.1 percent.

In general, survey respondents expressed urgency about the need to act. Over 80 percent of respondents believe that the call to action expressed in the Grow Lakewood report is "extremely" (53 percent) or "somewhat" (28 percent) important.

Lakewood residents are clearly looking to their government for leadership on these and other issues, the survey noted. Fifty-five percent of respondents felt that both the Mayor and City Council are responsible for advancing the Grow Lakewood strategic recommendations, yet many, given the opportunity to make individual comments, suggested that "everyone," including private citizens, can contribute to protecting the city's future.

"Our citizens are passionate and highly informed, and definitely take a long view of the city in which they live," noted Lakewood Alive President Mary Anne Crampton. "Nearly 100 respondents took the time to offer additional comments beyond simply answering the questions we posed in the survey, and we intend to share the results directly with city leaders, both within and without government."

Both the complete survey results, including individual comments and the full Grow Lakewood presentation are available at [www.lakewoodalive.com](http://www.lakewoodalive.com)

#### About Lakewood Alive

LakewoodAlive is an independent nonpartisan citizens' group devoted to promoting economic development in Lakewood and enhancing how Lakewood is perceived inside and outside its borders. LakewoodAlive's efforts benefit all Lakewood residents by stabilizing and building our tax base, attracting and retaining residents, and preserving and improving the unique quality of life our inner ring community offers.

# Lakewood Library

## Library Ready for New Phase

By Kathleen South

The Lakewood Public Library is poised to enter a new phase of the expansion and renovation project. The library will have the drawings finished and be ready to advertise for bids by the beginning of February, according to Kenneth Warren, director.

The bid will be awarded on March 7 and construction will begin by the end of March. The project is set for completion by spring of 2008. The library will remain open during the construction process.

The expansion project will grow the size of the library by 80 percent, adding 40,000 feet to the building.

"It will be the most beautiful library in the state of Ohio," Warren said.

The main library is located at 15425 Detroit Avenue, with a second branch at 13229 Madison Avenue.

Substantial increases in space are planned for children's services, technology, audio-visual services and public seating and shelving capacity.

Additions in the children's area will include a homework room and an activity room that will be used for such interests as crafts and story time programs. The number of computers will double with the addition of 20 new computers.

In the adult technology section, the number of computers will double to 80. That area will be located on the second floor near where it is now.

The parking lot will double in size, with the addition of a door, which will open directly to the lot.

The Detroit Avenue entrance will be enhanced. "We are going to create a signature civic building with one grand archway," Warren said.

Robert A. M. Stern Architects is

designing the building.

"It will be a beautiful, inspirational and functional facility for the people of Lakewood to enjoy," he said.

The addition will be built directly to the east of the present library. A building that formerly housed an insurance company will be razed. Pre-

viously, the library purchased a former bank building just west of the insurance building where the children's section was housed.

Warren believes the renovated library will attract more people to the downtown area.

"Stern is a world-renowned archi-

tect and is building a piece of art. People travel around the country to see great architectural sites. Lakewood library, when completed, will be a superb piece of great architecture."

The original library opened in 1916. Other renovations were done in 1924, 1956, 1976 and 1981.

## Up Ensemble Obtain the Soul of Wit

When a jazz trio rows against the mainstream, most will choose to eschew honorable hard bop classicism or arch expressive experimentation. Cleveland's Up Ensemble serenely rows against current yet mixes it up while distilling both evergreen and original into rich talismans of various roads not taken.

This compression was in evidence in each of the 13 songs essayed in less than an hour during the Sunday With the Friends of the Lakewood Library concert January 8. Rather than press upon a classic such as Ellington's Solitude so much that it glitters gemlike, the trio of saxophonist Chris Burge, drummer Beau Lisy, and bassist Matt Charboneau, handled the iconic line by putting it on a low flame. Drummer Lisy, rather than kick along the piece in the conventional way, shadows the saxophonist with soft off-center strokes on his cymbals and leaves the driving to bassist Charboneau.

Unlike many of the young post-bop musicians who are part of the post-Marsalis second wave, the obvious technical virtuosity of the three young men is unwrapped slowly. If they don't specialize in or showcase music-making aimed to make the listener's jaw drop, their cooler, even austere way with a song is

refreshing by comparison.

Christopher Burge is obviously his own man. He's hit upon an attractive synthesis that is burnished in the rhythmic dimension and decidedly horizontal and Lestorian in the harmonic dimension. Take Hoagy Carmichael's not oft played Little Old Lady. Burge bounces along on a mellow mid-tempo groove, again the flame is blue and low, but never does Burge out into outright hard bop. There's a strong suggestion he could do so, but in laying back and elongating specific notes of the line he reminds one of like-minded west coasters such as Bob Cooper and Richie Kamuca, and other guys for whom the song was all.

Drummer Lisy also has sorted out a distinctive left turn away from the clattering, noisy virtuosity of many of his peers. In our high velocity era, Lisy is not stylistically a busy drummer. His small kit provides a hint to Lisy's resourcefulness. There's no six foot forest of cymbals or parking lot full of drums for him to get over-involved with. Yet, unlike Burge, Lisy is more of a syncretist, melding together the woody unhurried swing (reminiscent of modernist Ed Blackwell or Paul Motian) with patterns dropped down from across oceans, especially from West Africa.

On Tristeza he played a solo drum hand against vamp hand that was a highlight of the performance.

Matthew „Slow Drag% Charboneau does special duty in the trio because there is no piano to feed straight melody and harmonies to his band mates. He does this dependably. He has an uncomplicated, self-effacing and solid approach. This made his moments of extroverted playing, on a Frank Foster line written for Count Basie, "An All Such Things As That," and, with the bow on Ellington's Solitude all the more surprising and ingratiating.

But the main thing with the Up Ensemble is the song: getting into it and getting it out, and then on to the next one. There's a delicious paradox at work in the group's distinctive approach. On one hand their evocative cool is unhurried, and, on the other hand, they unhurry their way through each tune in less than 5 four minutes. 13 songs were essayed in 60 minutes. This is, basically, unheard of in our era of musical breast-beating and reflexive jamming in saxophone-centered jazz. For that twined conception of songfulness and brevity the Up Ensemble has found a rewarding tributary off the mainstream. Catch them paddling gracefully if you get the chance.

### LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY Program Guide February 7 – February 18

15425 Detroit Avenue (216) 226-8275 x127 info@lkwdpl.org

#### February 7, 2006 ( Tuesday )

7:00pm GETTING HIRED

Career coach Peggy Gessing will tell you how to tailor your resume to the job you want and prepare for an interview in today's job market. Location: Main Library Auditorium

#### February 8, 2006 ( Wednesday )

2:00pm BASIC COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS

In cooperation with the Lakewood Office on Aging, these classes focus on basic skills, mouse usage, e-mail, "surfing" the Internet and word processing. Contact Kathy Cole at (216) 521-1515 to register. Location: Main Library Technology Center

7:00pm SHARPEN UP!

Make the library your partner in learning. Learn effective homework strategies using electronic and print resources. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. Location: Main Library Technology Center

#### February 10, 2006 ( Friday )

February 10-12 FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Folk Tales and Fairy Tales - Stories, activities, music and crafts for families! Materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. No registration required. Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

#### February 11, 2006 ( Saturday )

3:00pm INTERNET BASIC

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#### February 11, 2006 ( Saturday )

# Lakewood Music

## An Interview with Billy Morris and Jim Maylor, Owners of The Hi Fi Concert Club

By Bob Ignizio

Located at 11729 Detroit Avenue, The Hi Fi Concert Club (formerly the Blind Lemon) regularly brings some of the best local and national music acts right to the heart of Lakewood. Although co-owners Billy Morris and Jim Maylor have backgrounds in the hard rock and metal scenes (the two played together in eighties glam rock band Spoyld, and Morris was a member of popular hard rock band Warrant for five years), the club is hardly just a hangout for head-bangers. Morris says, "We want to do a wide variety of music. We have different themes on different nights." Mondays are "kill the keg" nights with cheap draft specials and live music, generally punk rock; Tuesdays it's like a scene from the Eminem movie '8 Mile' with rappers, graffiti artists, and beat-makers competing against each other; Wednesday's Morris' band provides live accompaniment for "Heavy Metal Karaoke"; and Thursday through Saturday the club showcases live bands of all genres, from acoustic pop to raging death metal.

In addition to the great sounds you'll hear at the Hi Fi, the club also looks great and has a warm, inviting vibe for patrons. Since taking over the club 4 years ago, Billy and Jim have done extensive renovations that go far beyond a new sign and a new coat of paint. The front part of the club where you'll find the bar is almost like a lounge area, complete with a few comfy couches and pool tables. Plasma screen TVs are just as likely to be showing Comedy Central as they are sports. Artwork and photos of bands adorn



the walls. There's also a smaller stage in front (dubbed "The Blind Lemon Stage" in honor of the club's previous incarnation) for more intimate performances. And to add to the comfort, there's a full kitchen. Morris says, "When we took over the club, the kitchen was just a storage area for garbage. Now it's clean and we have great food. We've had rave reviews from the health inspector."

So what possessed a couple of musicians to try running a club? Morris says, "Back in the day when Jimmy and I were in Spoyld, we were a top drawing band. We'd draw like 800 to 1000 people at The Akron Agora and he'd cut us a check for like 250 bucks. Now we wanted to be on that big stage, and we knew all the money he was making. We were like, you know, someday

we're gonna' be that club owner and we're gonna make the big money. So we decided to buy a club, and we learned really quickly that a lot of money comes in the door, but there's also a lot of expenses. So we're doing really good, the club is steady; it's not going to go anywhere. It's been a college education. But we know how to do it now."

Being musicians themselves, Morris and Maylor take special care to make sure their club is accommodating to bands. Maylor says he and Morris "see things from a different perspective. Just a lot from the production standpoint. What it's like from a PA, production, and light standpoint. That everything works properly. Organization, promotion. Some places take those things for granted."

The club owners also do their best to make sure performers are properly compensated. Although treating bands right is nothing new for the club,

recently the Hi Fi sent out emails to bands letting them know their policies. Maylor says, "We've never been on board with pay to play, or go out and sell a fifteen dollar ticket and we'll give you one dollar. So many other high profile clubs have done that, we felt we needed to let people know in layman's terms that we don't do that. We wanted to spell it out so there were no misconceptions about that."

While the Hi Fi is very committed to giving local bands exposure, the club is also trying to bring in more national touring acts. Morris says, "We don't have a big stock pile of money to book really expensive bands. We have to pick and choose what we can do. But we're trying to make our theme for the club "The Midwest's Tour Stop". We're trying to get the bands that are on tour to know that they can play the Hi Fi. One thing that we offer that no other club in the city offers is we have a recording studio built in downstairs. So any bands that play there can have their set professionally, multi-track digitally recorded. It's not just a line off the board; it's a legitimate studio that does a killer job."

As for the city where his club is situated, Morris has nothing but praise. He says, "When you think of Lakewood, it's a pretty artsy community so you get a wide variety of clientele and bands that come in there. That whole little block right there with the Hi Fi and The Phantasy, that whole area is pretty unique." So why drive to downtown Cleveland and get gouged on parking and high priced drinks? The Hi Fi Concert Club (along with The Phantasy and The Winchester, both of which we hope to profile in the future as well) is bringing first rate live music right here to Lakewood.

## Rare Blend Celebrates 4th CD with February Concert!

Instrumental music group, Rare Blend, will officially celebrate their new 2006 CD release 'Stops Along The Way', Saturday, February 11th 2006, at the Winchester Tavern and Music Hall, 12112 Madison Ave., Lakewood Ohio, [www.thewinchester.net](http://www.thewinchester.net). The party kicks off at 8:30 PM with an opening set from Doug Wood, an exceptional musician in his own right, [www.dougwoodmusic.com](http://www.dougwoodmusic.com).

Tickets are \$10.00. The price of admission includes a complimentary copy of 'Stops Along The Way'. The venue is a fully licensed bar, with light munchies provided by Rare Blend.

Rare Blend is where rock, jazz, fusion, and world music collide! This statement definitively sums up the instrumental music group, home based in Cleveland Ohio, and now in their 12th year. Theirs is a journey that started during the independent music revolution, and that has no intention of slowing down.

Pulling from a variety of influences and musical styles to write unique instrumental arrangements, Rare Blend's music appeals to purists as well as those who embrace a

progressive multi-genre approach to original music. They continue to receive favorable press reviews, radio airplay, perform at a variety of concerts and outdoor festivals, and have been invited to be included on regional and national compilation discs. Because of their diversity and growing catalog of music, Rare Blend can be found performing on bills that range from Jazz to jam band, fusion to progressive rock. They have shared bills or have opened for the likes of David Sanborn, Special EFX, Tunnels, Dark Star Orchestra, Kevin Eubanks, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Spyro Gyra, Joe Deninzon & Stratosphereius, and Los Lobos.

Musicians involved with 'Stops Along The Way' are:

Vic Samalot - Guitar

Bobbi Holt - Keyboards, Vocals

Jeffrey Scott - Bass

Vince Broncaccio - Drums & Percussion

Paul Stranahan - Drums

Gabe O'Brien - Percussion

For complete history and more info, please visit the Rare Blend website [www.rareblend.net](http://www.rareblend.net).

## February Concerts in Lakewood

By Bob Ignizio

### The Winchester

Wednesday, February 8th at The Winchester it's Flock of Seagulls. If you grew up watching MTV in the eighties, you couldn't escape the Flock's "I Ran." The band managed a couple other minor hits before fading into obscurity by the mid-eighties. Vocalist/keyboard player Mike Score kept the band name alive with a rotating cast of musicians, but on this tour he's joined by original members Ali Score on drums and Frank Maudsley on bass. Only the original guitar player Paul Reynolds is MIA. Admission is \$20.00. Show starts at 8:30 pm.

Saturday, February 11th at The Winchester it's Rare Blend. Rare Blend is a Cleveland-based jazz/fusion group. This will be a CD release party for the band, and a copy of the disc is included in the \$10 admission price. Opening the show is progressive acoustic guitarist Doug Wood.

### The Hi Fi Concert Club

Friday, February 17th at The Hi Fi Concert Club it's Dropgun, First Offense, and The Sals. Akron invades Lakewood! The Rubber City's own Dropgun describe themselves as "The Dead Boys filtered through Motorhead and spread out all over the greasy floor of yo' garage!" Yup, that's about right. The band recently released their second album, Devil Music. They'll be joined by fellow Akron punks First Offense. Even though they're from Detroit, The Sals somehow managed to get on the bill, too.

### The Phantasy Niteclub

Sunday, February 19th at The Phantasy Niteclub local promoter Starloft presents K.B. and the Riptides, The Company Line, Doctor Teeth, and one more TBA. The show will start at 8:30pm. You can buy advance tickets for \$5 via Paypal at <http://www.starloft.com/> (click on the link for "tickets"). Price at the door is \$7. This show is 16 and over, and if you're under 21 it'll cost you an extra 3 bucks at the door.

## Lakewood People

### Meet the Beckers

## Local Video Team Promotes Local Organizations

By Kenneth Warren

It's an unusual job that can take you one day to the top of Key Tower or the bottom of Cleveland's Lake Erie salt mines, the next day into a homeless shelter or prison, and the next to a local business or museum. Yet that's all in a day's work for one of this area's most successful documentary and video producers, husband-and-wife team Bob Becker and Luanne Bole-Becker. And for the past three years, they've increasingly focused their cameras—and their attention—on helping local organizations in this area share their messages in a compelling fashion.

"We love capturing and sharing people's stories," noted Bob. "And we decided that if this is how we were going to spend our lives, we'd like to concentrate on work that can make a positive difference in our community."

The Beckers are probably best known for their many award-winning documentaries produced for WVIZ, Cleveland's PBS station. Included are *The Way We Shopped*, one of WVIZ's most widely viewed locally-produced shows ever, as well as the Emmy Award-winning *Home Team*, a companion to the Ken Burns' baseball series. Other titles include *And Then We Ate*, *Sites Unseen*, *West Side Market Story*, *Radio Memories*, *Faces of Steel*, and *Expanding Cities*. Since 1998, the Beckers have also contributed more than 50 arts and culture segments to WVIZ' weekly *Applause* series. In addition to a regional Emmy, their work has garnered national Telly and Silver Apple awards.

But the Beckers' work can just as often be seen in the meeting rooms of schools, churches, and businesses throughout this community. They've been privileged to partner with the following organizations to produce a variety of informational and promotional videos:

- Ohio District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- LAOS —Lutheran Agencies Organized for Service (social services)

- Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board
- Lutheran Chaplaincy Service
- Northeast Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Building Hope in the City (urban ministry)
- Pedal with Pete (cerebral palsy research)
- Countryside Program (urban development)
- Lutheran Home (retirement and rehabilitation community)
- Lakewood Lutheran School
- St. John Garfield Lutheran School
- Cleveland Lutheran High School Association

"For more than a decade, we've been building a full-time business that's high quality, yet still affordable for non-profit organizations," commented Luanne. "And when we partner with somebody, we personally immerse ourselves in each story. It's truly exciting to step into a 'new world' with every project that we do!"

The Beckers have made Lakewood home for nearly 22 years, purchasing a house that was built in 1919 and is filled with the character that Lakewood homes are known for. But the Lakewood connections go back even further. Bob is a graduate of Lakewood Lutheran School, which just celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. And the couple's two sons have followed suit—both are also recent graduates of Lakewood Lutheran School (LLS). Luanne currently coordinates a volunteer tutoring program for the community at LLS.

If you're interested in seeing some of the Beckers' latest work, stop by a Cleveland Indians store for *The Bob Feller Story*—a one-hour documentary commissioned by the Cleveland Indians. Of course, you can also contact the Beckers directly to create your own video masterpiece! (Bob Becker and Luanne Bole-Becker can be reached at [Bbvideo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Bbvideo@sbcglobal.net). They are active members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Lakewood.)



## Retired Lakewood Teacher Honored

By Anne Palomaki

Robert R. (Bob) Rice, local retired Lakewood teacher and Staff Hall of Famer, recently received a nice surprise from Pennsylvania Representative Scott Hutchinson's office.

Along with other surviving Pennsylvania World War II Vets, he received a beautiful bronze medal and certificate honoring his service in WWII.

Rice met his late wife of 59 years, Betty, while in service in Alabama. After the war, Rice finished his college education and moved with his wife and son, Gary, to Lakewood, where he taught at Harding and other schools as a band, orchestra, and choir director, before his 1983 retirement from the Lakewood Public Schools.

Rice continues to serve others by volunteering with the Boy Scouts as a fiddler with the nickname "Backwoods Bob." Says Rice, "Children are the future of our country, and music is the key that unlocks the door of success for many of them."

## Kucinich Addresses Kiwanis



Photo by Richard Moles

Congressman Dennis Kucinich spoke to the Lakewood Kiwanis last week. During his 30-minute talk he raised his concerns about abuses of the Patriotic Act while reminding us what freedoms we have fought to protect over the centuries. He told of us his commitment to keep the Social Security office in Lakewood. The Congressman was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and members of his office located here in town.



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# Lakewood Sports

## Winterhurst Connects to the Olympics

By Todd Shapiro

Beginning February 10, thousands of the world's athletes will live out their childhood dreams in Turin, Italy, site of the games of the XX Winter Olympiad. Many of these Olympic dreams are born and molded into perfection at Lakewood's own Winterhurst Figure Skating Club.

With the coaching staff that includes former Olympian Carol Heiss Jenkins and Tonia Kwiatkowski, Winterhurst FSC has earned a reputation as one of the top skating clubs in the United States.

Outside of Olympic years, figure

skating is usually relegated to the rear of the sports page behind the male-dominated team sports that are more easily understood by television viewers. However, a number of former and current Winterhurst FSC member have become household names in the skating world.

In addition to Kwiatkowski, who finished sixth in the 1998 World Championships, other skaters who have graduated from Winterhurst FSC to compete in national and international competition include 2002 Olympic Bronze medallist Timothy Goebel and Parker Pennington.

There is one Winterhurst connec-



tion to the upcoming Torino games; Marcy Hinzmann, who along with her partner Aaron Parcham, finished second in the U.S. Nationals in the pairs competition earning an invitation to represent the United States at the Torino Olympic Games, was a student of Heiss Jenkins before abandoning her individual career in favor of pairs' skating.

Heiss Jenkins, a silver medallist in the 1956 Olympics and a gold medallist in the 1960 Olympics held in Squaw Valley California, has also coached Japanese national champion Miki Ando.

In addition to preparing shaping Olympic dreams, Winterhurst FSC also provides a number of services for those without such high athletic aspi-

rations. The Club offers learn-to-skate classes for all age groups ranging from pre-school to adult for as little as \$39 for Lakewood residents.

Private coaching with the Winterhurst FSC's professional coaching staff costs on an average around \$60 an hour. An hour of coaching by Heiss Jenkins will set back the parents of future Olympic hopefuls to the tune of \$100 an hour.

In addition to providing training to competitive and recreational skaters Winterhurst FSC also has hosted major skating events, including Skate Cleveland and the compulsory rounds of the 2000 U.S. national figure skating tournament.

### Begging for the Scholarship Fund

The 5th Annual Lakewood PTA Council Mardi Gras Beggar's Raffle & Auction will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 8 pm to 11:30 pm. This fundraiser benefits the Lakewood PTA Council Scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to graduating Lakewood High seniors each year.

By popular demand, this year's event is being held in Lakewood, at the Beck Center's Armory, 17801 Detroit Ave (there is a \$2 parking fee). This is always a fun evening for parents, and includes music, dancing, appetizers and a cash bar.

Tickets are \$12 each, \$15 at the door. Reserve a table of eight by February 17 and get one ticket free.

For more information, contact Fran Storch at 216-521-0176. For tickets, call Chris at 216-521-6099 or Debby at 216-221-8541.

## Ranger Roundup

By Mike Deneen

### Ranger Icers Preparing For Baron Cup

The 2005-2006 season has good news and bad news for the Lakewood High School hockey team. The bad news is rather obvious, as the team has struggled to a 6-19 record with one game left in their regular season. On the bright side, they still have a chance to salvage their season in the upcoming Baron Cup and State Championship tournaments. The better news is that the team has only two seniors on its 17 man roster, so this year's experience should pay dividends next year.

Coach Scott Little's squad is led by senior captains Dana Parker and Kyle Loudin. Loudin leads the team offensively with 42 points on 21 goals and 21 assists. Other leading scorers include sophomores Wayne Burke and Brandon Bailey. Burke has 18 goals and 21 assists, while Bailey has 13 goals and 22 assists. Goalkeeping duties have been handled by junior Patrick Kvasnicka.

### Wrestlers Gearing Up For Postseason

The Lakewood High School Wrestling team is having another solid season under the direction of Head Coach Vince Curiale. In December, the team won the North Ridgeville tournament with a 5-0 record. Also in December, they placed second in the ten-team Vermilion tournament and posted a third place finish out of ten teams at the Cuyahoga Heights Tournament. In January, the squad competed in the Lake Erie League Duals, defeating three of their five opponents.

Although the entire team has contributed, Senior Matt Curley has been a standout. He became LHS' all-time winningest wrestler by notching his 118th win at the Avon Lake tournament in early December. He also earned first team LEL honors by going 4-0 at the LEL duals.

The Rangers will host their final home meet on Friday, February 10th against Valley Forge and Bedford. State championship tournament competition will begin the following Friday, February 17th at Southview High School. For more information on the LHS wrestling program, including information on Middle and Grade School programs, go to [www.rangerwrestling.com](http://www.rangerwrestling.com).

### Coaching Changes For Soccer Programs

This will be an offseason of change for both the boys' and girls' soccer programs, as both head coaches have parted ways with the school. Boys' Coach Winston Jacobs leaves after another very successful season, as the team won the LEL title and the District Championship. During his ten year tenure, the program grew into a state championship contender and an area powerhouse. Girls' Coach Randy Martin is also leaving LHS after two years at the helm. Athletic Director Dan Gerome hopes to have the new coaches hired by March.



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# Lakewood Schools

## Lakewood City Schools Students and Administrator Honored at Ohio Music Educators Association State Conference

By Anne Palomaki



Jessica Kless and Alex Krueger, now members of the All-State Orchestra.



All-State Honors Choir. Lakewood High had 11 students in this choir, more than any other school. These students were Charlotte Bauer, Lauren Fraley, Marisa Perez, Lucia Stavros, Katharine Bussert, Neil Anderson, Ben Krumreig, Max DeBaltzo, Josh Laux, Peter Tabeling, and Seth Taha. Dr. Lisa Hanson is the director of the LHS choirs.

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### All-State Choir Members - 11

The Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) State Conference was held in Cleveland last week. In preparation for the conference, over 500 choral audition tapes were submitted to the planning committee. 155 students were selected from these tapes to perform in the All-State Honors Choir. Lakewood High had 11 students in this choir; more than any other school. These students were Charlotte Bauer, Lauren Fraley, Marisa Perez, Lucia Stavros, Katharine Bussert, Neil Anderson, Ben Krumreig, Max DeBaltzo, Josh Laux, Peter Tabeling, and Seth Taha. Dr. Lisa Hanson is the director of the LHS choirs.

### All-State Orchestra Members - 2

Two orchestra members were selected for the All-State Orchestra: violinist, Alex Krueger, and cellist, Jessica Kless. Ms. Beth Hankins is the conductor of the orchestra and the "Lakewood Project", the rock orchestra.

### Lakewood Project

Two teachers presented workshops by invitation. Ms. Hankins' workshop was titled "Alternative Styles for the Classical Orchestra," which culminated with a performance by the "Lakewood Project" at The House of Blues before a standing room only audience. The LHS barbershop quartet, Vive L' Four opened the concert.

Mrs. Kate Bassett, the Grant elementary music teacher presented a workshop for elementary school teachers entitled "Kodaly in the Classroom." Kodaly is a technique for teaching general music. Students from Grant school participated in the workshop.

Mr. Rick Berdine, the Lakewood City Schools Treasurer was honored as OMEA's Administrator of the Year for his continued support of the music program in the school district. He had been nominated by Ms. Beth Hankins and recommended by Mr. Brian Maskow, the Lakewood High Band Director, Dr. Lisa Hanson, and Dr. David Estrop, Superintendent of schools.




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## Chef Geoff's Mid-Winter Fireside Chinese Picnic

I'm not altogether sure how the practice of my family having a picnic in January came about. Most likely, it was a combination of fortuitous events that took place back in the early '90s. On a rather bleak January Saturday, I had enlisted my young adventurous son in a culinary field trip. My stocks of oriental staples had run low, and I thought that Jason would enjoy seeing something a bit more exotic than Heinen's, so we headed down to Payne Ave., and the Chinese markets. We spent a pleasant Saturday in Cleveland's Chinatown district restocking my pantry with the normal staples for Oriental dishes; chili pastes, black bean sauce, rice noodles, oyster sauce, preserved ginger and various oils. My son was fascinated with all of the exotic smells, packages and strange grocery items. "What's THAT?" was asked frequently and after the explanation, there was usually a remark suggesting disbelief. "Those aren't REALLY dried eels, are they?" "Why would anyone eat SEA-WEED? UGH!" With our bags packed full, and the car loaded, we headed for home, amidst myriad questions about what WE were gonna do with all that "neat stuff". As I think back on how the dried mushrooms, fungus and strange bottles compared to the usual Saturday haul from the grocery store, I guess our many bags really did contain "Neat stuff", especially when viewed through the eyes of an eight year old. But, at the time, I really had no intention that WE would be doing anything with our purchases, that is beyond schlepping them home and putting them away.

When we arrived home with our bursting bags of "neat stuff" it was clear that the rest of the family had a severe case of post-Christmas cabin fever. It was too cold and nasty to be outside, the novelty of the new Christmas toys was gone, and boredom had descended into our midst with a palpable thud. Even Molson, our yellow Lab, was lethargic. As I began restocking the larder, the inquiry came again. What are WE gonna do with this neat stuff? Only now, it was being echoed by Jason's siblings. Those who know me understand that I have a certain sarcastic edge, which is not meant to be taken either seriously, or literally. With my knack clearly showing, I said simply, "We're going to have a picnic".

### By Chef Jeff Endress

And they took me seriously. "What a great idea!" "Do the Chinese have picnics?" The morbid spell of cabin fever was broken, and thus was born the Mid-Winter Fireside Chinese Picnic. Having never had a mid-winter fireside Chinese picnic (and without any guidance from Julia or Fanny) I was understandably concerned about what would be appropriate for the menu. In point of fact, my suggestion had not been meant seriously, but, now I was stuck. I had committed to a Fireside Chinese picnic, and I was expected to produce one, even if I invented it as I went along. I reasoned that since a normal summer picnic usually involved burgers and dogs and utensil free fare that the same would also be appropriate for our MWFCP. My culinary muse provided the answer and inspiration; a midwinter fireside Chinese picnic should be a dim sum feast.

And so it was that on a bitterly cold January Sunday, while the family moved the furniture out of the family room, stoked the fireplace and laid down our picnic blankets. I found myself making egg rolls, steamed barbecued pork buns and pot stickers, satay beef, shrimp toast and 5 spice chicken wings, hot and sour soup and MooShu pork. With platters of food spread before us on the floor we indeed did picnic. I had great fun in the kitchen (as I always do) and the novelty of the event broke through the doldrums and winter's hold. We have repeated the tradition almost yearly since the first MWFCP, although as the children grew into teenagers, some of the allure was lost.

Sometimes, when faced with a nagging case of boredom, the only solution is to do something that is just a little wacko. Of course, you can have a MWFCP with carryout, and I suppose that is acceptable, but the rewards you earn when you teach people that not every egg roll comes from a freezer box are worth the time of a home made effort. Besides, if you really want to learn a party trick to amaze your friends, learn how to make egg rolls. I guarantee that your made from scratch, freshly cooked, crispy golden brown cylinders will get a great many oohs and ahhs. As an added bonus, you'll

have the experience of stepping out of your culinary comfort zone to create a fun food that is universally popular.

The procedure for making egg rolls is really not difficult, and while I would recommend that you purchase the wrappers and not attempt to make them from scratch, the remainder of the ingredients and cooking technique is straight forward. It is also a recipe that allows for endless substitution and variation. While I typically use shrimp, if that presents a problem, due to allergies or otherwise, the crustaceans can be omitted without seriously damaging the end product. Likewise, if vegan

dietary practices cause you to cover in the face of pork, there's absolutely nothing wrong with creating a vegan egg roll (although, technically, I believe that the end result would actually be a spring roll). The possible variations are only limited by your imagination, as demonstrated by the huge amounts of "pizza" rolls consumed annually and a number of carriage trade restaurants that feature some form of an egg roll stuffed with lobster or other exotics.

Pull out your wok, get the ginger and garlic minced, stoke the living room fireplace, move the furniture, and think out of the box. Despite cold temperatures, snow or mud, a MWFCP will give you a break from winter's doldrums.



### Annie the Therapy Dog

By Anne Palomaki

Lakewood resident Bill Freund adopted Annie from the Weimaraner Club of Greater Columbus in September 2003. She had been rescued from the Delaware County Animal Shelter. Annie has been trained as a pet therapy dog at the North Coast Dogs Ltd. training center in Lakewood and was accepted into The Cleveland Clinic Canine Corps after receiving her certification from Therapy Dogs International.

Annie works in the Children's Hospital and the Surgical Family Lounge at the main campus and will begin to volunteer at Lakewood Hospital as part of their pet visitation program. She also visits the children who come to Lakewood United Methodist Church as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Anyone with a dog who has received certification in pet therapy and is interested in volunteering at The Cleveland Clinic should call Andrea Miller in Volunteer Services at the Clinic at 216-444-5619.

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# Lakewood On-The-Threshold

## The Uncertainty Principle

By Stephen Calhoun

In the aftermath of our saving trip to Wal-Mart, it seemed the evening's quest was profoundly about the nasty Iraq business. . . the war come home. Why not? In the background of our night journey was an American fighter, a vet out of Iraq cast away to Lakewood, into an apartment with no bed.

This patriot, with delicate eyes and curling lashes, had served his country, he told us, in two wars. On this night, he wished to sleep not on floor, on sands, on army cot. He is a thirty-something veteran of never-ending war. (I think to myself never-ending war is the first novel concept of the 21st century.) Does this also mean wars always beginning and begun again, forever? Does this mean: wars which have no possible outcome; wars for which there will never be a certain victor, or loser?

Soldiers require war. There will be hundreds of thousands more like him. Later, home, there is no bed. Sleepless. Consider the odds.

The sure assertions about Iraq became unsure. Then, there was the bed stolen from the library. Consider the odds of this petty event! How many beds have ever been stolen from a library, even beds-in-a-box? The author and his colleague together understood, 'not many, maybe none ever 'til tonight'. Take both events, stolen bed and criminal war. How many wars started like Iraq started?

Now, consider these odds: that an estranged father would leave his first family and conceive nineteen daughters. Long odds? Impossible? Will those WMD turn up, after all, buried deep in the sand? It's not impossible that they may, some day, turn up — nineteen eons from now.

Maybe the conception of probability no longer applies in our crazy world. Surely, the sane man wants to know the truth, wants to know what is true, what one can be certain of, certain about. No matter what the odds are.

But it's not crazy to want a good night's sleep after shattering desert nights and days. The three of us drove from Lakewood to North Olmsted and Wal-Mart in search of one man's peace. Our soldier friend wasn't concerned. He knows how the rules should work. Rene, the store's top manager, made the Iraq veteran whole again. He had his replacement bed-in-a-box, Wal-Mart came through. It's not such a bad place after all. They take care of the military man.

We drove back to Lakewood. One man's story unfolds. We want to know everything. (Who in their right mind wants to know everything?) He tells us what he's sure of. As for us . . . we're not sure.

Consider the odds. A lot of Johnnies will come marching home out of the frightening theaters of these wars without end. They'll bring back what the war doesn't crack.



**PLEASE DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!**

While the Director of the Lakewood Public Library, Ken Warren, looks on, feeling like a strange alien in the land of plenty, Steve Calhoun proceeds to climb the shelves like the urban studies monkey that he is.



CLICK - "That's priceless." "No, that's \$9.97," said Steve Davis at the reenactment.



Calhoun and Warren ponder what the Manchurian Candidate could do in a place like this with wide open areas, surrounded by canyons of pillows and sports gear.



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# Letters To The Editor

## Dear Lakewood Observer:

Here is a list of companies supporting The Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week February 7-14, 2006 in Lakewood and the surrounding communities. These companies have all contributed in some manner whether it is through helping distribute Awareness brochures or information, selling donation "hearts," donating items for the raffle, or all of the above. The list is ever growing, but this is where it stands as of today:

**The Cleveland Clinic**  
**The Children's Hospital at the Cleveland Clinic**  
**The Congenital Heart Information Network**  
**Rozi's Wine House**  
**Catchin' Some Rays Tanning Salon**  
**The Lakewood Observer**  
**The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce**  
**Burgess Vineyards**  
**Lakewood Hospital**  
**Dairy Queen, Lakewood**  
**The Rush Inn**

**The Cleveland CAVS**  
**The Cleveland Barons**  
**Cerney's Shoes**  
**Geiger's Sporting Goods**  
**Major Hoopples Bar and Grill**  
**Color by Numbers**  
**Breadsmith**  
**Sweet Designs**  
**Panini's, Lakewood**  
**The Ohio Lottery**  
**First Federal of Lakewood**  
**Goddess Blessed**  
**The Cleveland Women's Journal**  
**Local Girl Gallery**

We thank everybody for their time, consideration, and generosity.

Thank you for the support,  
 Corey Rossen

## Mr. Lou's Living in Lakewood: Welcome to the Neighborhood

When I'm down at the Taussig Cancer Center getting my chemotherapy — when I'm being infused with the poison that's going to help me live longer — I have a couple of hours to read, watch television, or, like today, write. Getting treated for a serious illness presents you with an opportunity to reflect on just how damn lucky you are.

For me, getting treated means that there's hope. It means that I still stand a chance of beating back my cancer some and that means I might be around a little longer to enjoy my wife, my children, my friends and my neighbors.

Today I'm thinking about the couple that just moved into the house three doors down from my home on Summit Ave. Their choosing to live in Lakewood, on my street, started me thinking about my neighborhood, how much I love it and how lucky I am to have kids growing up here.

I don't yet know if this couple is married or if they someday intend to have kids, but I want them to know that if family is in their future they have picked a most excellent street in a most excellent city to raise a family.

I love Summit Ave. I love it because kids play kickball and football in our front yards. I love it because instead of being parked in front of a television or a computer the kids are turning a back-

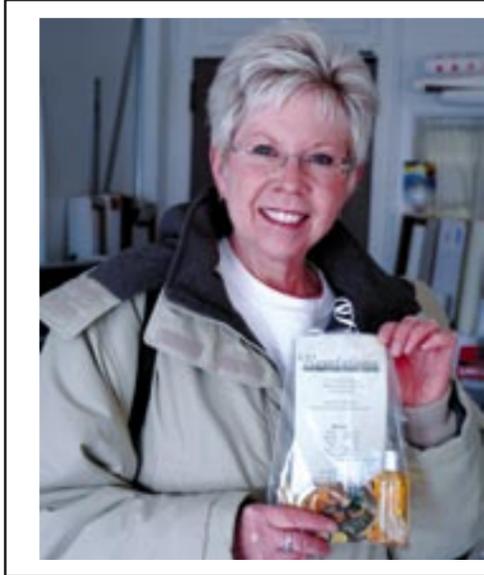
yard into a village or a campsite. They're turning boxes into trains (with scotch tape!) or cars. The kids come together and all of a sudden the garage is an ER. They play tag, or hide and seek.

I love Summit Ave. because when you live in a neighborhood like we have, Halloween night is magical.

I love Summit Ave. because I know who my neighbors are and they know who I am. If I step outside to get my paper there are nine or ten houses whose occupants will exchange a "Hello!" or a "How are you?" if they happen to be outside.

I love Summit Ave. because the people who live there are generous with their time and their talent. I can't even begin to count the number of times they have helped my family when I've had surgery or radiation or chemo. They've brought us meals, they've helped me manage my younger kids when I couldn't, they've provided us with emotional support when we've needed it. They are loving people anyone would be lucky to know.

So, to the new couple on the block I just want to say that in time you'll come to recognize how wise a decision you made when you decided to move to Summit Ave. in Lakewood. Welcome to the neighborhood.



### Contest Winner!

Pat Gibson, winner of Chef Geoff's contest from our last issue.

She is pictured here with her prize, contributed by Revelations Salon.

The correct answer was an English Muffin splitter.

# Lakewood Personalities

## The Adam Riedy Story

# Not All Champions Wear Medals

By Mike Deneen

There is an old adage that says character can be measured not by how you handle success, but by how you handle adversity. No one embodies this better than Lakewood resident Adam Riedy, who was set to be part of the US Olympic speed skating team in 2002. Riedy's opportunity to represent his nation was abruptly snatched by his diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis, which prevented him from competing in the games. Rendered unable to compete, Riedy has spent the past four years transforming his life into that of a coach and mentor to other speed skaters.

Adam Riedy's childhood was like that of a typical Lakewood kid. He grew up on Riverside Avenue and enjoyed running around with his friends, camping in the backyard and playing with fireworks on the Fourth of July. He also really loved sports. He spent many hours participating in Lakewood Recreation programs such as football, baseball and basketball. He even played for three years on St. Luke's football team, and caught the game-winning touchdown in the city championship game. Not a large kid, he had great speed, and was considered to have the potential to be a high school star and possibly a Division I college recruit.

Although he loved the traditional American sports, winter activities held a fascination for Riedy. He loved to sled down Sharkey's Hill and spent many hours at Winterhurst Ice Rink. At first, his time at Winterhurst was spent collecting stray hockey pucks while his sisters practiced figure skating. However, Adam soon realized that he enjoyed skating. Figure skating and hockey weren't his style. He loved speed. So, he took up speed skating, and while still in grade school, he caught the eye of national scouts.

Riedy was invited to train with the junior national speed skating team the summer before his freshman year of high school. Eager to feed to his competitive drive, he accepted the invitation and spent most of his high school years training at facilities in Lake Placid and Colorado. Among the fellow skaters he trained with was another rising star

named Apolo Anton Ohno. Riedy continued to develop his skills, and was expected by virtually everyone in the speed skating community to become part of the 2002 US Olympic Team.

However, in January 2001, fate



Adam Riedy pictured on a rare day in the office.

dealt a blow to Riedy's Olympic dream. He was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, a disease of the central nervous system that can affect muscle control and vision. Despite this development, Riedy continued to train and was ready to compete in the Olympic trials in December 2001. But the week of his time trial, he suffered an attack, and was unable to make the team. American skater Apolo Anton Ohno, who Riedy trained and competed with in the years before the games, won a gold and a silver medal. He became a celebrity, making the talk show rounds and getting endorsement deals. Riedy, on the other hand, spent the Olympics as a spotter for the TV commentators and as a driver for the team's van. He had no fame, endorsements, an incurable disease and an uncertain future.

After the bitter disappointment of Salt Lake City, Adam was at a crossroads. He decided to take a year off from skating in order to sort out his future. He began taking classes at Lorain Community College, and supported himself working jobs at UDF

in Lakewood and The Olive Garden in North Olmsted. However, in May 2003, he was asked to take a coaching position in Marquette, Michigan. He had not planned to return to the sport, but felt that the opportunity to coach

uniform problems and issues regarding rankings and sponsorships. Due to the shortage of available coaches, he works with skaters of all experience levels, from 6-year-old beginners to US Olympians. This would be the equivalent of Bill Cowher simultaneously coaching the Pittsburgh Steelers, a college team and a local CYO team.

Adam spends between 30-50 weekends on the road each year, traveling not only around the eastern US, but also coaching the Junior World Team in international competitions. Among the places he has traveled are China, Serbia and Romania. Although Riedy will not be in Torino at the games, two of his former students will be there. He spent over one year working with US team members Anthony Lobello and Kimberly Derrick.

Although he has grown into the role of coach, Riedy keeps himself in shape. He has not had an attack since 2001, and is taking daily injections of Copaxone to treat his MS. In fact, he is planning to run the Cleveland Marathon this year. "It's one of those things I've always wanted to do" he says. He is also back in school at LCCC and plans to complete a business degree in the next two years. Despite tuition bills, he has no regrets about passing up a football career and the college scholarship that could have come with it. "I love my life right now," says Riedy. He is looking forward to the Winter Games, and is enthusiastic about the future of his sport.

To learn more about US speed skating, visit their website at [www.usspeedskating.org](http://www.usspeedskating.org).



Adam leads the pack into the last turn.

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# Lakewood Live Theater

New Adaptation by Wendy Kesselman

## 'The Diary Of Anne Frank'

Beck Center for the Arts Presents:  
*The Diary of Anne Frank* – new  
adaptation by Wendy Kesselman.  
February 3 – 26, 2006

Lakewood, OH – Beck Center for the Arts is privileged to bring to you Wendy Kesselman's powerful new adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, opening February 3 through the 26th, 2006 on the Beck Center's Main Stage.

Directed by Sarah May, Kesselman's compelling new adaptation of Anne's famous diary captures the terrifying existence of eight European Jews hiding for more than two years from the Nazi's in war-torn Holland. This impassioned drama depicts their fears, their hopes, their laughter, and their grief. Each day of these two dark years for these eight individuals shines

through Anne's clear and powerful voice and for millions who can't tell their stories.

The *Diary of Anne Frank* features Heather Farr as Anne Frank, George Roth\* as Otto Frank and Paula Duesing\* as Mrs. Van Daan. Also, with Brian Bartels, Mark Cipra, Kevin Coughlin, Magdalyn Donnelly, Aaron Dore, Kurt Hildebrand, Bob McCoy, Anne McEvoy, Danielle Price, John Stuehr, and Dawn Youngs.

Director Sarah May is well known to West Shore audiences, most recently through her direction of *The Children's Hour* and *Boy Gets Girl* at the Beck Center. She received the Northern Ohio Live Award in 2001 for *A Piece of My Heart*, and was honored by *The Scene Magazine*, which named her Charenton Theatre production of *Six Degrees of Separation* the "Best Theatre Production" of 2003.

In addition, running simultaneously in the Beck Center Galleria, all audiences will have the opportunity to view *The Anne Frank Story* from February 2 – 22 direct from the Anne Frank Center USA in New York. This exhibit depicts the story of the Frank family in its social and historical context and is an excellent introduction to the life of Anne Frank and the politics of the time.

There are between 1,800 and 2,000 holocaust survivors in the Cleveland area. It is for this reason that the Beck Center has invited Mike Levy, Plain Dealer staff photogra-

pher, who will share images from his series *Living Testament*, which ran this

past October in the Plain Dealer. His exhibit will run from February 2 – 26. Levy strongly believes that through a personal experience with a photograph we can learn and understand.

Beck Center's production of this emotional drama is sponsored by Cox Communications, WCPN 90.3 ideastream, National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ), Lakewoodbuzz.com. and the Cleveland Jewish News. Educational materials were provided by the NCCJ.

Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. There will be a special Thursday evening performance on February 23 at 8:00 p.m. For tickets to *The Diary of Anne Frank* call the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 or log onto

www.beckcenter.org. Ticket prices are \$26 for adults, \$23 for seniors and \$15 for students (22 and under with I.D.). Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more. Rush tickets for students (22 and under with I.D.) are offered for \$10 each on Sundays only, 30 minutes prior to curtain, based on availability. Members of the Maltz Museum of Jewish History will receive a \$5 discount on each ticket purchased. Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

\* *George Roth and Paula Duesing* appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association, the union of actors and stage managers. For more information: (216) 521-2540 Yvette A. Hanzel, extension 225 or Scott Spence, extension 239.



Anne writing in her diary.  
Heather Farr as Anne Frank.



Anne with Peter. Heather Farr as Anne Frank and Aaron Dore as Peter Van Daan.

## Verb Ballets Performs! By Mary Bodnar - Theater Critic

Verb Ballets, Cleveland's National Repertory Dance Company, presented "Verb Pops" at the Beck Center which included the world premiere of their Artistic Director Hernando Cortez' "Super Friends." The Sunday matinee that my family and I attended opened with "MoonDogg", a rock 'n roll fantasia featuring the full Verb Ballets company of dancers plus twelve Beck Center dance students.

"MoonDogg", served up in a radio talkshow format featuring early rhythm and blues music complete with static, was interesting, upbeat, fast paced and indicative of '50s-style dance. My favorite piece in "MoonDogg" was the comical "One Night Only" where Mark Tomasic, a phenomenal dancer, delights in dragging dancers Kallie Bokal, Erin Conway, Katie Gnagy and Ann Roberts off the darkened stage

floor one at a time, showcasing each of the women's dance talents in their corresponding routines. The last number in "MoonDogg," which was performed to Bill Hailey and the Comets song "Saints Rock 'n Roll," was a lively and energetic crowd pleaser.

"Laura's Women," choreographed by Ian Horvath in 1975, founder of the now defunct Cleveland Ballet, proved to be both provocative and enigmatic. Based on the life and times of the soulful Laura Nyro, a '60s rhythm and blues singer, the piece featured the three songs "Emily," "Poverty Train" and "Lonely Women," all haunting and beautiful. Each of the three female dancers symbolized a part of Laura's alter ego from the wild and crazy untamed red head, to the controlled blonde and to the paranoid and fearful brunette. Kallie Bokkal, Elizabeth Flynn and Marcela

Alvarez were all astonishingly compelling in their prospective dance roles.

"Super Friends," the Variety Show, was my least favorite. I am not sure what they were trying to accomplish here. Maybe I am a dance purist or too conservative, but trying to incorporate dialogue, cumbersome stage props, and a way too complicated "monolith of Evil" plot was weighty and took away from the beauty and dynamics of the dancers. Even the elaborate costumes proved to be distracting. If it was meant to be compelling to the children in the audience, the piece fell short there too as my three kids failed to follow the story line. Some of the highlights included when they played the theme songs from the old Saturday morning cartoons and the corresponding dancers came out and performed.

The lighting, done by Trad Burns,

was very creative. In "Laura's Women", the use of appearing and disappearing concentric circles of light on a dark stage floor was dynamic. Equally impressive was the use of backlighting of the superheroes in "Super Friends," showing their dark silhouettes in action as well as creating oversized shadows projected on to the curtains behind the dancers. Creative use of flashing strobe lights revealed dancers in flight for an interesting effect.

Verb Ballets, formerly the cohesive all-women modern dance troop called "The Repertory Project", was formed four years ago and includes 13 professional dancers, including four men. It is a nice addition having male dancers in Verb Ballets. Dance troops like Verb Ballets and the former Repertory Project remind us of how powerful contemporary dance can be.

## Minding the Issues - Gordon Brumm

### The Milgram Experiments and National Self-Delusion

A couple of years ago Mary Hall of the Division of Youth Services spoke to Lakewood Kiwanis. Before beginning her presentation she pointed to bowls laid out on the lunch tables and asked that each of us put something of value in the nearest one. We all did so. (I put in a dollar bill and never got it back. I hope it went to a good cause.) As it turned out, her subject was child abuse, and her request was a way of illustrating how susceptible children are to adults' suggestions. But we didn't know that when we filled the bowls – we did what she asked simply because she was in a position of authority at the microphone. There was a professor at Yale University who would have understood.

Ordinary men made up the Reserve Police Battalion 101 during World War II – ordinary German men around 40 years of age. They had been born too soon to have been indoctrinated as Hitler Youth, and very few were in the Nazi party. Nor were they notably anti-Semitic. Too old for rigorous military duty, they were sent by the Nazi authorities to Poland with the mission of killing Jewish civilians as part of the "Final Solution."

Their first action was at a village named Josefow. Before the action began, their commander gave them the opportunity to refuse, without penalty. (Thus they were not coerced.) About a dozen refused (out of a total of about 500). Then the rest went to work. Part of the battalion sealed off the village while the rest went into the Jewish quarter, seized a hundred or so of the young men for forced labor, and shot the rest – including all the women and children – in a nearby forest. Their commander wept openly during the day, but insisted that "orders were orders." Many of the members of the battalion described themselves as disgusted and nauseated; some broke down midway through the massacre. Nevertheless, they followed their murderous orders

to completion. Subsequent massacres were easier to carry out, and in all the battalion killed 38,000 Jews over a period of several years. Christopher Browning, author of a book on the subject, remarked, "If the men of Reserve Police Battalion 101 could become killers under such circumstances, what group of men could not?" There was a professor at Yale University who would understand.

Among the small group of individuals who have stood out for their contributions to our collective self-knowledge – Socrates and Freud come to mind – I would include Stanley Milgram, professor of psychology at Yale University during the 1960s and author of a set of experiments on obedience to authority that rank among the most famous and most important in the history of psychology.

Let's look at Milgram's experiments. Imagine that you are an ordinary citizen of New Haven. You have come to Milgram's lab in answer to a newspaper ad. You and another participant draw lots to determine who will be "teacher" and who will be "learner" – though as a matter of fact, the drawing is rigged to make you the "teacher." The learner goes into another room. The white-coated experimenter in charge tells you that your task is to administer electric shocks to the learner (who by the way has mentioned that he has a heart condition) whenever he gives an incorrect answer to a question. To administer the shocks, you have an array of levers, in increasing levels of intensity, ranging from "Slight" to "Danger: Severe." With each incorrect answer by the "learner" you are to give a higher-intensity shock. The learner continues to give incorrect answers from time to time, and you continue to give increasingly severe shocks. Soon the learner – whom you can hear clearly – complains that the shocks are too severe. Then he demands to be let out of the experiment; then he cries out that he

can't stand the pain. You may tell the white-coated experimenter that you don't want to continue, but the experimenter says, "The experiment must go on," and assures you that there will be no permanent tissue damage. So you continue to increase the voltage. At a certain point, the learner emits agonizing screams, and past that point he is silent. You continue to give increasingly severe shocks as long as the experimenter instructs you to.

After the experiment is over, you are debriefed. You learn the truth: The "learner" was actually an actor. He really felt no electric shocks. The purpose of the experiment was to find out whether you would inflict pain on another individual for no reason other than your being told to do so by an authority figure.

We should note that some of the subjects refused to go through with the experiment, but they were in the minority. About 65% went through to completion.

The conclusion of the experiment is clear: Anyone – or at least most persons – can be led to do almost anything under the right (i.e. wrong) circumstances.

There is a postscript to Milgram's experiments that is almost as important as the experiments themselves: They are almost universally judged to be unethical. When they are discussed in psychology texts, for example, it is with the disclaimer that such experiments could never be carried out under current ethical standards. The essential reason is that the experiments harm the subjects' self-image, that is, they bring subjects up against the realization that under certain circumstances they would harm another person without good reason. (We should note in passing that the subjects themselves apparently didn't agree with the criticism. When some of them were polled after the experiment, the overwhelming majority said they were glad they

had participated.)

I am completely on Milgram's side in this. I find the criticisms appalling. To repeat, the thrust is that the experiments teach the subjects something they would rather not know. (If the objection is that fragile personalities might be undone by such knowledge, this could be forestalled by screening of prospective participants.) The critics are saying, in other words, that if the message is distasteful, get rid of the messenger. Swept away is the long tradition, beginning with Socrates and the classical Greeks, that extols self-knowledge. Forgotten is the Christian precept that all humans are prone to sin. The criticism and prohibition of Milgram's experiments are rooted in the rejection of self-knowledge and the enshrinement of self-delusion.

Is our self-image so uncertain that we must buttress it with fictions? Is our record so spotty that we must hide it from ourselves? Perhaps so, for self-delusion seems to be a national pastime. We are more attuned to hear that it is "Morning in America" than to confront our real problems. We like to hear that democracies and the United States in particular have never waged an aggressive war. (Tell that to the Indians, and the Mexicans, and the Spanish.) We are told the United States is the most generous country in the world. (In fact, we rank 21st in the amount of foreign aid per Gross National Income.)

Furthermore, self-delusion in this blanket form – the belief that "We never do evil" – easily translates into "Whatever we do, it is not evil," which is to say that "Whatever we do is right." Or to put it into crude practical terms, that our might is right. This arrogant stance may be developed to the greatest degree during the current administration, but it has always been with us and has always been both ugly and pernicious. We need to attend to our Milgrams.

## LCC Offers Labyrinth to the Public

By Kathleen South

Lakewood Congregational Church is offering labyrinth walks to the public. The walk is a meditative tool "representative of life's journey," said Sue Ulmer, Director of Child and Adult Ministries.

Although many labyrinths are outdoors, the Congregational church's is an inside portable model, 36 feet in diameter. The labyrinth, a canvas that lies flat on the floor, is a continuous walkway made up of semi-circles.

Unlike a maze that has many paths, dead ends and ways to get lost, a labyrinth has one path and participants enter and leave by the same location.

The labyrinth has benefits, both spiritually and for physical health, according to Ulmer. "It provides for some, not everyone, a space in time away from the craziness of our schedules. It's a wonderful tool to just slow life down, if only for the time walking." She added that many hospitals are using labyrinths to reduce stress levels for patients and visitors.

Outdoor labyrinths are located at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral downtown, Unity Church in Rocky River and First United Church of Christ in Elyria.

For more information, call Sue Ulmer at (216) 221-9555 or visit the church's Web site at [www.lcc-church.org](http://www.lcc-church.org). The labyrinth will be available at the Lakewood Public Library at 7 PM, January 31.

# The Buck Stops Here

## The Scream

By Robert Buckeye

Edvard Munch's painting, "The Scream," may be the best-known painting of our time, but like most of what we see, read or hear, its circumstances remain hidden from us and our understanding of it may be far from Munch's intentions. We see in the painting what we want to see.

Munch worked on "The Scream" for more than a year, an uncharacteristically long time for him, and painted three more versions of it. He first gave it the title, "Despair," and exhibited it among a group of linked paintings he called "The Frieze of Life" in Berlin in 1893. The series began with "The Voice," a painting of a young girl yearning for love, and takes the viewer through the stages of love to its loss, and a life without love ("The Scream"). The exhibit outraged Berliners and was quickly shut down, causing half the artists in the Berlin Academy to resign in protest. More than half a century later, Hitler banned 82 works of Munch's, including "The Scream" for being decadent art.

"I went along the road with two friends," he explained about the genesis of the painting and "Suddenly

the sky became blood....I just stood trembling with an open wound in my breast. I heard a huge extraordinary scream pass through nature." The road was outside Ekeberg, to the east of Oslo, where the main slaughterhouse of Oslo was located as well as its madhouse, where his sister, Laura, had been put. The screams of animals being butchered and those of the insane were reported to be terrible.

"For several years I was almost mad," Munch writes to a friend later of that time. "You know my picture 'The Scream'....nature was screaming in my blood. I was at breaking point." On one version of "The Scream," Munch scrawls, "Only someone insane could paint this."

Today "The Scream" is not only recognized as a significant painting but also as a viable player in the culture industry. You can buy Scream tee-shirts, coffee mugs, inflatable dolls, whatever. The Munch Museum in Oslo now sells a board game, like Monopoly, in which you try to discover who stole the painting from the museum last year. An American marathoner on our Athens Olympic team had "The Scream" tattooed on her thigh to remind herself of the agony of the race.

No matter the personal circumstances of the artist while he is at work on a painting, nor his efforts to make art do more than art can do (art is the enemy, the poet George Oppen, notes), once he completes the painting it ceases to be his. It may become whatever anyone wants it to be, even if that has little to do with what it is. In at least one instance, Munch dictated one way in which his painting would be used. He let the head in the painting be used in an issue of Social-Demokraten, the journal of the Norwegian Labor Party. The pale, despairing face of "The Scream" was used to represent the cry for a new social order. All Munch – or any artist – can hope for is that we, finally, somehow, understand him. Mon semblable! Mon frere! Baudelaire calls out in one poem. My twin! My brother!

A town newspaper is an unlikely place to discuss Munch's "The Scream," but I would like you to take what I've said about it and see it as a normative anecdote about impulse, creation and product in general. What can we say, for example, about *The Lakewood Observer* in this way? We may talk to its editor, Jim O'Bryan, about it, what he intends, why, and that may help

us understand what the paper does. O'Bryan may want the *Observer* to do what other papers cannot and may see the newspaper as we know it (and as Oppen saw art) to be the enemy, to be what he needs to go beyond.

Our reaction to the paper may have little to do with this. Some may use it for the fireplace. On the street, we may note someone reading the paper as we note what is on someone's tee shirt. Others may pin articles from it on bulletin boards. (What is put on these boards is always highly personal, John Berger notes. "Logically, these boards should replace museums.") This much is clear. O'Bryan has put out there something that was not there before. As much as Lakewood may remain the same, it is no longer the same in some way we don't recognize yet.

Consider the paper O'Bryan's Scream. Do we hear him? Is he up to it as much as we need to be? Can we say that the paper is Lakewood, us, ours, as Baudelaire saw the true reader of his poems to be? Or that it would be greeted, as a miner rising out of the earth in Chile greeted the poet Pablo Neruda, "I have known you for a long time, my brother."



### Lakewood Businesses are Hosting Events to Benefit the Lakewood YMCA Capital Campaign

**Friday, February 24, 2006 from 7 am - 7 pm, Breadsmith of Lakewood, 18101 Detroit Avenue**

Breadsmith of Lakewood will donate all profits to the Lakewood Capital Campaign

**Saturday February 25, 2006 from 10 am - 6 pm, The Candy Bouquet, 17100 Detroit Avenue**

Receive a free bag of candy and coupon with any donation to the Campaign; enter a drawing to win a free candy bouquet

**Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 6 pm - 9 pm, Panini's at the Riviera, 16719 Detroit Avenue**

A \$20.00 donation at the door includes appetizers, beer, wine or well liquor

### Home-Based Businesses

## Their Future Is Now

By Jan Greenfield

I was talking to an environmental buddy recently and he said we have to take into account the bigger picture: since fossil fuels are running out, life will become local. We will grow and eat food locally, socialize more locally and work locally. Already in 2006, home-based businesses are taking off! One estimate believes there are over 800 home-based businesses in the city of Lakewood!

Understanding the vital contribution home-based entrepreneurs make to the business economy of our community, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce held a brainstorming session on January 24th to

see how it can support this new growth industry. Home-based business participants shared some of their challenges, which included finding the discipline to work hard enough to maintain the busi-

ness, reaching out to the community to counteract the invisible nature of working from home and deciding when their growth warrants moving from home-based to a storefront location.

Group members brought up many exciting ideas. Working TOGETHER, we can do MORE! We could rent storefronts as a group or, hold a small-business expo, set up business incubators where space could be rented by the hour, advertise on a page together and network in-person to create new business referrals for all.

To pursue some of these ideas and creatively explore how home-based businesses can support one another, there will be a meeting at the Lakewood

Chamber of Commerce office on Tuesday, February 7 at 8:00 am. To register, please call Kathy Berkshire, the Chamber's Executive Director, at (216) 226-2900.

**There are over 800 home-based businesses in the city of Lakewood!**



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# Lakewood Poetry

## Christopher Steele: Papal Blessings and Dreaming Sophia

By Kenneth Warren

Christopher Steele, a disabled Army veteran and poet, has traveled near and far with the black dog, sometimes depressed and sometimes blessed on the rough road to sweet Lakewood poesy.

At sixty years of age, with *Prelude to Triumph* in hand, Steele states an eloquent goal, "I want to achieve success and love before I die."

*Prelude to Triumph* is Steele's new collection of thirty eight sensual poems and drawings.

"Playful as a puppy" Steele seems a pure Lakewood product, gathering up "the moonfull light seen/on full green nights" and finding inspiration in "squirrels squirting about."



Chris, 1993

Steele sold his first copy of *Prelude to Triumph* to Lakewood Public Library. Praised by Michael Heaton of the PD for his musical voice, Steele has placed CD recordings of *Prelude to Triumph* in Lakewood Public Library and sixteen other libraries across Northeast Ohio.

Steele's dreamy poetry travels far beyond Ohio libraries, however. His talent has caught the attention and gratitude of Italian starlet Sophia Loren, the subject of a fantasy poem dictated to him in a dream state abuzz with "instant honey bees."

Ask Steele whether or not the letter Loren sent him in reply to the gift of his poems is for real, and he will sincerely explain, "Of course, it's for real. I am a compulsive truth teller."

In "To My Father," a poem inspired by Pope John Paul II, Steele offers the ailing Pontiff "a cup of angel tea."

Upon receipt of Steele's deeply spiritual poem, the Holy Father felt compelled to invoke God's blessings upon him. Attesting to this fact is a letter from Monsignor C. Sepe, Secretariat of State Assessor at the Pontifical Apostolic Palace in Citta del Vaticano, which Steele cites in his new collection.

"I should probably put that letter and the one from Sophia Loren in a safe deposit box," says Steele who knows from his poem "Bologna" that his lock on otherworldly treasures "Will be strictly Platonic."



### This Is My Signature:

My goal my desire (through my art) is to leave you - all of you -- with a smile, and nothing but, a smile ...

Send me your melancholy on a deep sigh

Send me your wounds in a plain brown envelope

Send me your loneliness on a (scream!)

And I shall keep them on my lips

And you shall be left with nothing but

A smile in the nude

Christopher Steele

## Lakewood Memorabilia Day Saturday, February 25

The City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Historical Society will host Lakewood Memorabilia Day on Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Avenue. Lakewood organizations and community members will display their Lakewood memorabilia and artifacts.

The Lakewood Historical Society



will be bringing a few items from their collection, including some Civil War letters. There will also be representatives from city departments, churches, businesses and other organizations on hand to show and explain their Lakewood Memorabilia.

Anyone interested bringing items to Lakewood Memorabilia Day can pick up an entry form at Lakewood City Hall or call (216) 221-7343 or (216) 529-6650. Entry forms must be received by Friday, February 17, 2006.



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LIQUID INTELLIGENCE

## Lakewood Pets

# Cat Up a Tree

By Mary Bodnar

Okay, okay, by no means deserving a title as intriguing as "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" but certainly a story just as worthy, so read on dear devoted reader. On Saturday, January 7, my friend Bill from church came over to drop something off at the house. His huge amicable gray Weimaraner dog, Annie, was not on her leash and came bounding into my fenced-in backyard on Belle Ave.

Unbeknownst to Bill and Annie, my brave and courageous black cat Punkin was in the backyard at that moment. Punkin is normally only allowed out on his leash. For those of you unenlightened cat owners, cats roaming free threaten the song bird population (yes, I am a bird aficionado and have a parakeet named Angel who abides in the same abode with this ferocious predator Punkin) and cats off the leash also tend to have very shortened life spans.

However, in winter I get lazy (putting on boots and coat, going outside and putting him on his leash prove to be too much) and he is a complete wimp in winter, so our very lax routine has become as follows: he runs out, untethered, and he comes back meowing when his little dainty feet can't handle

the cold anymore. It is a simple routine and everyone is happy.

Well, not this day. Bill comes to my door and informs me my darling cat is 30 feet up in my neighbor's tree. "No, no" I say, "can't be. My cat has no front claws." This would render him incapable of performing such a miraculous feat you say? Wrong. There he was up in a tree.

He stopped when he got to the first horizontal branch (25 to 30 feet off the ground) and was balancing precariously. Each paw was lined up in a row on a branch no wider than the width of my finger. It looked like a branch that Angel would choose to perch on – very small and not capable of withstanding his lightweight cat body. It appeared that a strong wind could take him down at any moment. Okay, here comes the very inhumane part. I took an extra 20 seconds to run back in the house and get my camera while my cat looked on, speechless. Not even a piteous meow escaped his lips. My husband, the NON-pet lover, was the heroic one who ran to the garage to get the ladder. Annie was put back in the car right after the incident occurred as my friend Bill looked on anxiously.

Oh, by the way, I called the Lakewood Fire Department and they very unceremoniously informed me that no, they do not rescue pets. He also informed me that contrary to what I believed from stories, movies and TV shows I may have seen, that no, this is not something they do. However, I would be remiss if I did not reveal that they redeemed themselves slightly by calling back a half hour later to see what happened to the cat. No flowers, cat nip cookies or "Get Well Soon" cards were forthcoming. Gosh, even our turtle got a personalized letter from our minister in August when he got lost.

I stood under the tree, directly under Punkin's body, or so I thought, while Michael tried to coax him backwards on the branch. His hand was probably still a good two feet from being able to grab Punkin's body. Punkin could not back up on that skinny little branch, poor thing. Instead, Michael's motions caused him to slip and fall into the classic "Hang in there, baby" pose, which elicited screams from both me and my eight year old daughter, Franchesca. He hung precariously like that for maybe three seconds and then, to my horror, let go.

His little black body came hurtling down at me from the sky at break neck speed. He hit my right hand, then bounced off my right shoulder and chest and hit the ground. Michael and Bill say I broke his fall. I still feel guilty that I wasn't lined up better. Perhaps I was worried his rear end was going to hit me in the face, who knows.

Anyway, he's no worse for wear physically and after hiding under the deck for a short time we brought him into the house where he received a very happy homecoming and lots and lots of hugs and kisses.



August Armstrong, the president of Lakewood Dog Park, with Calpurnia, who has been featured on greeting cards from American Greetings.

## California Native Brings Disney Magic to Dog Park

By Mike Deneen

In November 2005, the Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park elected August Armstrong to serve as its new President. A native Californian, she worked at Disneyland creating window displays for the park's famous "Main Street." Nowadays, Armstrong is working to make sure the Lakewood Dog Park is no "Mickey Mouse" operation.

Armstrong moved to northeast Ohio in 1992, when her company, CreateACard, was acquired by American Greetings. She arrived at Hopkins Airport on a cold December day with her dog Socrates, a bouvier des flandres, two cats and a sleeping bag. While waiting for her furniture to arrive from Los Angeles, the only things in the town home she was leasing were a card table and a sleeping bag. Every night all the pets would try to sleep with her on that sleeping bag. She bought a house in Lakewood in 1993, but later realized that unlike many parts of Southern California, her dog could not go to any park here.

Armstrong has always either had dogs or been around her relatives' dogs. Socrates was her first dog as an adult. She and Socrates used to go sheep herding for fun on the weekends. Socrates passed away from cancer in 1999. Right now she has a six-year-old English bulldog named Calpurnia and a French bulldog puppy named Picasso. Calpurnia, quite the photogenic bulldog, is featured on several American Greetings cards.

Like many Lakewoodites, Armstrong was excited when the dog park

opened in June, 2003. She has routinely visited at least once a week and sometimes four or five times in a week. She has built a friendship with many of the regular park users, and decided in 2005 to accept a leadership role in the Friends of the Dog Park organization. The group, originally founded in 2002 to advocate and raise funds for the construction of the park, has remained active in the maintenance, improvement and planning of the park since its opening.

Armstrong, who now works as a Senior Graphic Designer for her firm, August Arts Inc., has already made a positive impact on both the "Friends" organization and the park itself. She organized December's successful "Clean up" day at the park, and has installed new signage and equipment at the park. Plans for 2006 include more volunteer clean up days, increasing membership and working with the city on park maintenance. For more information on the group or the dog park, visit [www.lakewooddogpark.com](http://www.lakewooddogpark.com).



Michael tries to coax Punkin down. This is seconds before the famous "Hang In There Baby" pose and fall.

# Lakewood Art - Gallery Watch

## Sweet Art for Your Sweetheart

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark & Christine A. Kazimer

The calendar says it is almost February 14th; you know what that means? The most romantic holiday of the whole year will soon be upon you! If you have a sweetheart, he/she may be expecting a little something in a gift-wrapped box. Things really haven't changed much since Valentine's Day was first popularly celebrated in the mid-nineteenth century in both Great Britain and the United States. By that point, it had become common for friends and lovers of all social classes to give small tokens of affection to each other. The traditional Valentine's Day gifts were flowers, chocolate and jewelry. If it's usually a struggle for you to find that perfect declaration of your love, know that you're not alone—we have some wonderfully amorous ideas from several of Lakewood's art galleries to help you in your search for that perfect gift for your Sweetheart.

So, make sure you check out Local Girl Gallery for their Valentines Day Special. They will be open for business on February 13th from 12-6 for any last minute gifts! So stop in that Monday and also Tuesday the 14th as tasty treats and beverages will be served to get you in the mood for love. They offer a fine selection of jewelry, hand made soaps, scarves, and original artwork. If you mention the "Observer" you'll

receive 10% off of your total purchase! There's also still plenty of time to come in and make an original hand painted silk scarf or piece of jewelry. Openings are available on Sunday, Feb. 5th and Sunday, Feb. 12th.

Don't forget about setting that erotic mood for the holiday; Pop Shop offers a lovely selection of handmade scents and candles ranging in price from \$1 to \$5 for individual ones and \$15-\$30 for boxed scents. Scents available range from fruity to Chocolate or Vanilla. They even have scents called Moonlight and Aphrodisiac. Talk about setting a mood!

Many times, what your love most wants is to spend some quality time with you. How about treating your angel to a romantic excursion to see Wobblefoot Gallery's newest work in progress; they are in the process of revamping their ceilings by painting angels on panels and placing them above; how enchanting to have angels hovering above your head when you're looking into the eyes of that special someone. It's always romantic to view their many renowned artists' works with someone you love.

And finally, make it a point to pop over to bela dubby to share a relaxing, casual moment taking in the artwork while you sigh over a cup of coffee;

Artists Chris Sweiger and Diogenes Basileos will be in appearance the entire month of February with their "trash or treasure show" featuring unique hand-made jewelry. The "flourish" collection is especially charming.

Whatever or whichever you choose, we're sure your better half will be flat-

tered that you took a different path in choosing their Valentine's Day gift.

*"I tell you, the more I think, the more I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people."*

—Vincent Van Gogh  
(not a resident of Lakewood)

### bela dubby

13221 Madison Avenue  
216.221.4479

The "trash and treasure" show, a collection of works by the artists of artifactual creations, Christopher Sweiger and Diogenes Basileos, will run from February 1 through the 28th. The opening will be on Friday, February 4th from 6 pm - 1 am. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am - 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am-midnight.

### Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue  
216.228.1802

Honor In The Heart, by Ruth Fawcett, Saturday, February 18th 7-9 p.m. Meet this Educator-turned Author as she signs and reads from her new novel, Honor in the Heart. Do you like fiction? Want characters so real they jump off the page? Need a bit of suspense? Charmed by children? Honor in the Heart gives readers a fresh, behind the scenes look at schools. But the real story is the private lives of the characters as they struggle to find acceptance, honor, and love, which we all do. It underscores in a profound and memorable way the fragility of human character. Event is free and open to the public. Contact Linda @ 216-228-1802 for further info. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-5 pm, Friday and Saturday, 12-6 pm.

### Pop Shop Gallery and Studio

7020 Madison Avenue  
216.227.8440

The "Free4All" show will continue through February 24th. The show houses 17+ local area artists displaying new contemporary works.

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 9:30-11 pm, Thursday 4-11 pm, every other Saturday and Sunday 1-6 pm. The gallery is open other days depending on artists schedules or by appointment.

### Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio

1662 Mars Avenue  
216.226.2971

Ongoing contest to win an 11" x 14" print of Stone Horsemen by S. Lane. To enter, visit [www.wobblefoot.com](http://www.wobblefoot.com). Entry deadline is February 24th.

Call for Artists: Wobblefoot is seeking outstanding wildlife artists to show on their webpage. Artists should call for an appointment and bring their portfolio at the time of interview.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-4 pm.

Art gallery news and event information should be forwarded to [gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com](mailto:gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com). Every effort will be made to include it in our next column.

If you have a question about art that you would like researched, please forward it to [gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com](mailto:gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com) and we'll do our best to answer it and include it in our next column.

## Classifieds

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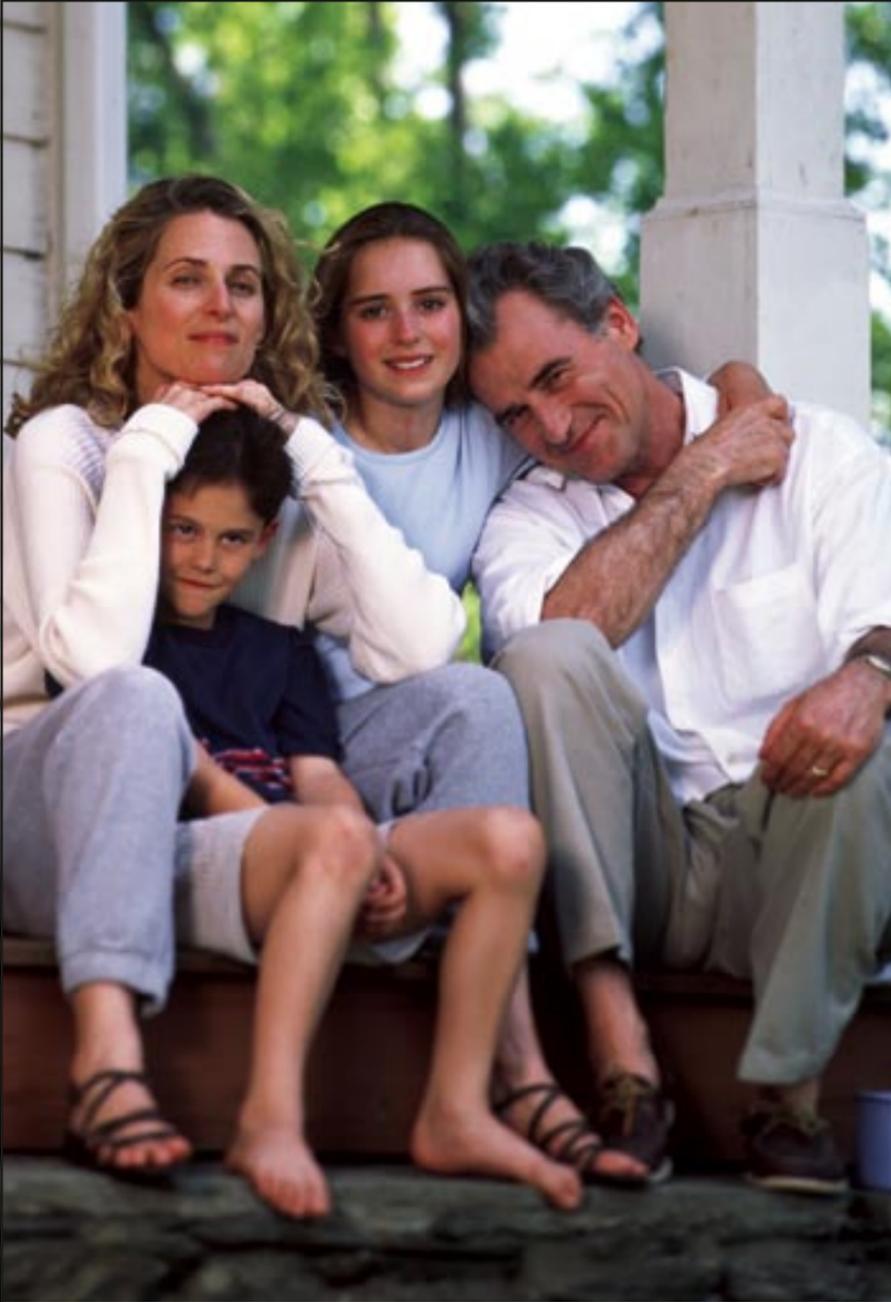
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