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Volume 2, Issue 23, November 14, 2006

Lakewood Honors Its Brave Veterans

by Scott MacGregor

Veteran's Day 2006 in Lakewood, Ohio. On a cold, rainy day in the park along Lakewood's Erie shoreline, a thoughtful assembly of mere mortals gathered around a special group of citizens to pay homage to Freedom and to the men and women who have fought

and survived the storms from which it comes, our nation's Armed Forces Veterans.

Done in by disagreeable crying skies, an elaborate program which included an Air Force flyover and a traditional 21 gun salute had to be cancelled. Instead, the program was shifted to the park's indoor pavilion.

Despite the inclement weather, the facility was filled to the brim with politicians and ordinary citizens of all ages. Well interspersed throughout the crowd was a veritable tapestry of generational warriors, men and women growing older on memories of places with distant names such as Normandy, Iwo Jima, Chosin, Da Nang, Kuwait,

and Baghdad. For these Vets, the flyovers and rifle salutes aren't why they gather on this day. They gather on this day for reasons of their own.

The ceremony began with the traditional Presenting of the Colors which was followed by a lovely rendition of the National Anthem, sung **continued on page 5...**

photo by Scott MacGregor



Richard Healey, Chairman of the Lakewood Veterans' Advisory Council receives a special proclamation from Mayor Tom George for a job well done.



The Lakewood High School Marching Band stopped by to show respect to our Veterans. Avoiding the rain, drummer Blaze Mulryan, doesn't allow the rain to put his fire out. In the dry are; Mike Hazlett, Ass't Band director, Jonathan Zappala, Rachel Kowalski, and Sean Liggett. The effort was greatly appreciated.

Development Update - Good!



The Lakewood Y.M.C.A. is only weeks away from opening. Looking through the window you can now see the exercise equipment ready to go. Join Today!



In the circle, Pat Foran and Rick Foran look at the cliff that will soon be home to The Cliffs, Lakewood new riverfront condos. It was a difficult ground-breaking to get to!



Rosewood Place places the name on the corner of building, a couple days after the sales office opened. By the time you read this the windows will be in place. All three developments have mentioned a strong interest in the projects.

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Lakewood Events

Open House For Silhouette School Of Dance This Saturday: Celebrating 20 Years Serving The Community

by Ruth A. Koenigsmark

Ever since Donna Rakerd was a little girl growing up in, she knew she wanted to be a dancer.

Miss Donna, as she is referred to by her students, the owner of Silhouette School of Dance has been running her business in Lakewood for the past 20 years. She decided she wanted to expand and have more space which triggered her decision to relocate the business to its current location.

Silhouette School of Dance is located 12501 Madison Avenue, on the second floor.

An Open House will be held Saturday, November 18 from 9:30 to 3:30.

Miss Donna said this is a perfect time for people to see what the classes are like, ask questions and register. Students that enroll in classes will receive a free long-sleeve Silhouette t-shirt.



The Open House Dance Schedule is as follows: 9:30am-10:45am—Intermediate Pre Pointe Ballet Technique 11:00am-12:10—Pee Wee Beginner Ballet/Tap Combo 12:30am-1:45pm—Acrobatics 2:00pm-3:30pm—Hip Hop

Miss Donna and her staff teach ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics and hip-hop. Classes are broken down by age group and ability, with ages ranging from 3 to adult. Miss Donna said there is still room available in all age groups and beginners are welcome. She likes to

spend time with the parents and children to determine the perfect fit for the student. She prides herself in offering personalized one-on-one instruction and guidance to each student. An example of this is the visualization she gives her students about the “little dancer in your heart” and how dance comes from within.

Miss Donna has been dancing

since age 4, taking classes in studios much like her own, until she attended Kent State University. At Kent she pursued a degree in Social Service and also continued dance. She and has been teaching for the last 20 years. She attends several educational training seminars and conventions throughout the year and is an active member of Dance Masters of America.

“Taking dance classes is not just about dance,” Miss Donna said. “It helps kids gain self confidence, raise their self esteem and learn all at the same time.”

If you are unable to attend Silhouette Dance and Fine Arts Studio and are interested in learning more about the Studio, please contact Donna Rakerd at 216.228-3871.

LUMC Celebrates 130th Anniversary

Lakewood United Methodist Church will celebrate its 130th Anniversary on November 19. The celebration begins with the worship service at 10:00 a.m., during which time 50 year members will be honored. Seventy-four people have been members for 50 years or more.

At 11:30 a.m. an Old-Fashioned

Church Potluck will be held in Daniels Hall of the church. Meat will be provided, and persons are asked to bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.

Everyone is invited to attend. The church is located at 15700 Detroit Ave., at Summit, in Lakewood. For additional information, call 216-226-8644.

Build a Gingerbread House for Habitat for Humanity

Lakewood United Methodist Church will hold its annual Gingerbread House Event on Friday, December 1, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Daniels Hall of the church. This is a festive time for family and friends to build a gingerbread house and to begin celebrating the Christmas season. All materials will be provided.

Tickets are priced at \$8 for each house to be built. There is no charge for those attending but not building a house. There is a limit of 200 tickets. They can be purchased in the church office, at 15700 Detroit Ave., at Summit.

Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity. For additional information, call 216-226-8644.

Lakewood Historical Society Holiday Wreaths

Celebrate the holiday season and show your support of our outstanding Lakewood Historical Society by displaying a beautiful wreath. Trimmed with red and white poinsettias, pinecones, berries and a red bow, each wreath is handcrafted by members of the Society.

The wreath is available with or without the 2007 Lakewood Historical Society Calendar. The calendar features images pulled from our vast archives of historic Lakewood photographs. Celebrate the rich history of our community every day of the year! Quantities are limited. 2007 Calendars are available for purchase through mail order or in Lakewood at Geiger's Clothing and Sports (14710 Detroit) and Rozi's Wine House (14900 Detroit Avenue) and in Westlake at Borders at Promenade of Westlake (30121 Detroit Avenue),

The Lakewood Historical Society is

now accepting orders by mail. Wreaths are \$30 each, calendars are \$6. Orders with checks made out to the Women's Board of the Lakewood Historical Society should be sent to Mrs. David Hughes, 2175 Niagara Lakewood, OH 44107. Order deadline is November 18, 2006.

For more information, contact the Lakewood Historical Society, at 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, 216 221-7343

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.

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City Council

Century Church Celebrated

Council 11.06.2006

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

Another Lakewood church reached the 100 year milestone. City council and Mayor Thomas George recognized the United Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in a resolution introduced by council member Nickie Antonio (at large). The church is located at the corner of Andrews and Detroit and this congregation has worshipped at that location since 1963. The church has been at the center of Latvian heritage and activities for that community in Northeast Ohio for its 100 year history. One of the rites of Lakewood springtime is witnessing many dozens of the church members sprucing up the grounds on a spring Sunday.

The State Auditor's Office has concluded an extensive audit of the finances of Lakewood. This is the first audit of its kind since 2000. The city received an unqualified audit opinion, which means the Auditor of State has no reservations concerning the financial statements presented and that there were no deficiencies in the financial statements or the accounting standards employed by the city.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae was a past employee of the State Auditor's Office and knows the importance of accurate financial reporting. While perhaps not as glamorous as a first responder receiving an award for saving a life, municipal "bean counters" have their own recognition. In this case, Lakewood will receive for 2005 the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and a second Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Financial Officers Association.

Along with this past excellent record, Pae will push for updates that she feels are needed in the area of purchasing and contracting.

This past year has seen some of the most intense construction activity in Lakewood over the past few decades. Preceding public construction or improvements is the design and planning conducted by various agencies. So, a predictor of next year's activities can be seen in this year's design contracts. One contract in the amount of \$93,750 is being awarded to City Architecture



Inc. for a Detroit Avenue Streetscape Study. This is part of the Mainstreet Study and is centered on Detroit Avenue.

A second contract is with Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for planning improved pedestrian access to the Cleveland Metroparks at Hogsback Lane. The other two Lakewood entrances have been rebuilt in the past few years and Hogsback is the last Lakewood entrance to be rebuilt. It serves a large number of Lakewood and Cleveland residents. In the early spring, a party of five hiked the area to gather some preliminary ideas about trails and access to that area of the "valley." The group included Planning Director Thomas Jordan, Ward One council member Kevin Butler, Planning Commission member William Grulich, neighborhood resident Keith Johnson, Common Pleas Judge Timothy McGinty who lives nearby, and this reporter.

McGinty is an avid runner and hiker. He was instrumental in suggesting improvements to barrier walls as part of the Riverside Drive reconstruction and has insights to improve pedestrian access, bicycle paths, and hiking trails. Interested visitors should

keep an eye open for public meetings on the Hogsback rebuilding.

A perennial controversial topic in government is the salary of elected officials. In Lakewood the mayor's salary has remained the same for over a decade and council pay has been constant for over 25 years. It has been felt by several groups including charter review commissions, civil service commissions,

and citizen government groups that those two salaries should be raised to attract a wide pool of candidates and be competitive with other cities.

Different proposals have been put forward by council members. One civil service commission member, James Westfall, has proposed that the mayor's salary be increased gradually, in increments of \$2500 over a number of years instead of one big increase. Council member Ryan Demro (ward two) has offered an increase in council salaries and the mayor's salary.

In the previous Lakewood Observer city council article, it was incorrectly reported that Kevin Butler proposed an increase in salary for mayor and council. In an email correction Butler pointed out that, "My proposal only dealt with the position of mayor. I am not a proponent of increasing the salary of council."

The various proposals have been heard by the committee of the whole and have had two readings in front of council. A third reading on the pay raise for council failed with Butler, Michael Dever (at large) Antonio, and Edward Fitzgerald (at large) voting against.

The measure regarding the mayor's salary is still in front of council. In corridor comments, Mayor George indicated that he is "seriously considering vetoing any pay raise ordinance for the office of mayor."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Come on, Lakewood - Let's Recycle!

by Anne Palomaki

A recent newspaper article reported that Lakewood is ranked in the middle of area residential cities for recycling. The city of Lakewood reports recycling as little as 33.7% of their waste. Several other cities report recycling over 60% of their waste.

In the city of Lakewood, we are fortunate to have incredible garbage and recycling services. There are four different trucks that retrieve items from your home. Your garbage is taken from your backyard. The other trucks pick up your recyclables curbside.

One of these recycling trucks picks up newspaper, cardboard, and mixed paper - including books (paper and hardback), catalogs, gift boxes, junk mail, magazines, paper egg cartons, pizza boxes (with no food residue), telephone books, and shredded paper. Paper products like these should be

placed in paper grocery bags, in boxes no larger than two feet by two feet, or tied together in manageable bundles. Each ton of paper made from recycled fibers conserves 7,000 gallons of water, 17-31 trees, 4,000 KWH of electricity, and 60 pounds of air pollution. Last year, the city of Lakewood earned \$80,000 from recycling paper and saved \$80,000 in landfill fees.

Another truck picks up glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, and metal cans. These should be put into blue or clear plastic bags which can be tied together to prevent them from flying away.

The final truck is responsible for yard waste: grass clippings, leaves, and weeds. Your yard waste may be placed in a garbage can clearly labeled, "Yard Waste," in cardboard boxes, or in paper yard waste bags which can be purchased at various stores.

Come on, Lakewood residents - let's recycle at least 50% of our garbage!

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no refuse or recycling collected on Thursday, November 23, 2006. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Monday will have collection on Monday. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Tuesday and Wednesday should have their refuse and recyclables available for collection on the day before their regular day and it will be collected either on that day or their regular day. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Thursday will have collection on Wednesday. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Friday will have collection on Friday. In addition, all Lakewood City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. For further information, contact the Lakewood Division of Refuse & Recycling at (216) 252-4322.



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Lakewood Public Library

Final Session of "In Other Worlds" Tackles the Fiction of Robert E. Howard

by Chris Madak

For the past two months, the Lakewood Public Library's science fiction/fantasy book club, In Other Worlds, has been sustaining a forum in which hardcore genre cultists, interested neophytes, and aficionados of literature in general have come together to treat seminal works of fiction as objects of study and platforms for the development and exchange of ideas. Having already devoured William Gibson's cyberpunk classic, "Neuromancer," as well as R.A. Salvatore's Forgotten Realms epic, "Homeland,"

the book club now sets its sights on Robert E. Howard's "The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian."

The volume in question collects the first thirteen tales of Conan's adventures, written by Howard between 1932 and 1934, and originally published in "Weird Tales," the classic, depression-era pulp fiction periodical that midwifed the "sword and sorcery" genre and served as a locus of activity for the infamous literary circle centered on H.P. Lovecraft, including Clark Ashton Smith, Howard, and others. Howard's contributions to the culture of this group are perhaps best embod-

ied in the character of Conan, to date his most infamous protagonist. While his prose reflects the occult-tinged esotericism and historian's interest in the affairs of ancient cultures and fallen empires associated with Smith and Lovecraft, Howard brings these factors into a powerful synthesis with the heroic narrative traditions of the American West. From a contemporary perspective, it seems clear that Howard, a Texan whose childhood was shaped by the closing of the American frontier and the corresponding crisis of imperial ambition, was eerily

well-positioned to craft a mythology for our times.

"In Other Worlds," is moderated by Nick Kelley, a supervisor of the Library's Technology Center and an avid and seasoned connoisseur of sci-fi and fantasy literature. The book club, which is open to all interested adult readers, will meet to discuss "The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian" on Monday, November 27th at 7 p.m., in Main Library Auditorium. This will be the last meeting of "In Other Worlds" this season, so any and all curious parties are encouraged to attend.

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

Thursday, November 16

Physics in the Everyday World

Dr. Sheila Bailey, Senior Physicist from the NASA Glenn Research Center, believes that scientific literacy can enrich anyone's life. Witness physics at work in your daily routine, probe strange phenomena and clear up some common misconceptions about science. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Friday, November 17

Films on Friday - Strange Brew, Directed by Rick Moranis & Dave Thomas (1983) The McKenzie Brothers stumble through a modern-day Hamlet and drink a lot of beer. Beauty catch, eh? This film is rated PG. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The Lakewood Public Library Foundation presents:

An Evening With Katherine Hall Page

Meet Katherine Hall Page, author of the Faith Fairchild mystery series, and support the Lakewood Public Library Foundation. She'll be promoting her latest book, The Body in the Ivy, which is number sixteen in the popular series. Copies will be available for sale at the event. Tickets are \$35.00, available at the Circulation Desks of the Main Library and the Madison Branch, Borders at the Promenade at Crocker Park and the Beck Center for the Arts. 7:00 p.m. at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

Saturday, November 18

Web Searching Basics

Find what you're looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/>. 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Writer's Workshop

Renew your creative energy and get positive feedback from fellow writers. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just have a hankering to write, everyone is welcome to join this workshop. 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Family Music and More - All-American Heroes

Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, November 19

Sunday With The Friends - Silent Lion: Original Celtic Medieval Music John and Barbiel Saunders perform on bouzouki, mandolin, banjo and guitar. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, November 21

Introduction to PowerPoint

Learn to enhance your presentations and reports with this popular software. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/>. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Thursday, November 23

Closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 25

E-mail Basics It's not too late to join the e-mail revolution. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/>. 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Monday, November 27

In Other Worlds: The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian

Our resident barbarian, Nick Kelley, conquers the worlds of Fantasy and Science Fiction in this exciting new book club. Tonight's title is The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian by Robert E. Howard. By Crom! Read the first thirteen adventures of the barbarian anti-hero as they were originally written. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

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Lakewood Veterans



The show of support was overwhelming, as the crowd was wall to wall, out the hallway, through the front doors and around the Woman's Pavilion.



photo by Scott MacGregor

Harvey W. Streitl looks on.



photo by Scott MacGregor

Keynote speaker was North Olmsted Mayor Thomas O'Grady.

continued from page 1...

by Navy Veteran, Karen Tettlebach, who was accompanied by members of Lakewood High School's outstanding and acclaimed Marching Band.

Opening remarks were given by Mayor Tom George before turning over the microphone to another mayor from our region, Mr. Thomas O'Grady, the mayor of North Olmsted.

Mr. O'Grady is a highly decorated and retired Vietnam-era Army Officer. He delivered a very compelling speech about the deteriorating conditions and lack of funding legislation which hampers the Veteran Administration's abilities to care for our nation's Veterans.

O'Grady points out that many of today's politicians have not themselves served in the Armed Forces which have resulted in a lack of sensitivity for the needs of our Veterans, who are now

in danger of being short changed by Washington, despite the sacrifices that they have made for our country.

The timely relevance of his speech was not lost on this crowd, cognizant of the state of their own Veterans benefits, and the fact that these same politicians have again inserted American forces into harm's way.

Following Mayor O'Grady's presentation, the muffled strains of the LHS Marching Band, playing a "Tribute to America", under the steady direction of Mr. Brian Maskow, could be heard outside the facility.

It should be noted here that the band's performance was courageous under the circumstances. Due to the bad weather and crowded conditions inside the pavilion, the band was forced to perform while standing outside in a chilly downpour for over an hour.

Many of the Veterans could be



photo by Scott MacGregor

Ralph "Pete" W. McGrew in full dress for this event. Pete has been hosting Veteran Coffee Pot Warriors for over a decade at The Coffee Pot. All Vets encouraged to stop by any Saturday morning for breakfast.

heard encouraging the organizers to bring the kids inside, but the band pressed on despite the weather conditions, and were rewarded by sincere, grateful applause from everyone in attendance.

The "Sunshine Committee" then delivered a beautiful harmonizing performance of "Amazing Grace".

As the ceremony wound down, two members of the LHS band, seniors John Kilgore and Nathan Francazio, performed a pitch perfect yet somber rendering of "Taps" which caused more than a few tears to be cast aside from the eyes of many Vets in the room.

In their tears fell the reasons for their presence at this ceremony. A Vet-

eran's thoughts are forever on those who, as Lincoln once said, "gave the last full measure of devotion". They are thinking about their lost foxhole buddies, their lost tail gunners, their lost shipmates, and all of those who weren't lucky enough to be honored here on this Veterans Day. It is the Veteran's job to preserve the memories of The Fallen.

As Mayor O'Grady indicated in his speech, it is the job of the rest of us mere mortals to take care of our brave Veterans who have given so much of themselves so that we can live in Peace and Freedom.

You wouldn't have known it by the weather, but November 11, 2006 was a beautiful day in Lakewood, Ohio.

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Lakewood Sports

A Life of First Downs

by Ronald Ciancutti

It was late fall of 1997. Most of the leaves had fallen and the air had that "bite" to it. I walked into Lakewood Stadium one particular rainy and bitter Saturday morning to find the field wet and slippery. There were about 30 or 40 people in the stands and on the field two 8-year-old flag football teams were about to face off for the championship. In the center of the huddle was my son, Nicco Maddaluno, who had been thinking of nothing else but this game since the season started. Painted down the middle of his hair was a thick red stripe where a real stripe would have been if he had been wearing a helmet. Nicco was more than a little pumped up for the game. He scored three touchdowns before the game ended in a 24 - 22 loss (they run in extra points). The game came down to a final touchdown attempt that Nicco dropped in the end zone when he came down on his belly. Game over. Big trophy goes to the other team. Season over. Everyone goes home. Most of the kids and parents forgot about the game by the time they got home. As everyone left the stadium, Nicco stayed on the bench staring out at the field, tears welling in his eyes. I let him sit there and then just sat by him for a while until he was ready to go. I had already said all of the things a dad is supposed to say about fair play and good sportsmanship. Stuff he knew and frankly, stuff that didn't matter at this moment. The family stopped for

pizza and we went to a movie that night but he never took that look off his face. He and I locked eyes intermittently for days to come and he just swelled with emotion each time. "Let it go, Nicco," I said. "I can't," he would reply.

Fall of 2006, on a rainy and bitter Friday evening on the slippery turf of that same Lakewood Stadium: team captain Nicco Maddaluno held the football tight and fell several yards across the line of scrimmage to surpass 1,000 yards for the season in Lakewood High School's final 2006 game. I stood there as he trotted off the field and smiled at me. I laughed and gave him a thumbs up. Overhead we could hear the announcer telling the stalwart fans that Nicco had just gained 1,000 yards on the season and my family, huddled together under a colorful array of umbrellas, stood and cheered along with all the other loyal parents who have supported each other for many seasons. Despite a frustrating 2 - 8 season, these boys worked hard each and every week and never gave up.

In the nine years since that flag football loss Nicco played baseball, basketball, and a lot of football. He always worked towards making the team better and improving himself to contribute as much as he could. But this year he began his workout regimen almost a full year before the season even started. Jogging, lifting, eating properly, getting to bed early, vitamin supplements - the kid was a health machine. His 1000-yard season goal was something



Despite Brunswick's strength, Nicco had a touchdown and over 170 yards that evening. "They hit really hard," he told me the next morning.

he and I discussed before the first football camp even started. He wanted 10 victories, 10 touchdowns and 1000 yards. Though often bruised and battered, he started each and every game with absolute determination. He also finished every evening in prayer.

I adopted Nicco when he was six weeks old. I'd like to think his mother and I had something to do with the character he showed this season, but the truth is he did most of it on his own. As he worked his body and found the determination to pursue his goals despite substantial resistance, I was in constant awe of his resilience and ability to persevere. There are some colleges that would like Nicco to run the ball for them next year, but we will take a month or two to catch our breath before we start considering those options. In the meantime, I have urged

him to enjoy his accomplishment. Not the yardage or the touchdowns or even the leadership he displayed this year. Rather, the importance of setting goals and striving through difficult odds to achieve them. In a 1957 speech Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "We succeed only as we identify in life, or in war, or in anything else, a single overriding objective, and make all other considerations bend to that one objective."

My son and student has come full circle at 17 years of age and become my teacher. While his accomplishments speak volumes about talent and ability, I am endlessly proud of the character he has shown and continues to demonstrate. His one "overriding objective" is clearly living a quality, humble, respectful, faithful, determined life. Congratulations #27. You are a constant source of pride and joy.

Premier Player Lacrosse

by Susan Calleri

When I met my husband Woody, little did I know that I would be a widow at a very young age. A lacrosse widow, that is. Most popular in North America, lacrosse is Canada's official national sport and the fastest growing sport in the United States. Most people I talk to don't know much about lacrosse, and I knew very little about it until I played on a club team in college. Now, of course, I know a little bit more. Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, has this to say about the game:

Lacrosse is a team sport that is played by ten players (men) or twelve players (women), each of whom uses a netted stick (the crosse) in order to pass and catch a very hard rubber ball with the aim of scoring goals, each worth one point, by propelling the ball into the opponent's goal. The team scoring the most points after four quarters, of varying length from competition to competition, and overtime if necessary, wins.

In its modern form, lacrosse is played on a field of grass or artificial turf. Men's teams are composed of 10 players on the field at a time: three attackmen, three midfielders, three defenders and one goaltender; women's teams have two additional midfield-

ers. In men's lacrosse, players wear protective equipment on their heads, shoulders, arms, and hands, as body-checking is an integral part of the game, and stick checks to the arms and hands are considered legal. In women's lacrosse, contact is limited to only minor stick checks, so apart from protective eyewear, players usually do not wear much protective gear (except for the goaltender, who wears additional padding, usually consisting of a helmet, shin guards, and chest pad; some also wear arm pads).

Lacrosse was invented by Native North Americans. It's name was dehuntshigwa'es in Onondaga ("men hit a rounded object"), da-nah-wah'uwsdi in Eastern Cherokee ("little war"), Tewaarathon in Mohawk language ("little brother of war"), and baaga'adowe in Ojibwe ("bump hips").

When Woody and I first met, he coached boys' high school and women's college lacrosse in Western New York. He played lacrosse in college and played regularly while we were dating. Bruises, scratches and various injuries were badges of honor. We moved from the Buffalo, New York area to Lakewood in 1997. Now that my husband is older, he doesn't play as much. However, he is now the head lacrosse coach at St. Ignatius High School in

Cleveland. During lacrosse season in the spring, my daughters and I don't see him very much. Of course, there is no true off season in our house. Friends take pity on us and invite us to dinner. Although Woody also owns and runs his own business, he is very dedicated to promoting the sport of lacrosse in Northeastern Ohio. Besides logging endless hours as a coach, he also started a business, Premier Player Lacrosse, LLC. He just started weekly playing leagues this September. He recruits neighborhood kids to play lacrosse, and our Arthur Avenue block party this summer had a very popular lacrosse shoot-out game. A neighbor just recently stopped over to proudly show my husband his bruises from playing. My dining room is frequently filled with lacrosse players for Sunday morning pancake breakfasts. And, you guessed it, our daughters, ages 3 and 5, both have pint-sized lacrosse sticks.

Since lacrosse is not going away, at least in my house, I decided that the old adage, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" holds some truth. I volunteered to be in charge of advertising for this new venture, so here I am telling people about lacrosse and his new business. At least now I get to talk to my husband (even if it is only about lacrosse!) Check out our website, [\[erlacrosse.com\]\(http://erlacrosse.com\) for more information about skills camps, leagues and tournaments. The next 7-week league is for boys in 5th grade up to high school and starts November 6th. A one-day skills camp the day after Thanksgiving is also scheduled. I figure that if everyone learns about lacrosse and starts playing it, I might be able to get my husband back by the time I retire!](http://www.premierplay-</p>
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Sport & Schools

LHS Hoops Star Gains College Scholarship

by Mike Deneen

With the high cost of college tuition, many families struggle and worry about how to afford higher education. For most, a full college scholarship is a dream come true. The dream has come true for one Lakewood High School senior. On Thursday, November 9 LHS basketball player Kayla Kovach signed a letter of intent to play Division I college basketball at Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW). The signing took place at the LHS library, with Kayla's coaches, family and friends in attendance.

Kovach, a four-year starter for the Rangers, signed her LOI during the NCAA early signing period. She will play her senior season this year at LHS, then move on to IPFW for the 2007-08 academic year. During her junior year, Kovach averaged 15.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game.

Kovach chose IPFW over the US Naval Academy, Case Western Reserve, Holy Cross and Gannon University. In making her decision, she considered not only the basketball program and coaches, but also factors such as class size, housing and distance from home. A strong student with a 3.9 GPA, she plans to pursue a degree in psychology hopes to eventually obtain a PhD and become a sport/pediatric psychologist.

"At IPFW I felt very comfortable and welcome on campus" says Kovach, "I liked the size, the setting and what IPFW had to offer academically." Kovach recognized the role that her coaches have played throughout the years. These coaches include: Joe Gilbert (grade 4-6 St. James), Colleen Mullen (7 & 8 grade St. James), Colleen Moran (9th grade LHS), Al DiGregorio (9-12 grade LHS), and Nicole Anderson

LRST Swimmers Excel at Home Meet

by Kevin Harrod

The Lakewood Recreation Swim Team returned to the water on October 22 as they hosted the 2006 Peg Neal Pentathlon at the Lakewood High School pool. In a Pentathlon meet format, swimmers must compete in all four of the competitive strokes and swim an individual medley. Once a swimmer completes all five events successfully, the times are added up and the top eight swimmers receive plaques. LRST swimmers put forth a strong showing in their home pool against many of the best age group and high school swimmers from across Northeast Ohio.

Leading the way for LRST were Maura Anderson, Megan Splain, Kelsey Moran, and Daniel Parris. Anderson (15 and Over) and Splain (13-14) both took first place overall in their respective age groups. Anderson won three individual events (100yd. Fly, 100yd. Breast, and 200 yd. IM) in route to her first place finish. Splain also captured three events (100yd. Back, 100yd. Fly,

(10-12 grade LHS). She has also played AAU basketball through the SMAC Organization for 6 years, coached by Carlos Shea-Ron.

Upon arriving in Fort Wayne, the 5'11" Kovach will be joining a building program. IPFW (nicknamed the Mastodons) is new to Division I and in their second year under head coach Chris Paul. The Mastodons struggled to a 7-21 record last year, but the challenge does not deter Kayla. "I was asked once if I would rather play on a college team that wins most of their games and not have the opportunity to play or be a part of a team that doesn't have the best record and be able to play more," says Kovach, "My response? I just want to belong to a team where I am able to contribute early on and to be able to help build a better program."

LHS head coach Nicole Anderson was pleased with Kayla's decision. "She is a great role model to the younger players", says Anderson, pointing out that Kovach embodied a fine example of a student-athlete. Kovach's signing represents progress for the LHS girls' basketball program, which has not had a Division I college recruit since 1996.

After the signing, Kovach expressed her happiness at having the recruiting the process behind her. "Now I can just focus on playing" she said with a wide smile. Also smiling were her parents, Dave and Cindy Kovach. Dave, a Lakewood firefighter, beamed with pride. "It feels very good" he said, "she did all the hard work". Kayla's family is an important part of her life. Her father was on duty during the first day of the national signing period on November 8. Even though most recruits have their signings on the first day, Kayla wanted to wait a day so her father could attend.

and 100yd. Breast). Moran placed first in the 15 and Over 100 Back to help her finish second overall behind Anderson. Parris recorded five personal best times, which allowed him to finish third overall in the 11-12 boys age group. Other LRST swimmers recording first place finishes included Colleen Hutchinson (11-12 50yd. Breast), and Madeleine Kete (15 and Over 100 yd. Free).

LRST's age group swimmers continued their history of strong performances by scoring many personal best times and placing high in their events. Great performances were turned in by Keith Astler, Elizabeth Auckley, Ernie Boland, Ellen Hutchinson, Lisa Peng, and Jack St. Marie. High school swimmers turning in good times for this point of the year included Doug Astler, Maggie Ringenbach, George Shiekh, and Amanda Thurman.

The meet is named in honor of Peg Neal, who volunteered many countless hours toward running both USA and high school swim meets. She was also a tireless supporter of swimming in the city of Lakewood.

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Lakewood Business

We Give Thanks

by Eileen Dixon

On Wednesday November 3, several members of the Lakewood High School After Prom Committee of 2006 met with about 20 parents and grandparents of the class of 2007.

Jeff Posendek, House 1 Principal, and Kim Bindel, Student Activities Director, were also in attendance. They will be available to help the new volunteers get started and begin to pave the way on another exciting journey.

As committee reps of 2006 we shared experiences and suggestions with all in attendance.

The class of 2007 parents and grandparents asked questions and after some initial hesitation, people began to volunteer to chair the whole event as

well as the entertainment, food, and security committees. A treasurer volunteer stepped up to the plate and now they just need to fill a few more committee positions; public relations chair, decorating chair and a ways & means chairperson. Can't chair a committee? Don't worry, many people are needed to help collect donations and work the event.

Many businesses took the opportunity to help us in 2006 and we know they will help again if asked. We would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to the contributors listed below.

Please call Kim Bindel if you would like to be a part of the unforgettable experience in 2007. She can be reached during school hours at 529-4454.

The Lakewood High School Class Of 2006 And The After Prom Committee Would Like To Thank The Following For Making Our After Prom A Huge Success! Let's Make 2007 Even Better.

American Limousine Service
Angelo's Pizza
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Bavarian Bakery
Linda Beebe
Sam Bocchicchio and The Band
Blockbuster Inc.
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Elmwood Bakery
Emerson Middle School PTA
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Friends of Mike Skindell
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John Kinsley DDS
Kiwanis Club of Lakewood

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Lakewood Animal Clinic
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Westshore Wireless
Karen White
Wilhelmy Flowers
Winterhurst Ice Rink
Woodard Photography
YMCA of Greater Cleveland - Lakewood

And A Special Thank You To All The Parent Volunteers, Dr. Wagner, Mr. Posendek, And Lakewood High School Special Activities, Print Shop, Bookroom, And Custodial Team For All Their Extra Efforts.



Secret Shopper

by Justine Cooper

One of my favorite shops in Lakewood is Goddess Blessed, one of the few new age shops that is thriving!

The "secret" to being successful for owner Kathy Curran includes many reasons. First, upon entering you are greeted with a warm welcome, soothing aromatherapy, and a wide variety of fun items. The stock is constantly changing and growing, with everything from greetings cards, jewelry, both hand-made and imported, clothing, healing jewelry, candles, fresh herbs, spiritual items, sarongs, etc. Many items are made by local artists and craftspeople and are quite unique!

But to keep customers coming through the door, Kathy hosts several workshops almost daily, including meditation, reiki classes, herb classes, readings, tuning fork healings, and many more. For those of you who have not tried non-traditional healing for pain, I highly suggest a reiki treatment or other treatment at Goddess Blessed. You may be amazed! For the skeptical,

Kathy also offers a free healing night the third Friday of every month, where you can try a short reiki or tuning fork treatment for one canned good donated to a local shelter.

Goddess Blessed recently moved two doors down to expand and regardless of your religious or medical beliefs, it is really worth checking out! I find something to buy every time I stop in, including my lavender pillow sachet for happy dreams!

On a personal level, I know Kathy used to be a nurse and physician's assistant and even with that medical background has found reiki to be a great healing therapy. Having other friends who are nurses at Cleveland Clinic, I also know they use reiki there and in hospice. After receiving a treatment on open healing night with an aching back, I was able to go out dancing for hours! Goddess Blessed is located at 15729 Madison Ave (216-221-8755) and if you get on her e-mail list, you will receive weekly emails of workshops, events, and sales. I promise you won't be disappointed if you stop by!

Cinderella's Closet

by Justine Cooper

One of the best memories of high school should be the prom, getting dressed to the nines and dancing with all your friends. But this once-in-a-lifetime experience could be denied some girls who may not have the means to get that Cinderella dress. That is why we have started Cinderella's Closet, a non-profit "closet" of dresses for any girl in need of some magic. Cinderella's Closet accepts "like new" formal or semi-formal dresses from ladies.

I started this closet when I had Scents and Accents Boutique, after I realized I had several beautiful dresses in my closet that I was not wearing. After talking to several friends, they also had dresses that no longer fit, or they had no occasion to wear them to, and Cinderella's Closet was formed! In the past year before the closing of the shop, generous women dropped off beautiful dresses of theirs or their daughters of all sizes. Since the shop is no longer available, Kathy Curran

from Goddess Blessed at 15725 Madison has graciously agreed to house the closet. Anyone wishing to drop off donated dresses, or make an appointment to try on a dress, which will be made available for all dances, including homecoming and winter formal, please call me at or 216-521-8263 or Kathy at 221-8755 to make an appointment.

The nicest thing about the closet is if we don't have the size you are looking for, we will get on the phone chain to try to find one for you! That is the beauty of having a network of females in all glorious sizes! Cinderella's Closet is also seeking hair salons to donate gift certificates for an up-do or hair style, as well as dry cleaners to donate a cleaning for a dress. We also accept dress shoes in good condition. It really does take a village to raise a child, and no child should be denied one of her most memorable nights, because of money. The truth is, there is enough of everything in the universe for everyone if we open our hearts, and our closets!



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Lakewood Business

Free Legal Advice in Lakewood:

Volunteer Attorneys Partner with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

by Katie Collin

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is pleased to announce the first Brief Advice and Referral Clinic in a West side inner ring suburb: Lakewood, OH. This event is part of a series of drop-in legal clinics sponsored by Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program in various Northeast Ohio neighborhood

locations. The clinic is on Saturday, November 18th, from 10 am – 12 noon at Sts. Cyril & Methodius School, 1639 Alameda Avenue in Lakewood. Attorneys from the law firm of Giffen & Kaminski, along with attorneys from KeyBank, will staff the civil legal clinic for low-income individuals and families.

Mary Louise Madigan, Lakewood city councilwoman for Ward 4, rec-

ognized the need for this specialized community service since she receives a number of calls about landlord/tenant issues, private property, city liability, etc. "Sometimes people need a little motivation to get going and take action," she remarks, "This project offers accessible, reliable legal advice to the low-income community. The partnership between Legal Aid and Sts. Cyril & Methodius School developed because of an identified need on the east end of Lakewood and the dedication of some very good neighbors."

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (Legal Aid) provides free, high quality legal services to those unable to afford private counsel in Northeast Ohio. The 45 staff attorneys service an area with approximately 300,000 eligible clients. Today, Legal Aid manages more than 8,500 civil cases annually, which helps 21,000 individuals. Legal Aid attorneys provide advice, referral and representation in state and federal courts and in administrative forums. They represent clients in individual service cases and seek broader systemic relief where appropriate through litigation and policy advocacy. Founded in 1905, Cleveland's Legal Aid is the fifth oldest organization of its kind in the United States.

The Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) was organized in 2005 to supplement the work of the Legal Aid staff and to improve the lives of indigent persons in Northeast Ohio. Organized in collaboration with both the Cleveland Bar Association's Our Commitment to Our Community and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, VLP mobilizes private attorneys to assist in making legal advice and representation more accessible to low income persons and families.

Brief Advice and Referral Clinics offer volunteers an opportunity to provide practical legal advice discussing civil legal problems. The attorneys do not handle criminal cases. Often the attorney is able to give advice that would help solve the problem, or answer concerns that day. Legal problems handled through the clinics are related to homelessness, basic income survival, benefit programs, education, housing and unscrupulous business practices. The drop-in clinics are held twice a month at various locations around Cleveland in an effort to reach out to the community at large.

For more information on this clinic or future clinics in the coming year, please call Legal Aid at (216) 687-1900 or visit online at www.lasclev.org

Unchain from Corporate Retail!

by Jennifer Hooper

Lakewood is joining with communities nationwide in a campaign to unchain themselves and shop only at locally-owned independent businesses on Saturday, November 18th. America Unchained! is part of a national program of the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA).

Julie Hutchison, owner of the Lakewood Phoenix Coffee shop, and Jennifer Hooper of Main StreetLakewood heard about the nationwide program and knew it would be a good fit for Lakewood. One of the goals of Main Street Lakewood is to promote Lakewood's unique business mix. The Phoenix is offering its regular customers a free bag of coffee when they bring in a friend who would have otherwise shopped at a national chain. For trying a Phoenix beverage, the friend gets a free bag of coffee as well. Other Lakewood independent businesses offering specials for America Unchained Day are Local Girl Gallery, Lion & Blue and bela dubby.

Numerous nationwide studies have shown that supporting locally owned businesses can have a significant impact on the local economy. Here are a few compelling reasons why YOU should shop local:

- It keeps your money local. For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$45 goes back into the community which strengthens the tax base. For every \$100 spent at a chain store, only \$14 comes back.

- Better service. Local businesses often hire people who have a better understanding of the products and services they're selling and who take more time to get to know customers.

- Support community investment. Local businesses are owned by people who live here, work here and care about Lakewood's future.

- Support community groups. Neighborhood businesses generously support local nonprofits – an average of 350% more than non-locally owned businesses.

- Your tax dollars go farther. Local

businesses in traditional shopping districts need comparatively less infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services as compared to national chain stores.

- It's unique. Independent retailers select products based on their own customers, not that of a national corporate sales headquarters. Locally owned stores can quickly respond to the needs of their customers.

- The personal touch. In an increasingly homogenized national culture, chain stores are the same no matter where you go. Local retailers add personal service and familiarity.

As the holiday season approaches, the hope is that America Unchained! will encourage Lakewood residents to do more of their holiday shopping at locally owned businesses. This could result in a big impact on our local economy this holiday season. To that end, America Unchained! will be followed by Light Up Lakewood from November 30- December 3. Light Up Lakewood is a series of holiday community events and a promotion of unique Lakewood retail and eateries.

America Unchained! and Light Up Lakewood promote what makes Lakewood unique. One-of-a-kind independent businesses owned by our neighbors are part of what makes Lakewood special. Competition from well-funded national chains can be very aggressive and our local merchants can't survive without our support. If you wanted to live in Anytown, USA full of chain stores and restaurants, you wouldn't have chosen to live in Lakewood. So on Saturday, November 18th and throughout the holiday season (and everyday for that matter!) support Lakewood's independent, locally owned businesses!

For more information on America Unchained Day in Lakewood contact Jennifer Hooper at 521-0655 or Julie Hutchison at 226-4401. For more information on the national America Unchained Day, see the website of the American Independent Business Alliance: AMIBA.net



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Dr. Garven provides expert care in the treatment of chronic and acute medical problems for all ages, including infants and older adults.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Garven, or any of the physicians at Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport, call 216.529.7125.

Your Life is Our Life's Work.

Lakewood Businesses

Two New Stores Open on Madison Avenue

by Bob Ignizio

The Lakewood Observer is pleased to welcome two new businesses to our community.

Z-Wireless, which carries Alltel, T-Mobile, Page Plus and Revol phones, opened its doors just under a month ago at 13342 Madison Avenue. They are currently offering free phones for new customers, and all accessories are on sale. Z-Wireless is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 9pm, and Sundays from 12pm to 6pm. You can call (216) 221-9086 for more info.

Just a few blocks down the street to the west is Class Act Resale Shop, run by Proprietor Sharon K. Neura. Located at 15649 Madison Avenue,

the store will feature designer clothing for men and women, jewelry (including some vintage pieces), urban wares, artwork, antiques, and holiday decorations.

Class Act's grand opening celebration begins Friday November 17th and runs through Sunday November 19th. There will be refreshments, and also chances to win gift certificates from Angelo's, Aladdin's, Cravings, Players, Goddess Blessed, Sweet Designs, Cleveland Wellness and Pain Treatment Center, and Caribou Coffee. Hours for the grand opening are 10am to 7pm Friday and Saturday, and 12pm to 5pm Sunday. Call (216) 294-6085 or visit www.classactresale.com for more information.



Rozi's Wine House on the corner of Detroit and Cook Avenue, has taken their first steps towards a total renovation under the guidance of LCPI's Mainstreet. After photos of the building with a side window were uncovered, Gary and Corey Rossen have wanted to make the building historical correct. Mainstreet gave them the incentive. They have also added a new side entrance to the shop.

Wine Tasting, This Friday Night

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Invites you and your friends to a Special Evening Wine Tasting featuring Ice Wines from around the world and Vintage Ports Friday Night, November 17th 6-9pm

There will be 20 wines to sample: 10 select Ice Wines and 10 outstanding Port Wines! Our Chef, James Perko, will also be on hand to present gourmet dishes that complement the featured wines.

\$20.00 admission per person will be collected at the door.

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Rozi's Wine House (216) 221-1119 14900 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 www.rozis.com



photo by Bob Ignizio

Class Act's clothing selections certainly live up to the store's name.

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(Clockwise L-R) Pascal Jarjoura, MD; Lourdes Falconi, MD; Regina Hill, MD; Edwina Simmons, MD; Sowmya Reddy, MD; Jeffrey Christian, MD

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Lakewood History

Lakewood Of My Youth

by Mike Reilley

I believe I will go to my grave without seeing any significant change to my old neighborhood in Lakewood. I don't live in Lakewood anymore. I don't even live in Ohio. But I remember Lakewood so fondly and I visit as often as I can.

I like to park my car at Lakewood Park and walk to where I grew up: the corner of Abbieshire and Edgewater, just west of the park. I stroll down Lake Avenue and turn right onto Abbieshire. As I do, I realize that in 2006 this street looks an awful lot like it did in 1960, when I moved here at the age of eight.

As I walk, I see Mrs. Jensen's home on my left. In the early to mid 1960s her son, Scott, was a good friend of mine. Scott was one of the really nice kids from my childhood. He never had a bad word to say about anyone and he was fun to be with. I remember how we used to compare our religions. He was Baptist and I am Catholic. I think I convinced him that it would be better for him to have been Catholic, but only because our Sunday services were shorter.

Mrs. Jensen's a widow now. Sadly, Scott is gone too. Diabetes took him away from his family when he was in his early thirties.

Next to the Jensens, Mr. Schubert is still fixing up his house. The Schuberts have been in that house forever. There were three kids: Kim, Mike and Jeff. As far as girls went when I was a kid, Kim was pretty OK. But her brothers played huge roles in my childhood. It was all about sports, and Mike and Jeff were big players. I haven't seen Mike in thirty years. I still see Jeff often.

As far as I know, Mrs. Jensen and Mr. Schubert are the only ones still in the neighborhood from when I was young. It's just a coincidence that they live next to one another.

As I continue down the street I remember the Lovejoys, the Moores and the Powries. Kim Lovejoy was my little sister, Mary Kay's friend. Matt Moore was my age, though we were never that close and Fred Powrie was a part of a huge incident in my life.

Fred was 16 in the summer of 1962 when my mom and dad hired him to tar the roof of our garage down the street. At one point he had to ride his bike back home to retrieve something. As he left his house, little 11-year-old me challenged him to a bike race back to my house, seven houses away.

He agreed. A moment later I was losing the race by about four bike-lengths as I entered the dead-end area of Edgewater Drive next to my house. There was a chuckhole in the street. The front tire on my little bike hit the hole and the bike stopped dead. I did not stop, and I met Edgewater Drive face first, losing my two front teeth and my consciousness.

I don't remember ever seeing Fred again. That night after I got back from

the hospital, a line of about 22 neighborhood kids came into our house to pay their respects. I was bandaged on my face and I could not speak. As I lay there on the living room couch meekly waving at all these well wishers, it reminded me of the people who filed past my grandfather's casket three years earlier. Only he didn't wave.

It's been 43 years since the accident.

I continue my walk and come upon 1053 Abbieshire where the Youngs and the Gerlachs lived. The Youngs were in that house 1961-66. Rollo and Steve Young were my best friends for a while. Steve and I are still friends. He lives near Boston. Rollo lives in Alaska. I spoke with Mr. Young on the phone in June 2004, three weeks before he passed away. What a great family!

The Gerlachs moved in late in 1966 and were so huge in my life, and in many ways they still are. Bob was 12 at the time they moved in and he went on to become the most popular kid the Abbieshire/Edgewater neighborhood ever witnessed. What a sharp wit for such a young man. He was also one of the very best baseball and football players in the neighborhood.

The Reilley house was next to the Young/Gerlach abode and carried an Edgewater address: 14907. Before our yard lay the dead-end, or as we called it for years, "The Circle." We played a lot of baseball on the circle. The generation prior to us had used a softball. That was dumb. It was either me, or maybe Kurt Shobert, who thought up the idea to use a tennis ball instead. We used the tennis ball to play baseball from 1963 until we were nearly adults, never breaking a window.

The Muntz family lived down the third base line. They had a big gray house that we always referred to as "the gray monster," after Boston's green monster. I've been married for thirty years now and I can't believe Mr. and Mrs. Muntz allowed us to use their yard as our left field for all those years. They were wonderful people. I'm not so sure I would allow a bunch of kids to run around on my grass and through my bushes.

When I say we played a lot of baseball on that dead end I'm not kidding. We played from March until September every year. When school started in September we switched to football. During the summer months, when we were out of school, we played baseball on the dead end as many as three times a day. We'd meet there at about eight in the morning, again at four in the afternoon and oft was the time we'd play a third game at seven.

Life was so great back then in Lakewood. Everyone was so nice to us, allowing us to play our baseball and to make all that noise. I was not a cerebral child by any means, but I was wise enough to appreciate what we had there in beautiful Lakewood. Even at the age of 14 I can remember standing out on the Muntz's yard and thinking about

how much fun I was having and that it would end one day. I really thought that, and often.

In the fall we played football. For quite a number of years we played on our side lawn. I bought a bunch of spotlights at Uncle Bill's (department store) and set them up from our second and third floor windows and from our garage, so that we could play night football games from September to December. The lights really helped, but only on the south side of the field. The field ran east and west and if you were a receiver you had to turn toward the north, or toward Edgewater Drive, so that when the quarterback threw the ball you could see it. Otherwise, if you were looking toward the house all you could see were the bright lights shining from the house and garage. It was possible to catch a ball this way, but it was like looking for a black hole in outer space.

We had a unique rule because of a big pine tree in the middle of the field. Once you started to run one way around the tree you had to keep going in that direction. You could not use the tree to try to fake someone out. It was a rule that worked forever and everyone abided.

Eventually, we got too big and our games involved too many players so we

shifted our football games to nearby Lakewood Park and they lasted into the 1970s.

In the winter we also played basketball and ice hockey. It was normal for us to shovel someone's driveway just so we could play basketball. We sometimes took my spotlights down to the Essi house on Edgewater, until Mrs. Essi complained that it made her yard look like a "3-ring circus." We played hockey at Lakewood Park until we were old enough to drive. Then we played our hockey down in the Metro Parks, or "the valley," as we called it.

Nobody became famous from our Lakewood neighborhood. But most of us grew up to be law-abiding and upstanding citizens. I now live in Naples, Florida. Not long ago Bob Gerlach and Jeff Schubert swung by to play golf with my son and me. It's always great to see these guys. Growing up in Lakewood was special, but growing up in our neighborhood at Abbieshire/Edgewater was magical.

Things change as the years go by. But as I see the houses in my old neighborhood, and when I think about my 55 years, I realize there's a pretty good chance my neighborhood will be just about the same the day I die as it was in the summer of 1963. Somehow, that's reassuring. Batter up!



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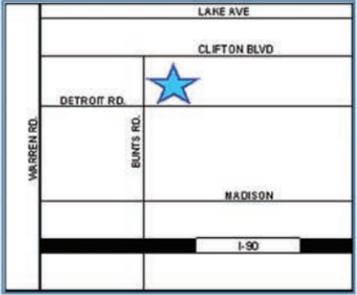


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Here Come the Holiday

Jeff Endress

Shortly, we will kick off that period of the year filled with the traditions of family gatherings, parties, and culinary treats that cause concern for anyone who is weight conscious. First comes Thanksgiving, resplendent with pumpkin pies, mashed potatoes and gravy, and all the trimmings. In no short order, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day follow this feast of a holiday. Interspersed, there are any number of office parties, neighborhood get-togethers, cookie exchanges, gifts of food, and maybe a fruitcake or ten. And, I, for one, am certainly not complaining! This time of year gives me a viable excuse to do the cooking that I love to do. Calories be damned; pass the eggnog (it goes so well with the mincemeat pie with brandied hard sauce)!

These are the times that the genesis of fond memories à la Norman Rockwell is laid around the feast as the turkey is carved. I love and look forward to all the time and effort that goes into the preparation of this feast. However, as an ironic twist, after spending the better part of the day basting, sautéing, boiling, baking, and mashing, my desire to actually consume the bounty is dampened. I've never been able to figure out this phenomenon, but I think it has something to do with olfactory overload. But, my consumption is of little consequence in comparison to the enjoyment experienced by my gathered

family - that is the reason for the effort. Well, that and the fact that I enjoy the culinary aspects of these upcoming events, more for the preparation and planning, than for the feasting. My mother's inquiries of, "What can I do to help?" are more times than not met with a simple, "Nothing, Mom...I've got it covered." I don't think, that after all these years, she's ever really understood that, while it may be effort, it isn't work. It's pure enjoyment, it's my gift to my loved ones - it's my kitchen and I don't want to share. My wife has also indicated that I may have some

control issues. And, while I don't miss help in the kitchen, I do miss watching my father's enjoyment of the feast.

Thanksgiving was my Father's favorite holiday, barring none. I don't think there was ever a man who so loved a roasted turkey. Darren McGavin's character in "A Christmas Story" pales in comparison. For my father, in defiance of logic, every Thanksgiving turkey was "the best turkey ever." How each surpassed the last was never really comprehended - it's not as if there was really that much room for incremental improvements over his 83 years. And, yet, each was always the best; we could anticipate the coming of the declaration shortly after his first bite was swallowed. As the makeup around the table changes, the one constant that I miss most is his unfailing barometer of roasted turkey excellence.

This is not to say that my father was a passive participant in the affair, content to only eat the feast. No, far from it. While granted, his kitchen assistance was generally limited to an occasional baste and the carving of the bird, his culinary contribution should not be neglected - after all, he made the eggnog. This eggnog, my mother swore, would "spoil your dinner" (never happened); this eggnog fueled a warm glow and represented a year's worth of cholesterol. My father's eggnog was, in combination with the

turkey, probably largely responsible for after dinner napping. This nectar was not the stuff purchased from the dairy case with a shot of rum added for good measure. No, this was a concoction that reputedly came from colonial times in the deep south, complete with heavy cream from Bosak's dairy (so thick it had to be spooned out), freshly grated nutmeg, ribbons of orange and lemon zest, and a thick creamy head that floated like a thick, caloric cloud over the crystal punch bowl.

I have no doubt that he enjoyed the effort that went into the preparation of his contribution. I never heard a complaint about the time required and only a recurring hospitable, "Can I get you another?" against the backdrop of, "You'll spoil your dinner." However, in my opinion, munching smoked almonds and sipping that glorious eggnog in front of the fireplace never spoiled anything - it only enhanced the feast that was to come. And, this feast would no doubt feature the best turkey ever.

As we enter this season, I recognize that sometimes things become too hectic. There's far too much commercialism and far too many catalogs in the mailbox. We exert too much effort trying to make everything mesh with that Norman Rockwell vision with too few returns. We suffer from depression fueled by performance expectation anxieties. We lose focus and perspective on why we're doing what we're doing, of the memories and traditions that we are building as families and as a community.

And so, as we approach the kickoff of the 2006 holiday season, I make for you, dear readers, my holiday wish: may you not lose focus on the fleeting moments that we treasure, the moments that now only exist in our memories. I hope, no matter how much effort you invest in your holiday celebrations, you receive tenfold returns on that expenditure from the warmth and enjoyment experienced by those surrounding you. And, as I take a break from my own preparations, I'll sit with family before the warmth of the fireplace, lift my cup of eggnog, and offer you a toast that you too will enjoy "the best turkey ever."

My Father's "You'll Spoil Your Dinner" Eggnog

6 Eggs
3/4 Cup sugar
1 Pint heavy whipping cream
1 Pint milk
1 Pint light rum
Dash of aromatic bitters
Freshly grated nutmeg
Finely julienned zest of 1 orange and 1 lemon



Separate the eggs. Beat the whites until stiff; beat the yolks until a creamy lemon color. Fold 1/4-cup sugar into the whites; beat briefly until dissolved. Fold 1/2 Cup sugar into the yolks and beat until dissolved. Mix whites and yolks together. Combine the milk, cream, a dash of aromatic bitters, and rum. Fold this combination into the egg mixture. Allow to sit, refrigerated at least one hour. The mixture will separate, forming a head. Sprinkle generously with nutmeg and scatter zest over the top. Serve with smoked, toasted almonds. Will spoil the dinner of 12.

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Minding The Issues

Meet My Friend, "Lili Marlene" – and Liberal Education

Come back in time to World War II, to all wars, to the Trojan War. Our vehicle is a song, "Lili Marlene," which I have cherished for more than three decades.

"Lili Marlene" is based on a poem written by the German poet Hans Leip. In the late 1930s the poem was adapted and set to a haunting melody composed by German songwriter Norbert Schultze. It became immensely popular during World War II, first on the German side, beginning with the Afrika Korps, and then among the Allied soldiers (though whether the Allies were singing the same song as the Germans is questionable). The Nazis disapproved of the song, for reasons that will become evident, but the song was too popular to suppress. It is still remembered fondly by those who lived during the War, but is relatively unknown to younger generations.

Before looking more closely at the song, I must make two points. First, I am no German scholar. If my translation is inaccurate at points, if my version of the song varies from the standard, if my interpretation is extravagant – I DON'T CARE. My interpretation of the song is mine, and my enjoyment is mine.

Second, the English version of the song is quite different from the German. I say "version" instead of "translation" because the English version, written largely as a propaganda tool, is diametrically opposed to the German original -- it is bright, optimistic, cheery, totally lacking in depth and irony. The German version, by contrast, emerges as fine and powerful poetry. If you hear the English lyrics, try to wash out your mind with the proverbial soap – not because the lyrics are immoral, but because they are trash.

Perhaps the most famous performer to record the English version was Marlene Dietrich, who added some insipid material of her own ("...my pack is light."). The "Lili Marlene" she sang departed from her usual cynical and ironic persona; no doubt she took it on as a morale-booster. I often wonder what she was thinking as she sang the song, and I like to think it went something like this: "Anything for the war effort, but I may vomit if I have to keep on singing this junk."

Let's get to the real thing, in the German. "Lili Marlene" is the story of a German soldier and his girl friend, told in the words of the soldier. Stationed at a barracks, he leaves every night to see Lili Marlene, and at the end of the evening they linger under the lamppost besides the barracks gate. The first few stanzas tell this wistful story.

But their times together must end; he is called away to fight. In the second-last stanza the mood turns somber and bitter. The soldier, far away and talking in his mind to the sentry at the gate, says:

Gordon Brumm

*"Deine schritte kennt sie
Deinen zieren Gang
Alle Abend brennt sie,
Doch mich vergass sie lang."*

She is well acquainted with
your steps,
With your exacting pace.
Every evening she burns with
passion,
But me she has long since
forgotten.

Then the soldier's thought turns
from thought of betrayal to thought of
death. Speaking now to Lili, he says:

*"Und sollte mir ein Leid
geschehen
Wer wird bei der Laterne stehen
Mit dir, Lili Marlene,
Mit dir, Lilli Marlene?"*

And if I should be
injured [killed],
Who then will stand by the
lamp-post
With you, Lili Marlene,
With you, Lili Marlene?

Betrayal, death: These themes set
the stage for the superb last stanza:

*"Aus dem tiefen Raume,
Aus der Erde Grund
Hebt sich wie in Traume
Dein verliebte Mund.
Wenn sich die spaeten
Nebel dreh'n
Wer wird bei der Laterne steh'n
Mit dir, Lili Marlene,
Mit dir, Lili Marlene?"*

Out of the deep space,
Out of the earthy ground
Rises as in a dream
Your beloved mouth.
When the late mists rise
Who will stand by the lamp-post
With you, Lili Marlene,
With you, Lili Marlene?

This array of images must be taken
all together. "When the late mists rise"
sets the scene:

Late at night with the mists swirling
around him, the young German
soldier sits in his foxhole, shivering
from cold and fright. Gazing over
no-man's land, he sees an apparition.
From out of the ground – from out of
the grave – Lili Marlene's mouth
arises, beguiling, alluring, luring the
soldier into the grave, an invitation
to death – while the same late mists
of evening are swirling around the
actual Lili Marlene as she entertains
some other unsuspecting soldier next
to the lamp-post

Lili Marlene as Helen of Troy!

But Lili is not capable by herself of
leading the young soldier to his grave.
She is a symbol of the social apparatus
that has ensnared him and now leads
him to his death.

"Lili Marlene," then, is a
profoundly pacifist work of art, con-
veying its theme through a particular
story (showing the universal in the
particular) and through particular
images.

I cannot tell you how much enjoy-
ment I have obtained from running
this song through my mind, admiring
the poetic genius of its author, relating
it to the Trojan War.

And here's another interesting
aspect: When I researched on the
Internet, I found that the version I
have cherished for all these years is
a little different from the standard
one, which ends on a more upbeat
note ("... When the late mists rise,
I will stand by the lantern, as before,
...") My version was given to me
by a friend; I have no idea where it
originated. However, it is an adapta-
tion, not a corruption, for it pursues
its own line of thought in a logical
and coherent manner. In addition it
is faithful to Leip's original poem,
which was explicitly anti-war.

So in addition to providing an
exercise in literary interpretation, "Lili
Marlene" shows how a literary work
can change throughout its lifetime and
how it can be affected by social/political
conditions. It is a liberal education
in itself.

The song has made my life bet-
ter, even though it hasn't gained me a
nickel in economic benefits.. And that
is the rationale of liberal education –
to make our lives better, in its own
unique way. History, literature, and
other liberal-arts subjects present an
unending panorama of human possi-
bilities, and they exercise the most
human faculties in the contemplation
of these possibilities. They enhance
human life in a way that need not
and should not take a back seat to
economic gains.

Advocates for liberal education
have sold it short, it seems to me, by
stressing the economic benefits of an
education. Liberal education can and
should hold its head high without any
extraneous support.

Responses and Retorts

**On a Submission That Cannot
be Published:** A certain Lakewood
resident submitted a piece that sharply
criticizes my column on Kevin O'Brien.
Although none of the criticisms were
well-supported, in my view, the piece
did display a degree of logical acu-
ity. It was worth publishing. However,
the author asked that his name not
be printed, and the Observer's policy,
both in print and on the Web, is not to
publish anything without the author's
full name. So that's that.

However, there is a deeper signifi-
cance. Why was the author unwilling
to make his name known? Certainly
not because he was embarrassed by the
piece; he strongly believed in what he
said. Of course I can't read the author's
mind, but the only reason I can see is
that he was intimidated by the thought
of expressing a strongly conservative
viewpoint in what he perceives as a
Democratic town. At least that seems
to be a fair assumption, and it brings up
an interesting analogy to school prayer
and other practices that celebrate the
Christian God (e.g. insertion of "under
God" in the Pledge of Allegiance").

If he – a self-confident and asser-
tive adult -- can feel intimidated by the
prospect of adverse reaction toward his
writing, think how a 10-year old child
who is Jewish or Muslim or Buddhist
or agnostic must feel when forced to
participate in a prayer or tribute to
the Christian God. (And let's not kid
ourselves – when "God" is mentioned
in school prayers or in the Pledge of
Allegiance, the clear meaning is the
Christian God. After all, the purpose of
school prayer is to celebrate the beliefs
of the Christian majority.) When such
religious celebrations are imposed, the
cost of public education for the Jewish
or Muslim or Buddhist or agnostic child
is intimidation and humiliation that
comes with participation in a religion
that is alien to their own beliefs and
commitments. So much for religious
equality.

**Aside to the author of "How I
Got George Bush Elected":** I admire
your courage in standing up and
admitting to what you've done. I'm
sure you'll be able to make amends as
time goes on.



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The Buck Stops Here

Life in the Midwest

Robert Buckeye

In *Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature*, Margaret Atwood argues that each country or culture has a dominant symbol, a story if you will, which defines its art. In America, it is *The Frontier*; in England, *The Island*; and in Canada, *Survival*.

"Our central [Canadian] idea," Atwood writes, "is one which generates, not the excitement and sense of adventure or danger which *The Frontier* holds out, not the smugness and/or sense of security, of everything in its place, which *The Island* can offer, but an almost intolerable anxiety. Our stories are likely to be tales not of those who made it but of those who made it back....The survivor has no triumph or victory but the fact of his survival."

It is not sufficient for the Canadian artist to make it in Canada. He must also succeed in the land that gave birth to his country or the one to the South, if he is to triumph. Donald Sutherland, Joni Mitchell and Neil Young head the queue of Canadians who have crossed over. That in the process they may cease, in a certain sense, to be Canadians may matter only to Canadians, but it is no small matter, if land, family, people and history make a difference. Today a backlash has led Canadian writers and artists to embrace the

North -- anything away from the States, characterized geographically - towards the real, Canada, them, who they are.

Life in the Midwest is different from that in the South, California, New England or New York. The image of the Midwest is the place one leaves: as the Canadian must go south for validation, so the Midwesterner must go to New

Difficulties are the only opportunities to seize, and if you must begin with difficulty, you need something more than common sense, even if you need common sense to survive.

The Midwest brings a man to core.

York, although Chicago may be a stop-over. (Conversely, many of the New Yorkers I know in the Midwest think they are in purgatory and can't wait to get back to civilization, although, I would argue, what they mean by home is different from what we mean.) For the most part, the writers and artists of the Midwest fled. (The home of Hart Crane on the east side of Cleveland was razed for a physical education parking lot on the Case Western Reserve University campus.)

Its landscape is vast, barren miles of dust or mud or snow rolling up against the horizon, while houses cling

to the land, like trawlers at anchor. In the towns where only a driveway, fence, hedge separate the buildings and homes, the distances are sometimes, often, greater. The one pure freedom, Greil Marcus notes, "[is] measured only by broken yellow lines running down the middle of a straight black road." Route 66 is our rosetta stone.

William H. Gass writes of life in the Midwest in "The Heart of the Heart of the Country": "the sky in the winter is heavy and close, and it is a rare day, a day to remark on, when the sky lifts and allows the heart up. I am keeping count, and as I write this page, it is eleven days since I have seen the sun...."

For we're always out of luck here....Our eyes have been driven in like the eyes of old men."

This harsh inland ocean of prairie, mill and mine gives birth to preachers, cranks, and visionaries of one kind or another. At any moment, Ahab sets sail in search of Moby Dick. Difficulties are the only opportunities to seize, and if you must begin with difficulty, you need something more than common sense, even if you need common sense to survive. The Midwest brings a man to core.

"There was a certain current that ran through the air around us," Allen Ravenstine, the synthesizer player of the Cleveland band Pere Ubu writes. "Something that seemed to be in the light that fell everywhere we went, a vibration that ran through all of our conversations....It was like putting your ear to the rail, and we could hear the rumble of the train any time we bothered to listen; our time would come. It was as tangible as the modern noise we made."

You Are Here

Jason Weiner



Sarah Henderson enjoys Monday Mornings at The Coffee Pot in Lakewood with her husband, Bill Henderson.

A (not so) small town...

Sarah Henderson has lived in Lakewood for 20 years. She is a former grade-school teacher who now teaches Tai Chi. Her favorite places are The Coffee Pot and Lakewood Home Furnishings, both on Madison Avenue.

"One thing I love about Lakewood is that it's like living in a small town but it's not as limiting as a small town. I have lived in a small town before. We can walk places, we can walk to the Library from where we live, we can walk to the park from where we live. We have two dogs, we love the dog park and the dog swim. We walk the dogs all over the neighborhood. We'll often drive to a neighborhood just so we can enjoy the neighborhood with our dog.

And I really like that, this is like a small town, in here (The Coffee Pot) Julian, Mama and Papa know our names. Same with the shop next door, Lakewood Home Furnishings... so there are places where you're not an anonymous person. And we always run

into people we know, which is fun, and that's like a small town.

I really like the schools. I taught in the schools and my oldest daughter, Amanda, went to Lakewood schools from 4th Grade through high school, and she got a great education. She went to Hiram [College] and her English teacher asked her where she learned to write so well...

I love my house, and it's affordable. You know, I could live in Avon or Westlake, but I just couldn't have that much house elsewhere. And I feel safe. I'm a single mom, or I was single until Bill moved in, but when I was a single mom, it was still safe. You know, with trick-or-treating, you feel safe for them to go on French or Andrews. My daughter has babysitting jobs right on the street and the people are friendly."

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Pulse Of The City

Coming Full Circle

Gary Rice

That second week of October, 1951, was, in the words of my dear late mother, the most beautiful week of the year. From her hospital room, she could see the multi-colored leaves of fall grace the Western Pennsylvania mountains with a sublime blanket of variegated beauty. Perhaps it seemed all the more beautiful because of the precious bundle that she held in her hands. Of course, that bundle was me.

Although I knew nothing of the radiant fall beauty outside that hospital window, I certainly was well aware of the beauty holding me close to her with all the love in the world. Standing close by was my nervous and ever pragmatic father, who would spend many years thereafter working his fingers to the bone to provide a fine comfortable home for the three of us.

October, 1951, was also a time of birthing for (temporarily) inanimate objects. In sunny California, Clarence "Leo" Fender was putting the finishing touches on an electric bass guitar and amplifier system that he hoped would free players from the upright bass fiddle.

Fender had also recently come out with a solid body "Electric Standard" guitar, called the "Broadcaster," but another company had asked him to cease using that name, as they felt it to be their trademark. As television (invented as early as the late 1920's) finally seemed to be coming into its own, Leo decided to re-name his new invention the Telecaster. He was also working to improve the solid body guitar concept even further, and before long would release a model called the Stratocaster.

Now we'll return for a bit to those beautiful Pennsylvania hills around that same time. Over near the Delaware Water Gap, in a scenic hunting lodge, a representative from Gibson guitars was sitting down at a table with Les Paul and Mary Ford, discussing an interesting-looking guitar displayed before them.

Les Paul had pioneered the concept of a solid body guitar in order to achieve a balanced tonal response when the instrument was amplified. Hollow electrified guitars tended to resonate and howl at different frequencies as they were turned up. At greater volume, the solid-body guitars maintained balance and control of their sounds.

The small, streamlined instrument sitting on Les' leg was the direct result of his discussions with Gibson. Paul had gone to Gibson before, with a proposal to make such an instrument, and had been turned away. With Mr. Fender's solid-body guitar success however, Gibson management allegedly directed that the company find Les Paul and sign him up. And this was done.

The four instruments mentioned above helped change the world of music in ways wholly unanticipated back then. Before they arrived, guitars and basses comprised part of the rhythm section in dance bands. They were often more

seen than heard. All that was about to change, very quickly indeed.

After WWII, the big bands fell on hard times. There are a number of reasons for this, but with amplification, the former rhythm sections could now form three and four piece combos and go make money for themselves, leaving the rest of the big band behind.

Out of those same Pennsylvania hills came groups like Bill Haley and his Saddlemen, soon to become the Comets. Groups like Haley's would perfect the template for a small combo sound that would take America's country and pop music worlds by storm.

In places like Chicago and Cleveland, electric guitars and basses powered blues bands, as sons and daughters of former slaves coming out of the Mississippi Delta expertly utilized this new technology. Solid dance rhythms were added to the emotive blues lyrics, and Rhythm and Blues was born.

In Cleveland, around the time of his Moondog Coronation Ball in 1952,

disc jockey Alan Freed popularized the term "Rock and Roll" to describe this mix of Rhythm and Blues, Pop, and Country music that was taking America by storm. Although the term "rock and roll" had been around quite a while as a euphemism for, well, you know

what, Mr. Freed made it the name of a whole new style of music.

I came from a musical family, having roots deep within the foothills of both the northern and southern Appalachian Mountains. Dad taught in the Lakewood schools, directing bands, orchestras and choirs,

and was a well-known professional jazz musician. Mom played trumpet and piano and helped Dad to write songs. Both of my grandfathers were old-time fiddlers, as are Dad and I.

When Paul McCartney started to sing "All My Loving" on "The Ed Sullivan Show," I gave up most of the band instruments that Dad had tried so hard to teach me and my love affair with the guitar began.



Gary receives a birthday guitar from his father, Robert Rice.

Music and Faith Unite



From left, Mayor Tom George, Gary Rice, Vic Silverman & Robert Rice.

by Stan Austin

Bob and Gary Rice have demonstrated to Lakewood their belief in freedom by donating a plaque marking a station of the Underground Railroad in Lakewood.

Many folks who went to Lakewood schools, especially Harding, know Mr. Rice—who was Harding's band and orchestra leader for decades. He's brought the joy of music into the lives

of his students and fortunately has passed this gift on to his son, Gary.

The Rice family has also combined their love of music and teaching with a strong practice of their faith at Lakewood United Methodist Church. That faith, as the Rices practice it, is grounded in the belief of equality of all people.

Gary and Bob thought it was especially important to recognize Lakewood's strategic importance in the operation of the Underground

Railroad which was the pathway out of slavery before the American Civil War.

Slaves that made their way up from the South could board boats that would take them across Lake Erie into Canada where they would be free human beings. Summit Avenue in Lakewood was one of the embarkation points. To commemorate that part of our history and remind us of its importance, the Rices donated a stone plaque, which is embedded in the walkway of the new Lakefront Promenade.

One of the Rices favorite ministers, the Reverend Howard Pippin provided the invocation. Mayor Thomas George recounted history of the time and offered the City's thanks.

In a special ceremony, Reverend Pippin's daughter, Eleanor, who was baptized in Lake Erie, symbolically buried, in a hidden location, a set of shackles that once enslaved a person. The Rices' faith through their worship reminds us and educates young Eleanor how important essential human dignity is. Ending the ceremony, Gary, accompanying on guitar, led the gathering in a rendition of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore."

Thanks to Dad, as well as to my late Mom. You both helped and supported me more than you may ever know. Thanks for showing me how important music is to the Pulse of the City.

The Lakewood Observer is proud to announce that Gary Rice has been included in Marquis' Who's Who in America 2007, Who's Who in the World 2007, and Who's Who in American Education 2007. - Ed.

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