

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source For Local News And Opinion – An Official Google News Source

Volume 4, Issue 10, May 13, 2008

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Lakewood Is Art (LIA) and Madison Avenue Merchants Assoc. (MAMA) Hold

## 2nd Lakewood Artwalk-Saturday, May 17th

### Starting at 4pm

Artists and art lovers will fill the sidewalks and businesses of Madison Avenue on May 17th, for another Madison Avenue- Lakewood ArtWalk. The Lakewood ArtWalk (formerly the MAMA LIA ArtWalk) was designed to increase exposure for participating local artists, organizations and area businesses, as well as further establish Madison Avenue as a vibrant and evolving neighborhood with a meaningful connection to arts and culture.

The Art Walk is a collaborative effort between MAMA (Madison Avenue Merchants Association) and LIA (Lakewood is Art) with the support of the Lakewood Observer and Cox Cable(who will be filming the event this time). Committee Members from LIA and MAMA worked together to give the community another opportunity to gain exposure to the various art that is abundant in our area.

Pop Shop Gallery Owner, Rich Cihlar, Wobblefoot Owner, Tubal Cogar, Justine Cooper and Artist, Jeff Hulligan, who are MAMA members; along with Ruth Koenigsmark and Barbara Michel of LIA both of whom volunteered their time to work closely with Madison Avenue business owners in generating enthusiasm for the Show, encouraging businesses to find their own artists. Lakewood is Art volunteers worked with business owners and artists, placing additional artists of all kinds.

An illustration by Jeff Hulligan on the ArtWalk show cards captures the essence of the walk as being family friendly. "Artwalk attendees will see and experience local art once again in some non-traditional spaces like Silhouette Dance Studio that will host an art show for Harding Middle School Students, the Beer Engine that will have an interactive art display called the Art Carpet and Carol Lynn's Salon Plus will have several artists and a glamour shots photographer on hand, just to name a few," said Ruth Koenigsmark, LIA Chair. "It's an alternative way for people to see art." Speaking on the ingenuity of MAMA members, Justine Cooper, MAMA Chair said that "business owners were also attracted to the idea of finding another way of connecting with the community."

Omega Cuts business owner, Christina Ermidis, said she is "excited to host the walk's first FilmFest," which will include a film by her son, Andy Blubaugh, who is an aspiring film maker. "Scaredycat" is an experimental documentary about the role fear plays in our lives, "The film takes as a point

of departure the beating of the filmmaker at the hands of a gang of young men who called themselves "The Portland Riders. Blubaugh will be at Omega to answer any questions about the film. Also, included will be films by local indie film makers and films made my students for the Historical Society. Phil Florian, Filmfest coordinator and Scott Plumer have volunteered their time and talents to organize this event at Omega.

Traditional galleries, like Wobblefoot Gallery and Pop Shop will host a variety of artists. The Pop Shop will have an opening reception for their 3rd Anniversary Art Show and an after party, next door at Mullens of Letterfrack.

There will be musical performance at Vance Music, Coffee Pot Restaurant, Pet's General Store, Mahall's Twenty Lanes, and Madison Rose BookStore which will host anything from folk to jazz to blues to

rock. A mixed bag of talented musical artists! Additionally, Sirens Hararidance will perform at the Waterbury Coach House at 5pm and Omega Cut at 7pm. Bela dubby will finish off a culturally fulfilling evening with live, original music being performed late into the evening. You can pick up your Artwalk Map for a full list of events at Lakewood Observer/LIA tent at the Cat Clinic 17306 Madison Avenue on Saturday, May 17th at 4pm.

## Band2gether Auditions Rock The Hi-Fi Club

by Ruth Koenigsmark

Rock band auditions for the upcoming young musician's concert series, Band2gether, were held on Saturday afternoon on May 10. Owners of the Hi-Fi Club and former bandmates from the eighties glam band Spoyld, Billy Morris and Jim Maylor's, opened their doors to these young musicians to show their stuff.

During the weeks leading up to the auditions, Chris Vance encouraged anyone with singing, drumming or guitar-playing experience from his music school and beyond to get a band together and try out. He also attended numerous events to get the word out. Those interested would get the chance to participate in an actual rock concert, on stage before an audience. Clay Verga, a member of one of the auditioning bands "Little Known Fact", heard about the auditions from Vance. "I thought it would be a great opportunity to play this summer for family and friends," he said about his decision to audition.

Verga was one of a couple dozen performers—and several guitar cases—scattered about the Hi-Fi Club at the start of the auditions. From one end of the club to another, a tangle of performers holding guitars, bass guitars, drum sticks and keyboards stood ready to rock the venue. Chris Vance and his right-hand man for the band audition, Tim Lane, made their final equipment tests and tweaks before welcoming the would-be rock stars.

Vance, the owner of Vance Music Studios, has plenty of expertise to lend. Besides running a music studio in town that prepares kids to rock. He is currently



photo by Rhonda Loje

The band: Little Known Fact

the bassist for avant-garde jazz group Kassaba, and has worked with 15 60 75(numbers band), Suddenly, Sharply, Midnight, The Mercury's featuring Hollywood Slim (who also helped build the studio, appropriately named "The Hollywood Slim Wing), just to name a few. He is featured on recordings by Kassaba, Parallels and Cletus Black.

Once each group was arranged, the guitarists and bassists mashed and wailed on their strings, the drummers tried to pound out a steady beat and the vocalists belted out Bowie and Beastie Boys covers and other rock favorites as parents and friends enjoyed a rock-filled afternoon. Verga, whose opportunity came halfway through the proceedings, said "Originally we had planned to perform Crossroads by Cream, but at the last minute decided to do an original song called 'In the End' written by our lead singer Abby Boland."

The bands auditioning were J to the 4th, NewsFlash, Little continued on page 10...

### In This Issue

Events & Notices .....	2
Lakewood Hospital News....	4
Lakewood Library .....	5-6
Lakewood Sports .....	8
Lakewood Schools .....	9
Lakewood Business News ..	11
ArtWalk Map .....	12-13
Hospital News .....	15
Pulse Of The City .....	16
Secret Shopper .....	18
The Buck Stps Here .....	19
Arts & Entertainment....	20-21
Lakewood Real Estate .....	23

## Events & Notices

The Lakewood Observer is pleased to publish Notices on a first-come first-serve basis. Please be patient with us as we have a limited amount of free space available for these items. All notices must be submitted through the Member Center at [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

# Have Fun And Help Homeless Pets At CCLAS Happy Hour

by Mike Deneen

Kick off your Memorial Day weekend early by attending the fourth annual Hair of the Dog Happy Hour and Silent Auction on Thursday, May 22 at Sullivan's Pub from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sullivan's is located at 13368 Madison Avenue.

This event raises funds for the Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS), a local nonprofit organization that supports the Lakewood Animal Shelter via fundraising and volunteering. Since opening in 1985, the shelter has helped thousands of Lakewood pets find loving homes.

Tickets are \$30 per individual and \$25 each for two or more tickets. To

RSVP, call Jennifer Roche Desilets at 216-469-4863. Tickets will also be available at the door. Tickets include drinks and appetizers from one of greater Cleveland's more popular pubs.

The event will feature a live musical performance by highly regarded local artist Kristine Jackson. Her blend of blues, country and soul has been popular with fans and critics alike for years. To learn more about Kristine or to download samples of her music, visit her website [www.kjblues.com](http://www.kjblues.com).

As in past years, the event will feature an outstanding Silent Auction, featuring a wide range of outstanding items. Among the items at this year's event are: two tickets in the Cleveland Browns "Dawg Pound" for a regular season game; a variety of outstanding

artwork from Lakewood artists; two tickets to an Ohio State football game in Columbus; great pet packages from area businesses; Salon and Spa gift packages; numerous items and gift certificates from Lakewood businesses; a wide variety of event and sports tickets; and of course, a selection of Lakewood Observer items.

Donations are tax-deductible and are still being accepted for the silent auction. All donors will be recog-

nized at the event. If you would like to contribute an item, contact Mike Deneen at [mdeneen@cox.net](mailto:mdeneen@cox.net) or 216-226-5536.

This event is CCLAS's primary fundraiser for the entire year, so please come out and bring your family and friends to kick off Memorial Day weekend in style and support Lakewood's homeless and abandoned pets. If you have any questions about the event, contact Jennifer at 216-469-4863.

## Around The Corner Hosts Jordan's Family Foundation Event

by Michelle Slife

Start the Memorial Day weekend a little early and join Lakewood Realtor Brian Salem of Realty One in a night of food, fun, and philanthropy Thursday, May 22 as he guest bartends at Lakewood's own Around The Corner to benefit Jordan's Family Foundation! This local charity works to promote awareness of Congenital Heart Diseases and provide funding

for research and development. 100% of all tips and other monies raised at the event will go directly to the Foundation to help make a direct impact on families in our area. In addition to Around The Corner's great food and fun atmosphere, Brian has arranged to have karaoke by Gus with Kidd Productions, a 50/50 raffle, Chinese auction, surprise celebrity appearances, \$1 Jello shots and much more! We hope to see you there!

## Neighborhood Street Sale

by Christne Gordillo

The streets of Narragansett, Lakewood Heights, **Niagara and Riverside** will hold their annual neighborhood sale **this Saturday, May 17 starting at 9 a.m.** Come check out this cozy little corner of Lakewood just south of I-90 near the Metroparks entrance and pick up some household treasures while you're at it. Nearly two

dozen families are expected to participate and will be peddling wares such as antiques, children's clothing, furniture (including a children's loft bed/desk set, bar stools, dressers), sports equipment and plenty of household items. The festive atmosphere of this much-loved event in this neighborhood includes hot dogs, pop and baked goods for sale as well. Come and see what you can find!

## You Are Invited To Become An Observer!

Every 2 weeks the Lakewood Observer relies upon the independent contributions of Lakewood citizens to provide our readers with news and insights into life in Lakewood. As the name suggests, the Lakewood Observer, is designed to present a snapshot of Lakewood through the eyes of its community members.

The talents, opinions, and hard work of a wide variety of individuals have been showcased over the 4 year history of the LO. But, as we all know, Lakewood

is a diverse, dynamic place to call home, which in turn makes the comprehensive portrayal, definition, and analysis of the city in its entirety, a very tall order. Only by expanding this pool of dedicated individuals will the LO continue to move forward as a truly revolutionary, open-source journalistic endeavor.

The final product in front of you is the result of a local, community based process, which includes volunteer writers, photographers, and editors. You too can join these energetic, commu-

nity conscious individuals of all ages who share a common goal, i.e. supporting the creation of news, views, opinions, and human-interest stories, highlighting the many facets of culture, arts, business, education, religion, and lifestyle that Lakewood offers.

**And here's how!**

If you are interested in becoming a writer, photographer, or editor for the LO, contact Dan Slife at [city\\_editor@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:city_editor@lakewoodobserver.com) or 216.316.2628.

## Barton Center To Hold Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

by Curt Brosky

The Barton Community Center will hold its 2nd Annual Wine and Cheese fundraiser on Thursday, May 22 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Over 100 attended last year's event and this one promises to be even bigger and better. This indoor/outdoor event is entitled "In Bloom" and will be held at Barton Center's beautifully landscaped outdoor Courtyard and Flower Garden, and in the adjacent indoor Rotunda and Greenhouse. Entertainment will be provided by the Barton Center Jazz Trio. Festivities will include a top-hat raffle with gift baskets filled with terrific items.

Tickets are \$25 per person (\$10 tax deductible). Tickets can be reserved by calling 216-221-3400, or by mailing a check to Barton Center at 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. Ample parking is available at the adjacent Congressman Kucinich's office and at the Lakewood Baptist Church. Proceeds will be used to fund the many activities and classes offered by the nonprofit Barton Center, including transportation and instructors for computer and exercise classes.

To find out more about Ohio's first senior center or to volunteer, call the Barton Center office at 216-221-3400.

Barton Community Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Ave. and is open M-F 9am-3pm.



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Lakewood News & Opinion

The LAKEWOOD OBSERVER is published biweekly by Lakewood Observer, Inc., 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 309, Lakewood, OH 44107.

216.228.7223

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EDITOR IN CHIEF  
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ADVERTISING  
216.228.7223

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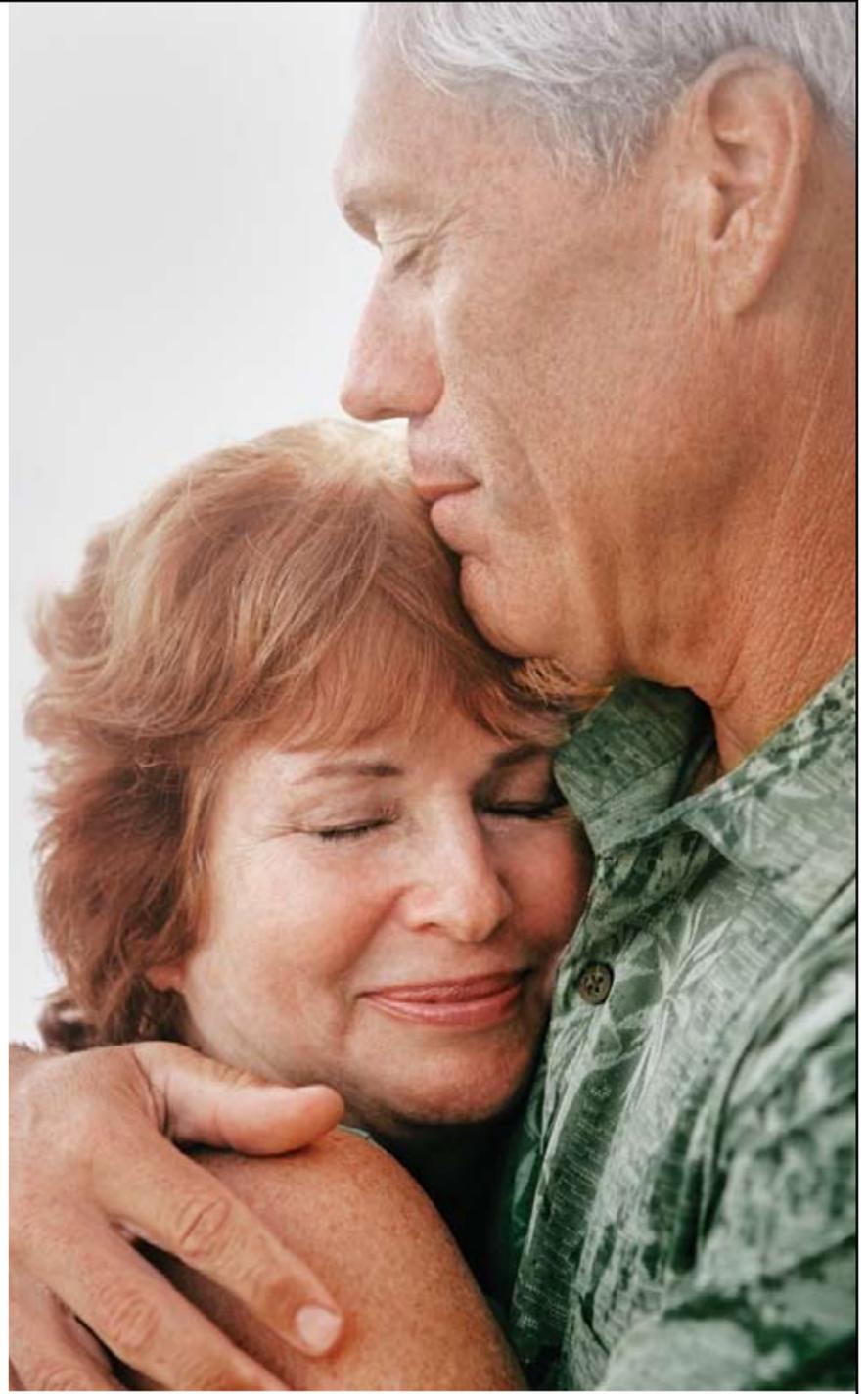
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# A Quick Decision That Could Save Your Life.

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a Cleveland Clinic hospital

If you notice warning signs of a stroke, immediate treatment coupled with the expertise at the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital is critical to your outcome. Here's why:

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- We are the only hospital in the area with a Neuro Integrated Care Unit

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To learn more, go to [lakewoodhospital.org](http://lakewoodhospital.org)**

## Lakewood Hospital News

# Lakewood Hospital Discusses Diabetes In Schools

Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center and the American Diabetes Association are joining forces to face the issue of successfully managing diabetes in schools in order to better serve those children living with the disease.

Gina Gavlak, RN, BSN, from the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center and Joann Mraz from the American Diabetes Association will present to parents and guardians of children with diabetes. This discussion will focus on ways to successfully work together with school personnel in order to develop a diabetes management plan to meet the child's specific needs.

"When a child has diabetes, it's critical that the school and parents work as a team in order to do what's best for the child's healthcare needs," said Dr. David Brill, a family practice physician at Lakewood Medical Associates, Beachcliff in Rocky River. "An educational seminar like this is beneficial for parents as well as school administrators to ensure that a diabetes care plan is set in place for each child with this disease."

This event will be taking place on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Park Women's

Pavilion located at Belle and Lake Avenue in Lakewood.

Please call 1.877.234.FITT (3488) to register.

The Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center is the only center on Cleveland's West Side to offer complete diabetes care. Patients just need to walk through one door to receive individualized treatment from our leading team of specialists consisting of endocrinologists, educators and dietitians. For additional information regarding the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center, please call 216.529.5300.

*Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital is a 400-bed acute care hospital located in the heart of Cleveland's Westshore communities. Lakewood Hospital offers a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children. Each year, Lakewood Hospital provides high-quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. In 1997, Lakewood Hospital became part of the Cleveland Clinic Health System, a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and nine community hospitals.*



## The Dish on Diabetes: Managing Diabetes in School For parents or guardians of children with diabetes

Join Gina Gavlak RN, BSN Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center and Joann Mraz, program director American Diabetes Association for a discussion on:

- Ways of working together with school personnel to develop a diabetes management plan that best meets your child's needs
- Important information to have available
- Important questions to ask
- Benefits of teamwork
- Diabetes care plans and accommodation plans

Please bring your questions, comments and concerns for discussion. Information folders will be distributed.

*This presentation is designed for parents/guardians of children with diabetes in day care through high school.*

**Date:** Saturday, May 17

**Time:** 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion  
Belle and Lake Ave, Lakewood

Please call 1.877.234.FITT (3488) to register.

**Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center**  
14601 Detroit Ave., Suite 540  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
216.529.5300  
lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes

**American Diabetes Association**  
4500 Rockside Road, Suite 440  
Independence, OH 44131  
216.328.9989  
diabetes.org

# Lakewood Public Library

## Welcome Back, Family Weekend Wonders!

by Amy Dreger and Arlie Matera

Friday, May 16 will mark a highly anticipated day at Lakewood Public Library's Main Library with the return of Family Weekend Wonders. Library construction forced the popular drop-in story time to go on hiatus last spring, although the program continued as usual at the Madison Branch.

Beginning May 16, Family Weekend Wonders will be offered at the Main Library in the newly-constructed Activity Room, a two-story area highlighted by floor to ceiling windows with plenty of natural light. This beautiful space is sure to be bustling, due to the popularity of the program which has served approximately 10,000 children and parents annually since 1990.

"It's the best bargain in town," says Lakewood resident Julie Warren. "You get music, dancing, stories, crafts, and it's all free. My children thoroughly enjoy it."

Family Weekend Wonders is open to the entire family, regardless of age or ability level. It's also a non-registered story time, which makes it an attractive option for parents and caregivers looking for a spontaneous activity to enjoy with their children.

"Before Family Weekend Wonders," says library director, Kenneth Warren, "I would often get a call from a grandparent looking for a weekend library event to enjoy with grandchildren. All we had were story-times that required registration in advance. So we needed to create a new approach to both creative content and flexible schedules."

While fun and flexibility are essen-

tial to the success of Family Weekend Wonders, so are education and enlightenment. In recent years, Lakewood librarians have worked to incorporate specific early literacy skills into the program. "Studies show that over one-third of Ohio's children enter kindergarten unprepared to succeed as learners," says Andrew Harant, the Children's and Youth Services Manager. "The library is in a perfect position to partner with families to help change that statistic."

As a part of Family Weekend Wonders, librarians offer explanations to help parents and caregivers understand how children benefit from the story time activities, and how they can build on those activities at home. When children are encouraged to be

active participants in stories, they learn new words, gather information about the world around them, learn written language, see the connection between spoken and written language, and much more.

Each Family Weekend Wonders story time lasts approximately 45 minutes and features books, finger-plays, movements, songs and a craft. Upcoming themes will include "Read Me a Story," "Safari Stomp," "Bear-y Happy Readers," and "Creepy, Crawly Critters." A complete list of Family Weekend Wonder themes is available in the Spring/Summer 2008 Lakewood Public Library Program Guide and online at <http://www.lkwdpl.org/youth/fwcalendar.htm>.

"As I look back to the many caring and creative staff members who have helped to make Family Weekend Wonders such a great program," says Director Warren, "I am filled with deep gratitude and pride for the realization and sustained delivery of a magnificent children's programming achievement every weekend of the year."

Come find out what all the buzz is about! Family Weekend Wonders is held every weekend of the year on Fridays at 10:30, 2:00 and 7:00; Saturdays at 10:30, 2:00 and 4:00; and Sundays at 2:00.

For additional information, please call the Children's and Youth Services Department at (216) 226-8275, extension 140 or the Madison Branch at (216) 228-7428.

## Rededication Of The Lakewood Public Library And Reception For Architect Robert A.M. Stern

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2008

FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

The Lakewood Public Library Board of Trustees cordially invites one and all to attend the official opening of the expanded and renovated Main Library. Designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects, the new facility has nearly doubled the size of the Main Library from 55,000 to 93,000 square feet with room for greatly expanded children's services and computer access, not to mention more books, movies, music, newspapers and magazines. Come see the Grand Reading Room adorned by twin murals of Lakewood life by celebrated artist, Richard Haas. Bask in the luxury of our beautiful new state-of-the-

art auditorium and the possibilities of the multi-purpose performance space. Tour the new and improved Technology Center and Learning Lab. Frolic through the new Children's and Youth Services Department and see the archway sculpture of Ohio wildlife devised by the Cleveland Institute of Art's own David Deming. And let loose in the Lakewood Libranium for Reading Readiness, a fun, playful learning experience designed by the Burgeon Group.

A reception for architect Robert A.M. Stern will feature short remarks, light refreshments and live jazz. His firm is known for beautiful, cost-effective, long-lasting, memorable, successful and welcoming buildings.



Projects include the Nashville Public Library, Bangor Public Library, Clearwater Public Library, Miami Beach Library, the Main Library in Jacksonville, Florida, and the Main Library in Columbus, Georgia.

The Main Library is located at 15425 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio. It's open seven days a week, 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Monday through Saturday and 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on Sunday.

### Lakewood Public Library Event Calendar

**Sunday with the Friends Rebecca Wohlever:** This singer-songwriter draws on history, geology and botany, as well as the love of family, the joy of cooking and whatever it is that draws her to the ocean, to craft personal songs that speak to the common, beautiful and often challenging human experience. Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

**Doug Wood: Progressive Acoustic Instrumental:** Doug Wood's instrumental music can shift from a sweet fingerstyle guitar piece to composition that loops energetic world rhythms with various percussion instruments in a blink of an eye. A wry sense of humor connects it all with tales of the road. Sunday, June 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

**Lakewood Historical Society Landscape and Wildlife in Frontier Ohio:** The Ohio countryside has changed dramatically over the past 200 years. Bob Glotzoper, Curator of Natural History at the Ohio Historical Society, documents changes in forests, rivers, wetlands, prairies, plants and wildlife. Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park

**Five Star Films Mostly Martha (2002 - German) PG:** Dubbed "the second-best chef in the city" by her restaurant owner boss, Martha commands a formidable kitchen where she creates culinary artistry for a sometimes fussy clientele. Yet her personal life remains a failed soufflé. Overnight, her orderly world is transformed by having to adopt a suddenly orphaned, difficult young niece. Then, an engaging Italian sous chef, who embraces each moment as it comes, is hired to work in Martha's domain. Mario's presence lights up the place. At first, the sparks fly. Served up smart, with splashes of wit and a pinch of pathos. (German with English subtitles) Saturday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

**Lakewood High School Senior Art Show:** Lakewood Public Library will host a reception for the Lakewood High School Senior Art Show. Come to the Library to see the remarkable works of art created by these talented students. Thursday, May 22 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the New Multipurpose Room

**Family Music and More Family Movie Night: Disney's The Little Mermaid (1989):** Hans Christian Anderson would be proud of this Oscar-winning animated

adaptation of his beloved fairy tale. He'd probably get the songs stuck in his head, too! A mermaid princess ventures into the strange world of dry land to find her true love. Saturday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

**Family Weekend Wonders:** Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts for children. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance. Choose the day and time most convenient for you.

**Upcoming Themes:**

May 16, 17 18 Read Me a Story

May 23, 24 Roar of the Crowd

**Day and Time**

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.

In the Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library and in the Madison Branch auditorium

**Homework ER:** for students in kindergarten through eighth grade: Need a little extra help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? We transform part of the library into the Homework ER with helpers and a cart full of resources. Homework ER will be closed for school holidays and vacations. No need to register. Tuesday, September 4, 2007 - Friday, May 23, 2008. Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch

**Four O'clock Club:** for students in kindergarten through eighth grade: Join the Club! Come for a different activity each weekday. No need to register. ACTIVITY/DAY/ TIME Make-It-Take-It (craft day) Mondays 4:00 p.m. Marvelous Mysteries (surprise day) Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. Twist, Shout, Act It Out (movement, music and drama) Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. Games Galore (game to play or make) Thursdays 4:00 p.m. Make-It-Take-It (craft day) Fridays 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 4, 2007 - Friday, May 23, 2008 At the Madison Branch

# Lakewood Public Library

## "Bee" Sure To Sign Up For Summer Reading Club!

by Tracie Drake

Are you looking for something fun and educational for your children to do this summer? Look no further than Lakewood Public Library's Summer Reading Club! All ages of children can join the club, read great books and receive cool prizes. This year the Library has two reading clubs for children and youth to enjoy. "Catch the Reading Bug" is the theme for this year's club for children birth through fifth grade. "Metamorphosis" is the reading club for youth entering sixth through twelfth grade. Children and youth who are members of either club are asked to read thirty books or read for thirty hours by August 16th.

Children, birth through fifth grade, who participate in "Catch the Reading Bug" will receive a reading record, bookmark and pencil just for signing up! As they read throughout the summer, members can visit the "Catch the Reading Bug" station to get bug stamps for their reading records and enter drawings for chances to win a Borders' gift card. Children who fulfill the reading requirement will be given prizes including a certificate of completion, a magnifying glass and the opportunity to autograph the bookworm in the Children's and Youth Services Department. Those who finish will be entered into a special prize drawing and could win t-shirts, butterfly nets, bug jars and bug catchers.

Youth entering sixth through twelfth grade can be a part of their own

reading club this summer: "Metamorphosis." Youth who take part in this club will receive a reading record, bookmark and pencil when they sign up. As they read during the summer, youth can visit the "Metamorphosis" station to check in and receive rewards including food or beverage coupons to Donatos, Phoenix Coffee and Chipotle. Participants will also have the opportunity to win a Borders' gift card. Those who finish will be entered into a special prize drawing to win a gift card to The Exchange.

As an added bonus, Lakewood residents, birth through eighth grade, who register for Summer Reading Club at the Main Library between May 12th and May 24th will have the option of entering a once in a lifetime contest! The winner will have the opportunity to open the doors of the Main Library at the Rededication ceremony on June 1st and receive a twenty dollar gift card to Borders Books and Music. Children and grandchildren of Lakewood Public Library employees, LPL Board of Trustees members and LPL Founda-

tion members are not eligible to enter the contest.

Studies have shown that children and youth who participate in summer reading clubs usually maintain or improve their reading skills. Don't let the summer fly by without your child registering to be a participant in one of the Library's "Buggy" Clubs. To sign up for the Summer Reading Club or for more information please stop by the Children's Department at the Main Library or the Madison Branch. Remember the club and the fun start May 12th!

### Friends Of Lakewood Public Library:

## Looking Forward To First Sale In Expanded Space On June 5th

The Friends of Lakewood Public Library will hold the first book sale in the newly renovated Main Library Friends' Book Sale Room located on the lower level at 15425 Detroit Avenue.

A preview for Friends will be held on June 5th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Memberships may be purchased for \$2 the evening of the preview. The public sale will be held on Saturday, June 7th from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"We are happy to be home in a beautiful new facility and we look forward to our first book sale with excitement, says President Paul Dimmick. The volunteer organization

is experimenting with a schedule adjustment that eliminates Friday, a long day that produced minimal sales revenue, from the mix. Dimmick hopes to make the most of his volunteer staff's limited time, while increasing revenue that supports an array of library programs.

The organization of the sale itself should prove to be simpler experience for browsers. All materials for sale will be contained in a brightly colored and expanded Friends Book Sale Room. The better book selections will be organized and sold in a special area with a dedicated check-out point. "This will simplify and speed up check-out, while eliminating hassles for volunteer cashiers," explained Dimmick.

"We may not fill all the shelves for the first sale. But thanks to very generous donations of good quality books, we will have a great sale with many outstanding and valuable materials at bargain prices."

"We have installed a number of shelving units for temporary storage in a very convenient spot. With so many customers buying multiple boxes and bags of books, we will have a centrally located dual elevator service and delivery plan," says Dimmick.

The Friends expect to hold an annual year end bag sale in November. Dimmick looks forward to hearing comments from customers so that the Friends Book Sales will continue to improve in the future.



Paul Dimmick stands in the newly renovated space in the basement of the main library

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# Lakewood Observer

## Local Author Publishes Book

by Staff Writer

The Lakewood Observer recently caught up with local author, Ron Ciancutti, about the release of his new book, "A Step Ahead; Collected Essays." Ron has published several articles in our paper in the last several years and each time, his direct, heartfelt message generated substantial response from our readership.

"Ron, how did this book come about?"

"I've been writing a monthly column called 'Steps Ahead' for a magazine called Parks and Rec Business for about 5 years. The magazine has national reach and my articles are simply common sense discussions about business, morals, working relationships, life, family and the blending of all of them. By the end of my second year with the magazine my essays were being requested for reprint in various company newsletters throughout the United States. CEO's and CFO's evidently liked my common sense approach to problems and challenges and often wrote to the editor about their success putting these same common sense theories into work at their jobsites.

"When the requests to reprint began to come from companies outside the parks and recreation field, the editor of the magazine felt we had a product that could be sold on a greater scale. [The editor] suggested a book that essentially reprinted forty plus of my 'fan favorite' essays and asked if I would add an introduction, conclusion, chapter segues and some unpublished new work to make it into a 'Collection of Essays.'

"In March of 2007, I began that journey and now, a little over a year later, we are ready to release the book. Initially, the book will be sold through

the magazine by order form (shown below) or off the website at [www.park-sandrecbusiness.com](http://www.park-sandrecbusiness.com). After that initial distribution run, the local bookstores, as well as the well-known book buying websites, will also have it available."

"Who is the book aimed towards?"

"Well, really there is something in it for everyone. There are several sections in the book, some with more business theory, and some, merely heartfelt suggestions of how I look at something with an always-keep-it-simple interpretation. If you ever watched the old CBS program 'Sunday Morning', you'll recall Charles Kuralt and his whimsical way of turning something like milking a cow into an adventure in honor of the country's oldest trades and traditions.

"My writing is a lot like that. I grew up in a small town (Berea [Ohio]) and knew my grandparents and neighbors as well as my own parents. I learned something from everyone I ever encountered. My favorite quote of all time came from Dwight Eisenhower who said, 'For any American who had the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town, there always remains with him nostalgic memories... And the older he grows, the more he senses what he owed to the simple honesty and neighborliness, the integrity that he saw all around him in those days.' If I were to ever have a 'creed' to live by, I guess that would be it."

"What made you want to write?"

"My whole life I have always been blessed/plagued by a notion that people complicate their lives with things that don't even resonate with them. I think most things are simple or can be made simple by just breaking them into smaller, workable components. I believe all people have the ability to do this but forget how to because the world and the media keeps whispering to them



Ron Ciancutti promises to take you "A Step Ahead."

*My favorite quote of all time came from Dwight Eisenhower who said, 'For any American who had the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town, there always remains with him nostalgic memories...'*

that things are more complicated than they realize. They're really not. There's already so much to worry about and stress over in life. Why would we want to find more reasons to complicate things and add to our own burdens?

"If I go to work consistently, pay my bills, provide for my family, treat my wife like we're still dating, respect my parents and in-laws, live to be a good example to my children (and other people's children), work to understand God's plan and open a door for some-

one else now and then, I am vastly ahead of many of the other life forms sucking air on this planet.

"I refuse to think I should spend time feeling bad about things. But I found a lot of people still do. I write to remind them to lighten up and enjoy their lives, every chance they get. Tomorrow's not guaranteed you know. I celebrate a good cup of coffee or a parking spot near the door with the same enthusiasm as I would Christmas morning. It's just good to be alive!"

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**5k Run / 1 mile walk-run**  
**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2008**

All proceeds go to the **Concerns of Police Survivors**. This organization provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of Ohio law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty

**Place:** Race begins and ends at the Westlake Holiday Inn  
Located at the Crocker Road Exit on I-90, Westlake, Ohio. On-site Parking available.

**Time:** Registration and packet pick-up: 7:30 A.M.  
5K Race: 9:15 A.M. / 1 Mile: 8:50 A.M.

**Entry Fee:** Pre-registration \$15.00 (Deadline May 14) / Race Day Registration \$20.00

**5K Race Awards:** Awards given to top male and female runners.  
Runners finishing in the top three in each age group will receive awards.  
Age Groups: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 & over.  
Separate awards for Top male and female Law Enforcement Finishers.

**1 Mile Fun Run:** Age Groups: 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12 & over

**All proceeds go to Concerns Of Police Survivors. Fully tax deductible donations accepted.**

Send registration form in by Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and make checks payable to:  
Hermes Sports and Events - 1624 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Age on race day: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adult T-Shirt size: S M L XL XXL (Circle One) Youth T-Shirt size: S M L (Circle One)  
Mark here if Law Enforcement Entry

**Waiver:** By my signature, I attest that I am physically fit and trained to participate in this event. I have full knowledge of the risk involved. Therefore, in consideration of the acceptance of my entry in the C.O.P.S. Run, I for myself, heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all rights or claims for damages I may have against Hermes Sports and Events, Concerns Of Police Survivors, the City of Westlake and the WEB S.W.A.T. Team and the parent municipalities and any other individuals associated with this event and will hold them harmless for any and all injuries I may suffer in connection with this event.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Parent / Guardian (If under 18 years old)

Additional Donation to Ohio C.O.P.S.:  \$5.00  \$10.00  \$20.00  Other

# Lakewood Observer

## The Brotherhood Of Lakewood Football

by Nadhal Eadeh

The Athletic administration at Lakewood High School made a wise choice when they hired head football coach Ron Lewis to take over the struggling Lakewood football program. A 1989 graduate of Lakewood High School, Lewis is tasked with resurrecting a program that has won 7 games over the past three seasons. Lewis was the former head coach of the Rocky River Pirates. From his success in Rocky River, Lewis developed a reputation in football circles as a master motivator with a strong dedication to the team concept.

St. Edward head football coach, Scott Niedzwicki thinks highly of the former Rocky River coach, "I do not know Ron well, but his reputation is outstanding. He did a great job at Rocky River."

"Playing football at Lakewood is like being in a brotherhood," stresses Lewis, who plans on bringing alumni back who expressively understand the camaraderie of playing at Lakewood, the team spirit and tradition that must be communicated to new players. The alumni know that winning in a sport like football requires a great deal of dedication. "When guys come back, they come back to be role models to the younger kids. Obviously, people are



going to have different strengths. Some guys will be able to write checks, while others have the ability to improve the individual skill set of our players."

With the alumni involved, Lewis will seek to improve attitudes around the high school. Harboring a winning spirit in the hallways of Lakewood High may prove difficult at first. Lewis believes he can overcome the negative school spirit that has plagued Lakewood football in recent years. "When you don't have success in the bigger sports like football or basketball, you can get an attitude around the building of apathy,

and the idea that you can't win. To me those are some of the barriers we need to knock down if we want to be successful. When I was at Rocky River that existed but the one thing that will cure it is winning. Winning will quickly change attitudes around Lakewood.

**"Winning will quickly change attitudes around Lakewood" - Ron Lewis**

To some coaches, a transition from a more affluent community to a more diverse inner-ring suburb may prove to be difficult. But a mix of socio-economic groups will make no difference to how Lewis coaches at Lakewood. He acknowledges differences in towns, adding, "I have felt much more comfortable here (Lakewood) than I have at the former schools I have been to in the past. I worked there, but I wasn't one of them. I wasn't raised in those communities. I feel very comfortable in this community," he explains.

"Kids are kids. Kids don't care about demographics or how much their family makes when you're teaching them how to do certain things," Lewis adds. "There are certain issues that we may have to deal with but I know we'll deal with them in a positive way. In the end, it's about working hard. Everything will be fine if everyone does their role."

Lewis steps into a city where the overall state of recreational order is troubled. There are million dollar athletic facilities. yet successes in the major sporting events are diminishing. Although the positives of hiring Ron Lewis are compelling, there persists for some people a sense that in Lakewood something is missing from the recreation mix. Only tennis courts, baseball fields and swimming pools seem to permeate the recreational landscape. There are no basketball hoops. Recreation commissions stand ready to push back public and coaching demands for more access to recreational programming. Compared to its peers in other recreational departments, the city of Lakewood is behind. Some believe Anti-recreation legislation is TOO EASILY accepted by the Board of Education. The power brokers of recreation often reside in other cities. So how far Lewis can influence or inspire wider improvements to the city's total recreation game remain to be seen.

Perhaps Lewis' grassroots initiatives and spirit of winning camaraderie will shake off the rust and ignite the passions of displaced athletes looking for appropriate ways to burn off steam.

**Elements of his plan include:**

- Youth Athletic Camps that develop athleticism and teach the fundamentals of football.
- Coaches Clinics that will help to organize the particulars of his play-book and coaching philosophy.
- Building a strong middle school staff that can teach and implement his vision.
- Developing a mentoring presence for middle school athletes.

Lewis emphasizes developing kids at an early age in order to help develop love for the game and a strong foundation for future Lakewood athletes.

Lewis thinks a balance between winning the game and creating an improved environment for the development of the football program has to be struck. "My job when it comes right down to it next year in week one is to do everything we can do to get a win over Berea. At the same time, I need to help some kid in 4th grade become a better football player; but I can not put one in place of another."

Indeed, developing the program to compete with St. Edwards again is important to Coach Lewis. As Lakewood lifers well know, the game between the St. Edward Eagles and the Lakewood Rangers is of great significance to the city. Ron Lewis knows this, too.

From an early age, athletes who plan on attending Lakewood High are indoctrinated about future contests between St. Ed's and Lakewood. Of course, when the games were last played, the outcomes were heavily skewed towards the Eagles. But the level headed Lewis knows the importance of this rivalry to the city of Lakewood.

"As a kid growing up in Lakewood, that game was our early Christmas present." Because of the scheduling block, the plans for reunion will have to wait until the 2009 or 2010 season.

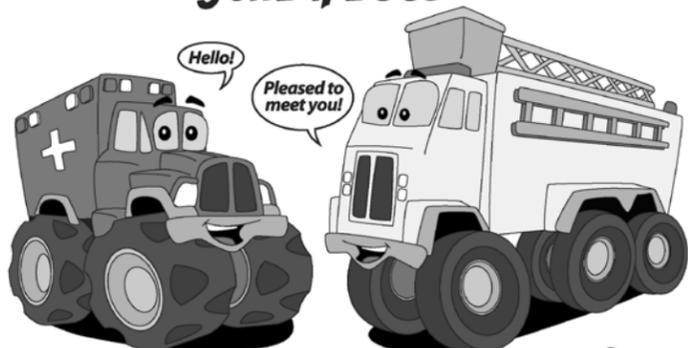
"Eventually we are going to have to play that game again," asserts Lewis. "My plan is to restore this program to where it once was. And that was playing St. Ed's in week three."

Niedzwicki agrees. "I would love to see the rivalry restored between Saint Edward and Lakewood. I have already spoken with Coach Lewis on the subject and he seems to be very interested as well," says Niedzwicki. "This was always a huge game for both programs and the City of Lakewood. Any time an entire community participates to support two local programs it is exciting."

The story of the 2008 Lakewood Rangers has yet to be written, but Ranger fans hoping for Friday night success on the gridiron will be pleased with what Coach Lewis has to offer. In the mean time, Lewis' goals are clear: beat Berea in week 1.

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA & The City of Lakewood Present:

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Community Projects

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# Lakewood Schools

## FAST Program At Harrison Graduates 15

by Emily Lockshine

“See all of these people?” says five year-old Elliot Lockshine as he gestures toward the fifteen families enjoying a home-cooked dinner in Harrison’s cafeteria. “All of these people are my friends.”

“That,” says Toni Gelsomino, Program Manager of Early Childhood for the City of Lakewood, “is what FAST is all about.”

FAST (Families and Schools Together) is a national program that builds strong parent-child communication and social support. Based on research that embraces family systems theory and risk prevention, FAST has been implemented in more than 600 schools in 40 states. The program, however, is active in only two of Lakewood’s public elementary schools -- Roosevelt and Harrison.

On April 28, Harrison proudly graduated 15 families from the FAST program. These families represent the third cycle of FAST graduates from the school.

The FAST process is based on a foundation of collaboration among key players in the community. The program activities are led by the FAST team, which consists of Mrs. Gelsomino, Harrison Family Resource Coordinator Chris Bringman, teacher Genni Lach and parent partners Rene Volk-

ers, Melissa Cruz and Julie Johnson, a community partner from Community Challenge. The team works in collaboration with the parents and volunteer members of the community. Funding is provided through the Cuyahoga County Drug and Alcohol Board, but requires a significant commitment from the school and community.

FAST participants gather one evening per week for eight weeks, starting the evening with a home cooked meal prepared by one of the participating families. Volunteers from the school and community assist with serving the meal, so that families are able to maximize their time together. In a slight twist on reality, children actually serve their parents’ dinners first and then serve themselves.

After dinner and some warm up activities, the children engage in arts and crafts and physical play, while their parents participate in “buddy time” and parent groups. During buddy time, parents split off into groups of two. Each partner has an equal opportunity to vent and to listen when it is the other partner’s turn to talk. The evening wraps up with “special play,” where the designated FAST child and his or her parent have a dedicated 15 minutes of play time together. Before adjourning, the families gather together for one final activity and a special lottery.



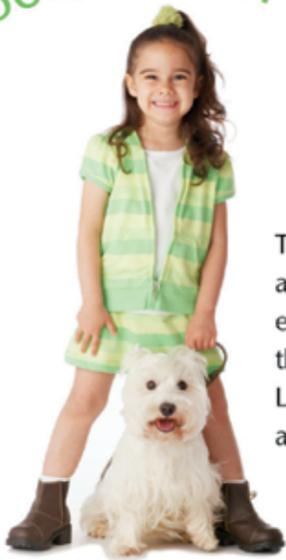
Parents and their children agree that their families come out stronger as a result of participating in FAST. “One of my goals was to strengthen my family unit,” said Karen Roepke, a mother of a kindergartner. “I think we accomplished that, plus I feel we have developed a deeper partnership with the school.” Kindergartner Emma Hirsh explains that she “really liked the special time with mom and dad.”

After graduation, families are eligible to participate in FASTWORKS, through which FAST graduates gather together on a monthly basis for fun

family activities and friendship. Past FASTWORKS activities have included swimming, ice skating and bowling. Later this month, all three classes of FAST graduates will gather for a picnic at Lakewood Park.

Among the many benefits of FAST are strong families and a connected community. Chris Bringman emphasizes the impact of the program on the community, “FAST is this wonderful labor intensive experience that builds a sense of community for everyone involved, the team, teachers (volunteer helpers) and families.”

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## Lakewood Observer

# Fedor Manor, 25 Years Of Service

by Lauren Kirk

The 11 story apricot brick building on the corner of Ridgewood and Madison Avenues resulted from an idea generated during the committee work for SS. Cyril & Methodious's Diamond Jubilee in 1978. The Chairman of the celebration, George E. Fedor asked a group of the Committee Chairpersons to come to a meeting at the rectory in the spring of 1979 where he told of an idea of constructing an apartment building near the Church that would offer Federally-subsidized housing for those 62 and over. The apartment was to house over 100 Lakewood residents. The group consisted of the Pastor of SS. Cyril & Methodious, lawyers, bankers & business people. Original founding members included George E. Fedor, Former Mayor Frank Celeste, Peter Shimrak, John Olds, Rev. Richard J. Ondreyka, Ben Chisar and Mary-Louise Kirk. After hearing George's proposal, with various ideas and skills the group formed a non-profit corporation and agreed to proceed. And this is when the fun began.

An architect was also asked to come on board to provide insight for the ensuing project. The desired site had buildings that needed to be purchased before the plan could get under

way. The Lakewood City Administration and Mayor Sinagra were very enthusiastic and the Mayor pushed to get Federal Block Grant money. In addition, a second Office on Aging Center was planned for the front first floor that was slated to contain offices for social workers, a coordinator that HUD required, and a large lunchroom where anyone over 62 or handicapped could purchase a noon meal. The Cleveland Diocese extended a \$50,000 loan that was to be re-paid when the Federal loan was received. City Council was mostly approving yet still had some issues to sort through. Once these various issues were addressed, the vote to proceed was unanimous. Almost all of new City projects will cause neighborhood concerns, and the planning of the Manor needed to respond and act to find the answers. Worries about parking, traffic, water supply, sewer capacity, and safety were voiced and resolved before the project could begin progressing. After some agonizing moments, the day finally came when the wrecking ball knocked down the vacant buildings. Once the site was cleared and prepared, construction flowed at a steady pace.

Due to the way in which HUD works, by the time the Federal loan money went to and from various cit-

ies there was a short-fall of funds. The rules state that the building had to be completely ready for occupancy and functionality down to the last picture nailed to the wall in the public areas. As a result, a fundraising campaign began. A committee that was comprised of around 120 people joined in the effort to raise the much needed funds. One example was the formation of the Babushka Ball. For those that are unsure, "Babushka" is a term of endearment for a Grandmother in most Eastern European countries and most of the first residents of the City of Lakewood were of Eastern European descent. It was the Babushka Ball that helped to provide an even greater sense of unity.

During the fundraising effort, there was an unexpected event. The Chairwoman of the committee visited with Jack Wasmer with the intent of asking him to be the community representative. The Chairwoman thought that the City of Lakewood and its residents would respond to him as he was so well known. He explained that he had just stepped off of the Lakewood Hospital Board after years and asked if by chance a library was planned in the building. The Chairwoman replied that no library was in the original plans but that there was available space on the

11th floor that could be used for that purpose. He slid a check for \$10,000 across the table and when she said that she really wanted him to become the Chairman, he replied by saying that "the first rule of fund-raising is to NEVER turn down a check" and that, "if the library would be dedicated to his parents, the check was theirs to keep." She said "yes" gratefully so a library was built and the Lakewood Public Library and the Plaque dedicating it to the Wasmer's watches over it.

A lot of twists and turns happened to get the project started, completed, and functional. The most important thing is that The George E. Fedor Manor has enjoyed 25 successful years of providing homes for seniors, providing them with a clean, safe living environment while meeting their independent day-to-day needs and also supporting activities and social functions. It is true of course that some things have changed over the years. One small example is that seniors are so much younger now than they were 25 years ago. As proof of this, this past year, the Fund provided a bike rack for the 8 seniors that ride bikes. It is likely that that bike rack will be joined by another. Another example of adapting to the changing times is the fact that today the parking lot is too small and 25 years ago, it was doubtful that one was even needed. About 18 months ago, over \$1,000,000 was borrowed from HUD. To keep up the quality of the residence, all new windows, a FEMA ordered generator and solid state approved elevators were installed as well as other re-modeling, updating and upgrading so the residence is improvised and bettered. The Board of Trustees was quick to agree to needed improvements and remembers that George E. Fedor had a strong wish to provide housing for people. He cared about the senior residents of Lakewood and hoped that they would consider "his" house to be their home. And so, the tradition and caring continues with a 25th anniversary celebration. Some time this summer, the residents of the Manor will be treated to a picnic barbeque. The exact time is to be announced at a later date as the Manor has "Tea with Babushka" this week.

However, there are impending issues that will affect the Manor and its residents. The new Administration has slashed the allocated senior budget by approximately \$800,000. Also, the Eastern Center of the Office on Aging has been impacted directly by being shut down. The employees will not remain there and sadly this includes the coordinator who is sorely needed by the Residents and others from the area. It is hoped, however, that the lunches and some other services will be continued and remain in tact. It seems to be a quiet ending to a long, fruitful relationship between The Manor and the City, and when one considers that some marriages don't last 25 years, perhaps, there will be a way to re-spark it.

## Spilled Ink



photo by Rhonda Loje

The band : The Blackbirds



photo by Rhonda Loje

The band : Newsflash!

### Band2gether Auditions Rock The Hi-Fi Club continued from page 1...

Known Fact, The Blackbirds, Venus, Fabulous Waste of Time and Trancemitter. There are four bands yet to audition: Back for More, Nuclear Gunrack, Beyond Beauty and Hardened due to prior commitments could not make the audition but have sent in recordings. The judges came from a diverse musical background and musical perspectives. Ken Warren, Director of the Library and drummer for garage band called Parson's Finale back in the sixties; Jodi Dobos, Singer/Songwriter; Michael Gill, Writer for the Free Times; Denis DeVito, Cats on Holiday-frontman and guitarist; and Fred Cousin, bass player for modQuad a funky jazzy jam band. From the audition's start to its finish, the guts and abilities of the participants were impressive as they candidly shared their abilities with their peers. Observers left the audition eager to experience the Band2gether concert series this summer starting on Friday, July 11 at 6pm in Sinagra Park. Band2gether is a collaborative effort between Mainstreet-Lakewood, Vance Music Studios and Lakewood is Art.

# Lakewood Business News

## Melt In The National Spotlight

by David Lay

Lakewood's own culinary delight, Melt Bar and Grilled, is no longer our best-kept secret: the purveyor of all things grilled cheese was featured in the May issue of Esquire's The Best Sandwiches In America.

Owner/Chef Matt Fish is thrilled with the announcement. "I am completely blown away by the exposure in Esquire," says Fish. "It is very hard to believe that my little Lakewood restaurant is being thought of on a national level. We try extremely hard to make every experience at Melt Bar and Grilled a great one. It is a real honor to be mentioned."

When Esquire put the call out in March for the best sandwiches, thousands of entries came in. Jennifer Brubaker of North Olmsted recommended the Parmageddon: "A grilled cheddar-cheese sandwich with potato-

and-cheese pierogies, napa-vodka sauerkraut, and onion." The monster of a sandwich is served on Texas Toast and topped off with a huge serving of freshly-made fries. The deep fried Twinkies are a decadent, albeit artery-clogging, way to top off the meal. But considering you've just eaten probably a week's worth of fat, calories and carbs (but so worth it!), who cares?

While waiting to shoot the photos for this article, I got the chance to see Matt at work making the Parmageddon, which was interesting to witness. Everything on his menu uses fresh, locally-sourced ingredients, and every sandwich is made to order, right after it's ordered. This can mean sometimes lengthy wait times, but trust me, it's totally worth it. The flavors are bold, and the portions are just plain huge - a sight for sore eyes with the seemingly prevalent haute cuisine's 'small plates'. Very tasty, indeed.



Above: Matt Fish, Melt's chef/owner. Inset: The Parmageddon, the delicious (and gut-busting) sandwich that got the nod in Esquire.

### A Melt Manifesto: For God's Sake, Save the Purple Parm, Mr. Fish



"Save The Purple Parma" protesters assembling outside Melt in their first hour. (from left) Rebeccah Peppers, Drew Ratcliff, Lisa Zack, Turkish, Mike O'Toole

Mr. Matt Fish,  
We would like to start by stating that all actions taken are intended to be respectful to you and your business. Melt has been a staple of our cuisine for some time, we do not wish to convey any dissatisfaction with Melt or its management. We hope that this exercise serves to show you our level of adoration for your business and, in particular, the Purple Parma sandwich.

That being said, we feel the introduction of the Purple Parma has been seen by many as a blessing of almost biblical proportions (see 'manna in the desert'). Since the dawn of the eggplant in southeast India nearly 4,000 years ago, a service of this magnitude has not been paid. Though you may think this verbose, perhaps an overstatement, the field of eggplant sandwichry has been lacking key ingredients. This oversight has kept the eggplant out of the spotlight while arguably bland meats have been bathed in the finest of seasonings, even the hotdog has gained carts and vendors to peddle the streets. Your interpretation of the eggplant and its breading has been a heroic protest to

this stagnant chain of thought. Silently, and occasionally audibly (through the approving 'mmm's of customers) this eggplant has been tried and tested, and in the pages attached, these people have offered their overwhelming approval.

Our request to you, is to acknowledge the growing following of this unique sandwich trend and, more importantly, the eggplant as a worthy cause. Though it may have been seen as a slice of variety and a new option to regulars, we feel there are many who would benefit should this breaded patty of magic remain between the wholesome slices at Melt as a regular menu item. We hope this is not unreasonable, and that you may set aside some time to discuss the possibilities of this addition. In payment for your time and attention, we are offering t-shirts with the logo of our cause at no cost to staff of Melt and yourself. Please feel free to contact us in the evening at either of the numbers below. We look forward to hearing from you.

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& Andrew McNair Ratcliff

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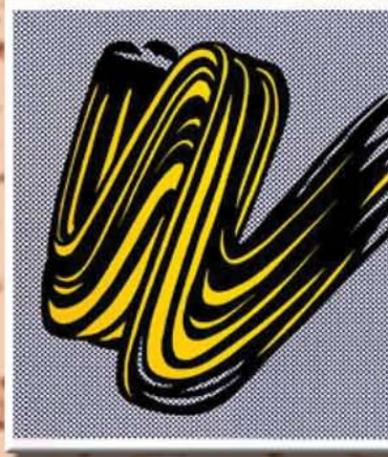
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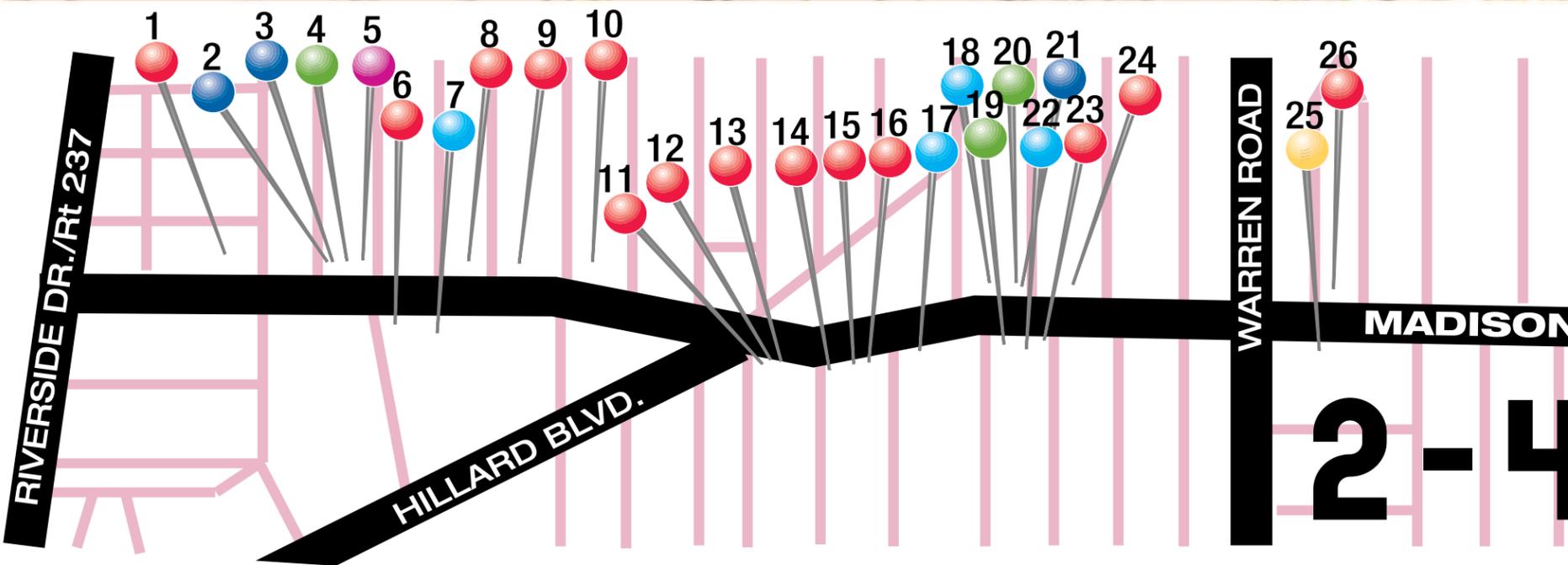
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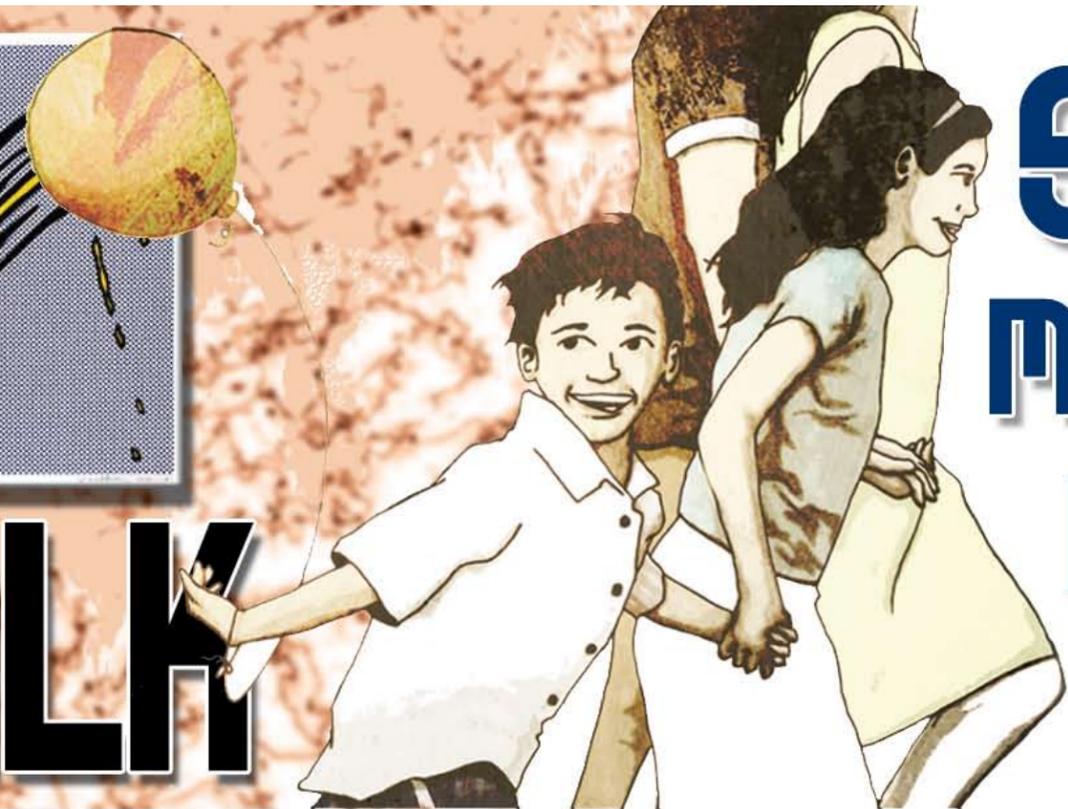


# LAKewood ART WA



● Art Galleries ● Restaurants/Bars/Coffee ● Clothing ● Hair Salon/Barber ● Business

- 1 The Cat Clinic**  
17306 Madison/216-529-7622 [www.lovepets.org](http://www.lovepets.org)  
Pick up your ArtWalk Map in the Lakewood Observer.  
Music: Jeff Sherman 4-5:30pm  
Jewelry Artist: Gayle Pilat
- 2 The Pop Shop Gallery**  
17020 Madison/216-226-3016 [www.popshopgallery.com](http://www.popshopgallery.com)  
Artist: 3rd Anniversary Show 30+ artists
- 3 Frame Shop**  
17016 Madison/216-226-3016 [www.popshopgallery.com](http://www.popshopgallery.com)  
Artist: TBA
- 4 Mullen's of Letterfrack**  
17014 Maddison/216-226-5224  
ArtWalk after party-wrist bands available @  
the Pop Shop(21 & over) Artist: Jeff Hulligan
- 5 Ample Duds**  
17008 Madison/216-228-3388  
Artist: Deborah Bredestege
- 6 Pet's General Store**  
16821 Madison/216-226-0886  
Artist: Ray Tapajna, Kimberly Engel, and Josh McLaughlin
- 7 Cuttin' Loose Hair Salon**  
16621 Madison/216-521-4247 [www.cuttinloose.com](http://www.cuttinloose.com)  
Artist: Sandy Millman & Amy Siebold
- 8 Lakewood Hardware**  
16608 Madison/216-226-8822 [www.lakewoodhardware.com](http://www.lakewoodhardware.com)  
Artist: Jim Tiauls & Paul White
- 9 Vance Music Studios**  
16420 Madison/216-227-2886 [www.vancemusicstudios.com](http://www.vancemusicstudios.com)  
Live Music by in-house groups, and  
Artist: Michael Heasley, Rock Shots exhibit
- 10 Coin Wash Laundry**  
16212 Madison/216-226-9274  
Artist: Jeff Hulligan
- 11 Goddess Blessed**  
15729 Madison/216-221-8755 [www.goddessblessedinc.com](http://www.goddessblessedinc.com)  
Artist: Sheila Santiago & Kim of Angelic Creations
- 12 Custom Picture Framing**  
15723 Madison/216-221-1327  
Artist: Mark C. Jenks
- 13 Fuzion Martial Arts Center**  
15721 Madison/216-712-7200 [www.fuzionmartialarts.com](http://www.fuzionmartialarts.com)  
Artist: Stephanie Teel
- 14 Ultimate Party & Bar Supply**  
15649 Madison/216-227-0219  
Artist: Jeff McNaught
- 15 Silhouette Dance "Too"**  
15641 Madison/216-228-3871 [www.silhouettedance.net](http://www.silhouettedance.net)  
Walk-in Tours & Free Gifts.  
Artist: Harding Middle School Students' Art Show.
- 16 Cyrano's Place**  
15639 Madison/216-227-DUEL(3835) [www.cyranosplace.com](http://www.cyranosplace.com)  
The Art of Fencing, Provision-Specialty Painting, RW Magic-  
magic and balloon sculptures, Bake Sale and Gifts by Lillian.  
Artist: Jason Rudolf, Melissa Jolly, Peter Dranitsin & Janette Ols.
- 17 Elements Hair Studios**  
15607 Madison/216-228-2643  
Artist: Karen Bromstrup & Oliver Petkac
- 18 Carol Lynn's Salon Plus**  
15410 Madison/216-226-4730  
Artist: Elizabeth Gadus, Bettie Maresh,  
Rob Burdick & Carol Congeni
- 19 Beer Engine**  
15315 Madison/216-226-2337 [www.buckeyebeerengine.com](http://www.buckeyebeerengine.com)  
Artist: Various Artists Outside or inside Huge Children's  
Blackboard and Acrylic Carpet you walk on to make Art!
- 20 The Mars Bar**  
15314 Madison/216-228-4500  
Artist: Sound Installation by Ryan Ramer and various artists
- 21 Wobblefoot Gallery**  
1662 Mars/216-226-2971 [www.wobblefootgallery.com](http://www.wobblefootgallery.com)  
Artist: Robert Tubbesing & I  
doing caricatures.  
Writer: Book Signing-Hazel
- 22 Carabel Beauty Salon**  
15309 Madison/216-226-8611  
First 50 receive gift bags w/s
- 23 Be Studios**  
15301 Madison/216-227-9711  
Artist: Brian Kelly and Artist
- 24 Metropolitan Staging**  
15226 Madison/216-228-2341  
Artist: Abbey Zettler
- 25 Lakewood Fire Department**  
14601 Madison/216-529-6655  
Fire Trucks on display
- 26 Lakewood Animal Hospital**  
14572 Madison/216-226-0400
- 27 Madison Rose Bookstore**  
13705 Madison/216-226-BO  
[www.madisonrosebookstore.com](http://www.madisonrosebookstore.com)  
Music: Meredith White-Zea
- 28 Sacred Arts & Healing**  
13351 Madison/216-410-3000  
Artist: Shahin Afrnan, Jenn  
Christine Siarkin
- 29 Waterbury Coach House**  
13333Madison/216-226-9772  
Artist: Michelle Mowery & M  
Dance: Bellydancing by Sirens



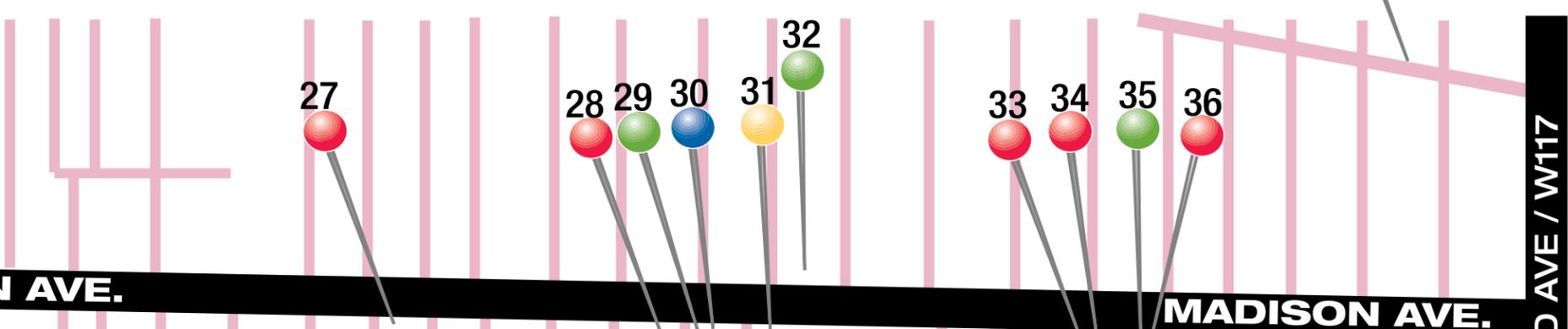
# SATURDAY

## MAY 17 4-9 PM

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 00 www.lovespets.org  
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 ger and Marc Mannheimer  
**ng Center**  
 5 www.sacredartshealingcenter.com  
 ifer Whitten, Pauline Allma &  
**ouse**  
 arybeth Norton  
 Hararidance 5pm

- 30 bela dubby**  
 13321 Madison/216-221-4479 www.myspace.com/beladubby  
*Artist:* Mark Yasenchack and Autumn Saffron. Art projects for kids, jewelry vendors & more. *Music by:* "Station" @ 7pm
- 31 Lakewood Public Library**  
 13229 Madison/216-228-7428  
 Children's Activities. Performance by the Slight of Hand Man
- 32 Mahall's Twenty Lanes**  
 13200 Madison/216-521-3280  
*Artist:* from Senior Health Campus, and Jonathan Kaulka and Renee Rothhaas  
*Music by:* Just Folkin' Around(5pm) fezmonkeys(7pm)  
 ArtWalk "Special" Grilled Cheese, chips & pop \$4.00 - many other entrees, too!
- 33 Connie's Classics**  
 12603 Madison/216-712-7515  
*Artist:* Various Artists
- 34 Silhouette Dance & Fine Arts**  
 12501 Madison/216-228-3871 www.silhouettedance.net  
 Walk-in hours & free gifts
- 35 The Coffee Pot**  
 12415 Madison/216-226-6443  
*Artist:* Tony Boccoccio of AB plumbing & Susan Fenske.  
*Music by:* FlipSide 4-6pm
- 36 Lakewood Home Furnishing**  
 12409 Madison/216-221-7789  
 Good quality -name brand Furniture & Art-open until 7:30pm
- 37 Omega Cut**  
 11833 Franklin/216-221-9008  
*Film:* Film Fest—Indie Film Artists including the Film Scaredycats by Andy Blubaugh  
*Dancing:* Bellydancing by Sirens Hararidance 7pm  
*Artist:* Brook Cobeccio



# Lakewood Observer

## The Only Synagogue West Of The Cuyahoga

by Peter Sackett

This is the first in a planned series of articles about the wide variety of religious establishments serving the spiritual needs of all Lakewoodites. We encourage our readers to submit articles about their religious experiences.

We live in Lakewood where we have two long-term mainstays of life – taverns and churches. Needless to say, they probably serve the same people, not that there is anything wrong with that!

But, this city is home to all kinds of denominations of Christianity. Catholic churches may dominate the landscape, but, we also have a Mormon church. And, just across I-90 we have Beth Israel – The West Temple. A synagogue on Triskett Avenue for over 50 years. It happens to be the only temple serving a congregation in the entire city of Cleveland with regular weekly services and an operating Sunday school.

And, it serves the entire Jewish community of western Cuyahoga County and the adjoining counties. We have members from as far away as Oberlin, Amherst and Medina. [Smaller congregations serve Lorain and Elyria.]

Our building provides a variety of services for our members and the

general public. We have a wonderful library; we have classrooms for our young students. We have a recently refurbished sanctuary and a social hall for meetings.

Our membership includes approximately 135 families. We always welcome guests to our weekly services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

For those in need of some elementary information about Judaism, please note that we live by four general points: We live by the Five Books of Moses – called the Torah (as it has been interpreted by ancient Rabbis); we believe in

the sanctity of one God and only one God; we do not understand scripture literally; and, that a Messiah, a direct descendant of King David and his son, Solomon, is expected, but has not arrived as of yet.

We have been around for a long time; we were slaves in Egypt about 3,500 years ago and it took Moses to get us to the Jordan River across from the Land of Milk & Honey – Israel. King Solomon built the First Temple in Jerusalem about 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus; the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in the year

70, and the remaining Western Wall still stands in Jerusalem.

Jews have lived all over the world for centuries. Jews from Ethiopia recently immigrated to Israel; Jews from Russia were allowed to leave for Israel only as the government allowed them.

A resolution of the United Nations partitioned Palestine 1947 to provide for both a Jewish state and an Arab state. The State of Israel was declared on May 15, 1948, 60 years ago.

The Arab state that was envisioned in that UN resolution was never formed, and the State of Israel has experienced almost constant warfare. Israel had to fight a war as soon as it declared its independence. Israel fought in formal wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. These four wars represent only a part of the story.

Peace is never simple; it is incredibly complicated in that area of the world. Peace with Egypt was gained in 1978; not one Israeli soldier has died on the Egyptian border since the peace treaty was signed. Not one. There is also peace with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

But peace with the Palestinians and rest of Israel's neighbors continues to be a difficult task.

Ok, back to our little temple. We live by the tenets of Leviticus, 19:18, "Love your neighbor as yourself." One of our great sages, Hillel, taught: "What is hateful to you do not do to anyone else."

Our temple practices Reform Judaism. Other temples in the east side of Cleveland serve Orthodox as well as Conservative Jews.

Future articles will discuss the holidays and customs of your Jewish neighbors and how Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews celebrate them.

My favorite phrase in the entire prayer book is really very simple. I believe it defines everything we live for; everything everyone lives for. It translates to 'From one generation to the next'. We cherish our history, we live by our Books, and we teach the Golden Rule. We really aren't much different than everyone else.

This article was prepared with the assistance of my spiritual leader and friend, Rabbi Alan Lettofsky.



## Walkability=Financial Opportunity

by Mary Anne Crampton

With 185 miles of sidewalks within 5.5 square miles, many consider Lakewood to be Ohio's most walkable city. At Main Street Lakewood, we make a point to promote Lakewood's walkability in all of our activities, ranging from the Detroit Avenue Streetscape Design to events like Walk+Roll™ Lakewood, scheduled for July 19th. Why? Because walking is not only good for our physical health, it is good for our economic health.

While there is no denying the negative impact of the current national credit-based housing crisis, Lakewood's walkability makes us well-poised to take advantage of social and environmental trends for our future economic benefit. Go to [mainstreetlakewood.org](http://mainstreetlakewood.org)

to read The Economic Benefits of Walkable Communities, which notes ties between walkability, housing values, retail sales, sustainability and the "new economy".

### Sound familiar?

For example, a California think tank, Collaborative Economics, in a report titled Linking the New Economy to the Livable Communities noted "...the connections between the physical design of communities and dynamic elements of the new knowledge-driven, service-oriented economy. The contemporary economy – with its smaller, decentralized firms – thrives on land use patterns that harken back to the towns of early industrial years, with city centers, corner stores and streetcar suburbs. Walkable downtowns with a mix of restaurants, offices and hous-

ing promote interaction. Interaction is key since the new economy thrives on accessibility, networking and creativity."

Pedestrian-friendly communities typically include "...design features... of interconnected, often narrow streets, sidewalks, a mix of residential, retail and office land uses, and features such as street trees, short front yard set-backs, front porches, and rear garages accessed by alleys."

With the economy slowing, gas prices over \$3.50/gallon and skyrocketing obesity and diabetes rates, there is no time like the present to promote, protect and enhance the pedestrian-friendly infrastructure of Lakewood. Our residents are our very best advertisers. Celebrate and embrace wonderful, walkable Lakewood!

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# Society's Child

## Surprise!

by Jennifer Scott

Shhhh...It's a surprise! That's what Bob and Kathy Wirtz's eleven children were hoping for last Friday when they held a surprise 60th birthday party for their parents. The pouring rain did nothing to dampen anyone's spirits as they waited for the birthday couple to arrive. How 11 kids plus spouses and friends managed to keep all of this under wraps is beyond me but, they did, as evidenced by the shocked looks on Bob and Kathy's faces.

The Wirtz's have raised their beautiful family in Lakewood and have been in their home on Wagar ave. for 33 years. Their house is always full of family, kids, grandkids, ( 14 at last count with another on the way ) and lots and lots of love. The video the family put together didn't leave many dry eyes in the room along with plenty of laughs over the many changing hairstyles over the years.

Thanks for the invitation guys, I felt very special to be included on such a meaningful occasion. The evening was just perfect, even with the rain. And, no Mr. Wirtz, I am not! Happy Birthday to you both, have a blessed year.



Front row: Christy Wirtz, Katie Wirtz, Kathy Wirtz, Connie Rustad, Peggy Alspach

Middle row: John Wirtz, MaryRita Rossen, Mollie Wirtz, Bob Wirtz, Sr., Beth Ann Wirtz, Marty Wirtz

Back row: (starting with Bert in orange sweater) Bert Wirtz, Mary Wirtz, Greg Rossen, Mike Alspach, Bob Wirtz, Jr., Theo Wirtz, Greg Rustad, Will Wirtz

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## Pulse Of The City

*I'm Famous! I'm Successful! (But Would Mother Approve?)*

# Thoughts About Mother's Day...

by Gary Rice

When we were children, dreams flooded our imaginations as to whether one day we might become famous, successful, and/or perhaps hugely contribute to the betterment of the human race. As young people, we looked around and dreamed of doing things and going places that our elders (we thought) had never dreamed of. Of course, with the passage of time, and as our dreams became new realities, we hopefully did achieve some of our goals, while others were left at the gate of life.

Dreams can be great things. Well thought-out dreams can and do become realities all the time. Every car, book, song, or whatever started out by someone daring to dream in a different way. To be sure, flops abound in the process of dream realizations, but I feel the journey we take towards the fulfillment of our dreams is worth it nearly every time.

Sometimes our goal might be to become famous or successful in some field, although I feel that there is a danger connected with having dreams of fame and success. The problem is simply that terms like fame and success mean different things to different people.

Whether I like it or not, I suppose I'm somewhat famous and successful. Being involved in education for over thirty years, and with special education in particular, I've ended up doing many education-related activities. Therefore I confess to being pretty well-known in those circles. As well, when I started working with the Rock Hall's guitars, and Gary Graff wrote that article about it in the Guitar World magazine (Oct. '95), more fame and success of a different sort followed in the world of guitars. In the course of all this, I decided that I would try to use this so-called "fame and success" to help others navigate their way through similar situations to those experienced by myself, and to do so through my writings. Hopefully, for example, this column has helped some of you, as that has been my goal; although, even the process of writing columns for several periodicals seems to perpetuate that "fame and success" paradigm.

My dear mother passed away a few years ago. She, on the other hand, was not "famous," nor did she wish to be. She instead wanted all of her glory and fame to be in Heaven. She spent a lifetime of service for others--helping out

on the home front in World War II, and also as president of a businesswomen's club at a time when women were rarely seen in the workplace. She was continually active with helping the poor, sick, and downtrodden. She was also a loving wife and mother to Dad and me. On this mid-life reflection of mine (and I hope you'll bear with me as I think this through), she was one of the most "successful" people I've ever known, only in her own quiet way...as a servant of God.

So how will you know when you become successful, famous, or whatever? I would say to you from the wisdom of time that these terms are truly meaningless to me. I just thank God for my time with loved ones, as well as the opportunity to help and serve others with as much wisdom and compassion as I can muster. I can also tell you that, along with faith, music has been a very real blessing to Dad and me while passing through the difficult time after my mother's death. There seems to be a tonic in song and fellowship that is hard to beat.

As a sublime favor to yourself, I would suggest that you let your loved ones know how much they are loved right now--while you can, as the clock continues to tick away at all of our lives. Get some activities to relax with too. In my case, I just grab that guitar or banjo of mine and play the silly things for all they're worth. I don't worry how simple or complicated the song may be, or how talented that I might be. I just PLAY! It helps me to laugh through the tears of life.

Even when Mom was a little girl, she was known as "Sunshine" for the way she spread happiness to others. Even though she had been stricken with serious illness as a child, she loved

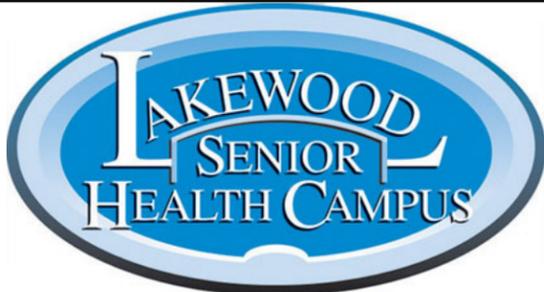


Gary's mom, Betty Rice

to dance. I guess she once sang and danced in some play that used the old spiritual tune "Golden Slippers." Her own father was a well-known old-time fiddler, and may have helped to spread the fame of that wonderful old tune. We buried Mom with a pair of her golden slippers, so that she too could "ride in the chariot in the morn."

I've written before of the powerful effect of music in our lives. This is just one more case where the power of a song can lift a heart and help to heal wounded souls. Again I say, laugh, dance, sing, PLAY! It's a great way to mark the pulse of the city and also to be a credit to our mothers. Happy Mothers' Day to these great ladies, wherever they may be.

And yes... Mom? Wherever you are: Dance, Sunshine...dance.



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# Lakewood Observer

## Riots in Xiahe and Chengdu:

# A Report From The Field, Part II

by David Kingsbury

The riots spread from Lhasa to the beautiful city of Chengdu in Sichuan province. I was in Chengdu from March 25 until March 27, which was less than 10 days after the riots happened.

This is a city that is located in a more tropical environment. The weather called for shorts and T-shirts both day and night, but the locals still wore pants and light jackets. The city is spread over a large area and, like every other city in China, there is a square with a statue of Mao doing his famous wave to everyone who walks by. The city was alive, with businesses everywhere, shops, thousands of bikes, restaurants, a bar street, a few excellent clubs, beautiful parks, and monasteries. My friend who accompanied me on the journey said, "I've been all over China and this is the first city [where] I can see how beautiful and magnificent the culture and people of China are." He was right about that. On a Tuesday afternoon, Renmin park was packed with locals playing mahjong, singing karaoke, slow dancing, sipping tea, playing cards, or just enjoying a beautiful stroll through the park.

Walking through the city I began notice something that was different from other big cities in China: there were very few foreigners. I counted less than 10 within the first 24 hours of my stay. This was most likely because of the protests and foreign governments instructing their citizens to stay away from the city. The American government and our trip advisor recommended we did the same, but that didn't stop us.

As we walked through Tianfu Square, I saw something I had never seen before in China, police and military with guns and full body armor. These weren't just any guns though; some police had pistols holstered and others had semi-automatic weapons with them as they patrolled the area. The only other time you see police with guns in China is when money is being taken in or out of a bank. I was advised by my friend not to take pictures, but I tried my best to get a few snapshots in.

The next day we ventured, via public double-decker bus, towards the Tibetan area and a temple. Before we did this, we had to walk past Tianfu Square again. On our way there, my friend and I spotted two monks walking ahead of us. We immediately slowed down to keep our distance from them so as to establish no connection with them. (Who would've thought that we would want to keep our distance from monks?) We passed the monks after they precariously walked into a Nike store. While waiting for my friend at the ATM, I noticed the monks approach a street vendor about 10 meters from us. I was able to get a look at the two of them. One was in his early twenties and in good health,



Labrang monastery in Xiahe

while the other was not. He appeared to be in his late 20's or early 30's and his face appeared to have lots of new, really dark, red skin on it. It wasn't black and blue from a blow, but appeared to be more of something a burn or scrape would cause. Usually I see all types of weird injuries on all kinds of people in China, but this was of great interest to me because of the recent protest news. The next thing the monks did was walk into the square, which surprised me. There wasn't as much of a police presence as the day before, but there were still police umbrellas and, most likely, numerous undercover officers. We watched from a distance and saw the monks pass through the square without incident.

After an overcrowded bus ride where they give the announcement of stops in both Chinese and English, despite no one else most likely understanding the English, we arrived at the temple. This temple also contributed to the greatness of the city; it was the most beautiful and well taken care of temple I have visited in China. It was dedicated to the story of the Three Brothers. The feng shui was in full swing here.

After the temple we headed towards Tibetan street. I thought the street was another block down, but then my friend assured me it was the street filled with police cars, which it was. Even with my eyes and ears closed I could've known this was the Tibetan area. The smell of Yak was everywhere, just like in Xiahe.

While walking down the street, I couldn't help secretly taking a few photos of the present police force. Every fifty meters, on both sides of the street, were marked and unmarked police cars with their lights on, as well as a few driving down the street every few minutes. It was a little intimidating, but we never felt that our safety was threatened. As we approached the intersection in the middle of the Tibetan area, there were two police cars on each corner and I could get the feeling that this must've been where it all went down. We continued to walk past and saw a storefront that was converted into temporary police headquarters. The majority of the officers that we saw in the area all seemed to be very relaxed and taking a break in their car.

We did see a few monks on the street, though. They were older monks, monks that would've been too old to protest. Then while walking I received a very shocking and threatening look from a very unexpected person. A



Night life in Cheng Du, main shopping district

middle-aged Tibetan monk, walking the opposite direction on the sidewalk, gave my friend and I the meanest, creepiest, and scariest staredown I have ever received. Usually I receive stares in China for being a foreigner and try to return them, but not this time. This stare sent chills down my spine. Even as we walked past him, I saw out of my peripheral vision that he had turned around and continued to stare at us with a deep piercing gaze. It was

unnerving and unexpected to have the impression of my safety being threatened by a monk and not the police.

Despite my experiences in the Tibetan area and the presence of the police force, Chengdu is still one of my favorite places in China. After the encounter on Tibetan street I was still able to go out and enjoy the rest of the day and make friends with a club manager who invited us to drink free tequila for the rest of the night.

*"My apartment here is large and bright. I am happy living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus with good friends who, like me, enjoy being active. We have many activities to take part in. We go on outside trips to stores and restaurants. I've been so busy lately, I've had to do my laundry on Sunday! If you need assistance, the staff are all kind and caring people. I encourage my friends to come and enjoy living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus. I should have moved here sooner!"*



*~ Marian Siddall  
One Year Resident*

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## Secret Shopper

# The Do's And Don'ts Of Dining Out!

by Justine Cooper

I was nineteen when I got my first waitressing job, on a break from college and needing extra money. It was an Italian restaurant that served loyal customers and hosted weddings and banquets. Serving can be a great job for young adults. It is fast cash and great exercise running around, and it really sharpens the mind when you have to remember the decaf coffee on table 43, that the meat isn't cooked to medium-well on table 21 and needs to be returned, that table 13 wants an entire round of new beers, that table 18 is waiting for crayons for their children, and that eight dinners are ready and must be served immediately.

Fast forward twenty years when the mind, while still sharp, is overloaded with all the information a household of children bring. Waiting tables also trains you to hold your bladder for hours at a time and smile at everyone, even if your dog died the night before, your teenager told you he hates you before you walked out the door, and table number 24 has complained about everything from flat soda to slow service, even though they can plainly see that every table in the restaurant is filled and it is 7 PM on a Friday night. The pros and cons of waiting tables could fill a

book, with all the positive and negative experiences and interactions. It has served me well over the years, during and after college, in between children, and currently during graduate school, only one night a week.

I won't lie though, that one night a week wreaks havoc on my body for the 24 hours after I am done. I wish my body felt as young as my mind sometimes, but it can't lie, and it reminds me what hard work waiting tables really is. There is a part to waiting tables that I love! I love talking to children, love talking to couples in love who are smiling and radiating joyful energy. I love nights when everyone gets their food on time, all drinks are refilled properly, and everyone is smiling and happy. There is a real sense of accomplishment when that happens, because, as every mother knows, that rarely happens at home. One kid all of a sudden refuses to eat a dish he has eaten for years, another spills her milk on the floor and demands to change the "menu" after dinner is cooked, and there is no dishwasher in the back room, nor a tip on the table. I think for that reason, the monetary "reward" left on the table while working means more than money toward a bill, it means "thank you for your service" which is

something that refreshes the soul after a very long week.

I am not the kind of person who adds up percentages to see who is tipping enough. I don't know personal situations and it usually balances out between the "good" tippers and the "not so good" tippers. And I would take a nice couple or family over a bigger tip any day. I personally need niceness in my life even more than money, which brings me to why I am writing about waiting tables. Last week was one of the most difficult weeks in my adult life, for various reasons, so showing up for my Saturday night job felt harder than usual. The wonderful thing though, is the bond that is created with your "little family" working with you can be just the support you need. And to be honest, 98% of customers are easy to smile at and easy to please. It is easy to let go of the other 2% when life is great, but much harder when you are barely holding it together, which is what prompted me to write some Do's and Don'ts for dining out, after a late night table had the rudest behavior I have encountered.

**DO** expect to wait a little longer for your dinner if the restaurant is busy. Enjoy your company, chat about your week, play games with your kids, and expect the food to take the proper time it should with several dinners cooking.

**DON'T** take it out on your server if the food takes longer. If you want a fast meal, go to McDonald's. If you don't like sitting in a restaurant, please order take out.

**DO** know that your server is a human, can forget things at times, does have several other tables besides yours, and really is doing the best they can to help you have a nice dinner.

**DON'T** ask your server for a third or fourth soda refill, waving your glass in the air desperately, if you see her/him running around like a chicken with their head cut off trying to get hot food out and take people's orders. If you have had at least two large glasses of soda, I guarantee you won't die of dehydration before she gets back to your refill.

**DO** tell your server how everything is, good and bad, politely, just because it is the right thing to do. If you

get exceptional service, please tell the manager. They need to hear the good things too, not just criticism, which we all tend to vocalize more than compliments sometimes.

**DO** know that owners, managers and cooks spend 60 – 80 hours and more trying to run a nice restaurant so that the rest of us can enjoy a night out. They work harder than I can tell you. If they make a mistake, cook a dish wrong, or forget something, please forgive them.

**DO** know that servers work primarily for tips. It is implied that 15-20% will be added to bills when dining out. Expect that, and know that the price of the meal is for the meal, the tip is for the person running around serving you, refilling drinks, taking orders, running hot food out, cleaning off your mess when you are done, resetting tables, making salads, etc. Unless they are completely rude and inattentive, they deserve a minimum of 15%.

**DON'T** go out to eat in a restaurant and ask a server to do all of the above if you can't afford a 15% tip, or just don't feel you need to give one. If that is the case, order take out.

**DON'T** go out to eat JUST to take your bad mood out on a server, because you can, because you know they have to smile and be your servant. Those who do this know exactly who you are. It is a power trip that no server deserves.

**DON'T** justify leaving a small tip because you think everyone around you will pick up the slack. Every tip matters. And when you are home in bed, with a satisfied stomach, your server is marrying ketchup bottles at midnight, wiping down salt and pepper shakers, vacuuming hundreds of people's crumbs, cleaning bathrooms, and shoving cold food down their throats standing up because they haven't eaten for hours.

**DO** treat your servers as you would want to be treated. The college students working their way through school deserve this, the over-thirty crowd raising children and/or working two jobs deserve this, and it is just the right thing to do.

**Most of all, in a time where many are starving in the world, DO enjoy your food, your family and your life!**

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## The Buck Stops Here

# Vertical Invaders

The conservative philosopher Ortega y Gasset wrote of those who had stepped onto the stage of history and did not belong there. Vertical invaders he called them. Those who had come up from below.

Until the First World War, American literature had been an Anglo-Saxon preserve. Suddenly the children of immigrants whose parents had come to America to work in mines, factories, sweatshops and fields in search of better lives had come into their maturity. They had stories to tell. They had been educated. Their lives would not be silenced as their parents' lives had been. They not only believed they had a place at the table but they also wanted to honor the lives of parents who sacrificed their own lives so that their children would have better ones. Suddenly there were black writers (Richard Wright, Langston Hughes), Jewish ones (Gertrude Stein, George Oppen), women (Josephine Herbst, Mina Loy), German (Theodore Dreiser), Spanish (John Dos Passos).

Not all of them lasted as writers. Studies have shown that two-thirds of black writers from the twenties through the fifties wrote only one book. They had a story to tell – their story – and once they told it had nothing more to say. It was also difficult for them to make headway. The literary establishment resisted any incursions on its turf. Blacks, women, immigrants, the working class were, after all, not fit subjects for serious literature. They were not kings, leaders of industry or government.

I want to talk about one these writers, a Clevelander, Ruth Seid, daughter of a Jewish immigrant family, who wrote under the name of Jo Sinclair (Jo, so that Esquire Magazine, which did not publish women writers in the forties, might publish her). Her neighborhood was originally Italian and Jewish but in the 1940s and 50s became black. She attended John Hay, a vocational high school in Cleveland, and was both president and valedictorian of her class. She could not afford to go to college and subsequently worked in a department store, a knitting mill, a box factory. The Cleveland Public Library, Sinclair notes, was her college.

It was not until she began work for the WPA in the Thirties and became friends with black novelist Chester Himes that her writing began to make headway. Her first novel, *Wasteland*, which won the \$10,000 Harper's Prize in 1946, tells of a Jewish immigrant family which is held back by their second-class status, what Richard Sennett terms the hidden injuries of class. In *The Changelings* (1955), Sinclair writes of, in effect, the Italian and Jewish neighborhood of her childhood that now has black neighbors. Her last novel, *Anna Teller* (1960), is the story of a 74-year old Hungarian woman, forced into exile by the Hungarian uprising against the Soviet Union in 1956.

by Robert Buckeye

It is *Sing At My Wake*, published in 1951, the same year J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, Norman Mailer's *Barbary Shore* and Graham Greene's *the Quiet American* are also published, that I want to talk about. We find books we like, others we don't care for, some we can't finish, and some, not every day, those that stop us. *Sing At My Wake*

stopped me. It makes *The Catcher in the Rye* a teenage boy's book (which it is), immature, callow.

Sinclair's portrayal of the dreams of Katherine Ganly (who an exasperated lover calls, "the virginal princess sleeping behind the hedge"); what holds her back – class, sex, education ("the old fear, the burden of being

mysteriously punished for a nameless thing"); her triumph and failure is as perceptive and complex, if not more so, than any American novel of its time. Only the film, "The Best Years of Our Lives," matches the ferocity and honesty of the war between the sexes. Sinclair has come up from below and won't be pushed back down.

## Conservation Corner

# Bug Off!

by Heather Ramsey

Whether in the garden, in the home, or during picnics and BBQs, spring and summer may bring unwanted pests in addition to the warm weather. Americans spend millions of dollars to use millions of pounds of pesticides each year to try to rid themselves of pests, killing innocent birds and other animals and affecting human health in the process. Meanwhile, only around 5-15% of bugs in the yard are pests. Some, like ladybugs and praying mantises, help control other, less desirable, bugs, and others (honeybees, for example) pollinate plants to grow the food we eat.

The EPA recommends using what it calls Integrated Pest Management, which progresses through using physical barriers, to biological controls, and then the least toxic chemicals possible to manage pest infestations. This means to start with things like traps, barriers, and fabric covers in the yard, and to seal off entryways to your home by caulking cracks and crevices, often around cabinets or baseboards. Aside from sealing off potential pest entrances, also be sure to seal food containers tightly, clean your home thoroughly, and frequently remove trash. Moisture is attractive to many bugs, so fix any leaky plumbing and look for moist areas, such as under houseplants.

Plants appropriate to our climate and proper watering will help keep insects away, but also consider attracting birds and insects who will eat the pests: ladybugs and lacewings, who eat aphids, are sold for this purpose. Consider a small birdbath or birdfeeder to attract birds (but make sure to change the water often so as not to also attract mosquitoes!). Certain plants will help you attract the right bugs: dill and fennel may attract lacewings and coriander and marigold attract ladybugs. Plants in the carrot family and mint family are also useful in attracting enemies of garden pests.

In the garden, small bug problems can be solved by removing the bugs by hand, spraying them with a blast from the hose, or sucking them up with a vacuum. Planting pungent herbs, such

as garlic, may also deter certain pests. Pheromone traps exist for a variety of bugs, and are species-specific. These traps attract the insects and trap them, but may lure more insects to your yard, so do not place them directly in the garden. Sticky traps are also available, with different colors to attract different insects.

There are many simple things to do and concoctions to make at home to help rid yourself of pests:

For ANTS, soapy water or citrus oil and water will kill them. They also dislike cinnamon and cayenne pepper, so putting either of these near an entry point may deter them.

For MOTHS, clean and vacuum frequently. Extreme heat and cold can kill the larvae, so put infested clothes in the dryer, or place in the freezer for a few days. Moths dislike lavender and vanilla, as well as cedar, so sachets of these in closets and drawers may help as well.

For ROACHES, keep the kitchen clean, fix any leaks, use sticky traps with pheromones, and seal any cracks in your home.

For MOSQUITOES, remove stagnant water. Use essential oils like rosemary, lemon eucalyptus, lemon-grass, cedarwood, citronella, lavender, and tea tree oils to mask your scent. Use only a few drops in a small spritzer bottle of water and apply frequently (but do not spray your face). Rather than make your own, you can also purchase natural repellents from makers such as Burt's Bees (<http://www.burts-bees.com>).

For TICKS or FLEAS, rosemary is a repellent that you can use on your pets - add 1/2 cup of rosemary to a quart of boiling water, boil for 20 minutes, strain, and cool, wash and dry your pet, then spray with the solution and allow to air dry. You can also use citrus peels, but should not use such a mixture on cats, as it may be toxic to them.

If all else fails, and you do get bit or stung, there are natural ways to treat them. Applying a paste of baking soda and water will help neutralize the venom, and lavender essential oil can help with the itch and/or sting.

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## Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

# Beck Center For The Arts Proudly Presents Its 2008/09 Professional Theater Season

*Some things old, some things new, some things Sci-Fi AND inventors of 'The Tube'*

Beck Center for the Arts announces its 2008/09 season featuring the much anticipated return of some 'oldies but goodies,' an electrifying new drama, plenty of scandalous entertainment, and the Mother of Blues.

"I feel like we've hit the mark yet again!" says Scott Spence, Beck Center's Artistic Director, referring to the eclectic mix Beck has become known for. "Beck continues its tradition of providing Northeast Ohio audiences with a great balance of titles they know, and area premieres...all directed by some of the area's most respected directors."

The season opens with the much anticipated encore production of Tony Award winner, *Urinetown The Musical*, featuring the return of the original Beck cast that made the show the area's must-see production three seasons ago! Also returning are Cleveland legends Dorothy and Reuben Silver in *Talking Heads 2*, Alan Bennett's (*The History Boys*) sequel to his acclaimed BBC monologue series. Then, with fond memories of Beck's beloved production of *Beauty & the Beast*...Peter Pan, the story of the boy who didn't want to grow up is Beck's next amazing musical adventure for the holidays!

The season continues with two powerful pieces, Chicago blues legend Ma Rainey sets out to record her latest album in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, by Pulitzer prize-winning American playwright, August Wilson and compelling answers come to life as two ambitious television visionaries race against each other in *The Farnsworth Invention*. Also, premiere musical theater director, Victoria Bussert serves up the NYC Off-Broadway hit and indie favorite *Grey Gardens*, a musical telling the tale of the reclusive and fascinating Bouvier sisters, adding another wild chapter to the Kennedy legacy.

Closing the season, Beck Center promises a summer of larger than life – or death – entertainment with cult smash *Evil Dead: The Musical* and cult-gone-mainstream *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Theater subscriptions for the 2008/09 season are now available. For more information, contact Linda Hefner at the Beck Center Box Office at (216) 521-2540, ext. 29. Individual tickets sales begin August 1, 2008. Convenient free on-site parking is available. The Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org).

### **Urinetown The Musical**

**Musical by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis  
Directed by Scott Spence  
September 12 – October 12, 2008**

#### **Mackey Main Stage**

2002 Tony Award winner for Best Original Score and Best Book of a Musical Consider it a privilege...If you lived in *Urinetown* you'd have to pay to pee!

A wild and happy mix of biting satire and loving parody, *Urinetown The Musical* transports audiences to a Gotham-like city where ecological disaster has made the simplest human necessity, water, more precious than gold. Attempting to regulate its consumption, the government has imposed a bizarre law—the use of private restrooms is banned and an omnipotent corporation, the Urine Good Company, is charging citizens money to use the toilet! Beck's original cast reunites!

### **Talking Heads 2**

**Written by Alan Bennett  
Directed by Reuben Silver and Tracee Patterson, Featuring Dorothy Silver,  
November 7 – December 7, 2008  
Studio Theater**

From the author of *The History Boys* comes a second round of monologues created for BBC television. Bennett's magnificent style conveys British life like no other, providing actors with mini tour-de-forces. The first couple of Cleveland theater, again team up to present new pieces in this compelling night of intimate theater.

### **Peter Pan**

**Based on J.M. Barrie's tale  
Music by Mark Charlap and Jule Styne  
Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden and Adolph Green  
Directed by Fred Sternfeld  
December 5, 2008 – January 4, 2009,**

### **Mackey Main Stage**

This high flying musical story of Peter Pan, Wendy, John, and Michael and their adventures in Neverland is brought to life on Beck Center's Main Stage for the holidays. Audiences of all ages will love this timeless story filled with pirates, fairies, death-defying feats of flying, and the dastardly Captain Hook. An exhilarating journey through Neverland for the whole family!

### **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom**

**By Pulitzer prize-winning American playwright, August Wilson  
Directed by Sarah May  
January 30 – February 22, 2009**

#### **Mackey Main Stage**

Gertrude Malissa Nix Pridgett Rainey, better known as Chicago blues legend Ma Rainey sets out to record her latest album in the only one of Wilson's 10 plays set outside Pittsburgh. The play is set in Chicago in the 1920s and deals with issues of race, art, religion, and the historic exploitation of black recording artists by white producers. Generational and racial tensions escalate among Ma Rainey's band and producers, as the studio explodes in violence and tragedy. Beck honors this year's passing of August Wilson and the 25th anniversary of the Broadway production!

### **Grey Gardens**

**Book by Doug Wright  
Music by Scott Frankel  
Lyrics by Michael Korie  
Directed by Victoria Bussert  
February 27 – March 29, 2009  
Studio Theater**

2007 3-time Tony Award winner. Scandalously entertaining, *Grey Gardens* brings to life the alternately hilarious and heartbreaking story of two indomitable women, Edith Bouvier Beale and her adult daughter 'Little' Edie – the delightfully eccentric aunt and cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, in Broadway's acclaimed musical smash hit with music composed by Cleveland native, Scott Frankel. Once among the brightest names in the pre-Camelot social register, these two women became East Hampton's most notorious recluses and Jackie O's most

scandalous relatives.

**The Farnsworth Invention  
A new play by Aaron Sorkin  
Directed by Scott Spence  
March 13 – April 12, 2009  
Mackey Main Stage**

The turning point of the 20th Century wasn't ON television, it WAS television! Separated by two thousand miles, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to invent and promote a device that would one day be called the "television." Each knowing that if he stops working the other will gain the edge. Who will unlock the key to the greatest invention of the 20th century: the ruthless media mogul or the self-taught Idaho farm boy? The answer comes to compelling life in this new play from Aaron Sorkin, creator of *The West Wing*.

### **Evil Dead: The Musical**

**Based on Sam Raimi's 1980s cult classic films**

**Book and Lyrics by George Reinblatt  
Music by Frank Cipolla, Christopher Bond, Melissa Morris, and George Reinblatt  
Directed by Scott Spence  
May 8 – June 14, 2009  
Studio Theater**

What can go wrong when five college students break into an abandoned cabin in the woods? Apparently a whole heck of a lot! They unleash evil spirits, turn into demons... and sing show tunes! Sam Raimi's cult classic 1980s films are brought to life in this hilarious, campy show that will make you crave 'live theater' again. With songs such as "All the Men in my Life keep getting Killed by Candarian Demons" and "Do The Necromonicon" - *Evil Dead* is bursting with more farce than a Monty Python skit!

### **Little Shop of Horrors**

**Written by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman  
Directed by William Roudebush  
June 26 – August 2, 2009  
Mackey Main Stage**

It's everyone's favorite boy-meets-girl, plant-eats-world phenomenon. From the producers of *Hairspray* and *The Producers*, and the songwriters of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, comes the biggest MONSTER hit! This musical comedy masterpiece is about a 'nobody' kinda guy, the girl he loves, and the man-eating plant that changes their lives forever. Look out! Here Comes Audrey Two!!!

Programming at the Beck Center is made possible through the generous support of The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, The Eva L. & Joseph M. Bruening Foundation, The Abington Foundation, and the Thomas H. White Foundation. Beck Center gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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## Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

### Why Dance?

# Silhouette Dance Studio

by Ruth Koenigsmark

Why Dance? "Every original act asserts our commitment to living. Our program encourages our students to strive for their personal best. This helps them learn to experience life fully. When we create, we plant ourselves firmly in the moment and teach ourselves that what we do matters"--Miss Donna

How has Donna Rakerd, aka Miss Donna, succeeded in building a vibrant dance studio in town? A clue might be in west side location, one of two of Silhouette's dance studios in Lakewood. More evidence might be found in it's large picture windows, pristine dance floor and lofty ceilings that heighten interest from those walking or driving by while affording to students a positive learning environment. Another clue would be the table lined with a multitude of upcoming dance classes from Ballet to Jazz to Acrobatics to Hip Hop to Yoga and Bellydance.

Silhouette offers most of these classes but also opens their doors to other groups, like VERB ballet, for use of either Studio. Along with a wide range of class options, Miss Donna states personal service to the students as one of the things that sets her apart from her competition. "I started my company twenty years ago as a platform to teach children the art of dance," Miss Donna said. "I wanted to use my experience in social service and love of dance to nurture young dancers. Through the years my dance studio has grown and now we offer classes to anyone age 3 to adult ." Miss Donna's earliest experience with movement was in childhood,. 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 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. Silhouette Students competed recently at the I LOVE DANCE Competition in Cleveland on April 13th, with close to twenty of her students participating. These dancers received six first place, two second place, and two third place trophies. Also, her students performed on April 12 at a Lake Erie Monsters game during the first and second periods. This performance was a Hip Hop and Acrobatic routine featuring dancers ages 7 to adult.

When I posed the question to Miss Donna, "Why Dance?" in connection to marketing the studio to the public she shared these thoughts about the benefits of dance:

**FRIENDSHIPS:** Beyond basic instruction, dance opens a wide array of social settings in which friendships are forged and dreams come true.

**CONFIDENCE:** Dancers possess an aura of self-confidence. Their entire mental outlook takes on a renewed sense of creativity, motivation and energy.

**CREATIVITY:** Dance provides an emotional outlet in which a person can truly reflect his or her feelings through body movement. The ability to dance is present in everyone, it only needs to be cultivated through sound instructional methods. Then you're on your own, expressing yourself with passion and flair.

**HEALTH:** Dancing helps the body's circulatory system as it makes your heart pump blood faster. Dancing encourages weight control and overall fitness through calorie burn off. The constant movement and muscle extension during dance sessions also provides a pleasing, mild exercise most people long for but rarely achieve, especially in such pleasant circumstances.

Miss Donna is very active in our community donating her time with groups such as MAMA (Madison Avenue Merchants Association to help keep Madison Avenue as a thriving business district), Birdtown Revitalization efforts and the annual Community Festival in Madison Park on September 6th in which many of her students



Kirsten Monson, Elisha Lucas, Herminio Muniz, Oscar Mejia, Audrey Bazyk, Jennifer Heisser, Madeleine Converse, Megan Schwartz, Tabitha Phillips, Heather Mason, Gabrielle Esposito, May Muth, Melissa Bennett, Shannon Widmer, Miss Diane (Esposito), Mr. Dave (Williard), Miss Donna (Rakerd), not pictured Allie Donegan, Tori Donegan, Carolyn Heisser, Pryce Macon, Tess Marjanovic, Miss Stephanie (Reed) and Miss Teresa (Balawender)

perform each year. For the Lakewood ArtWalk on May 17th, Silhouette Dance Too (15641 Madison) will be hosting the Harding Middle School Student's Art Show from 4pm-9pm, "this is a great opportunity for anyone interested in dance for themselves or their children to come see what we are all about", say Miss Donna. Additionally, students from the Studio will be performing in Lakewood Park during the Mainstreet Lakewood Walk + Roll event on Saturday, July 19th and the Community Festival this Summer. And finally, Silhouette will be offering an intensive Summer Dance Camp

on July 8, 9 and 10th for ages 12-Teen, and July 15, 16, and 17th for ages 7-11 .Dance Locations for Silhouette are:

#### East-End Main Ballroom:

Attn.: Donna Rakerd  
12501 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
Tel: 216-228-3871.

#### West-End

#### Silhouette DANCE 'TOO':

Attn.: Donna Rakerd  
15641 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
Tel: 216-228-3871.

## Lakewood Guitar Consort Set To WOW The Community

by Faith G. Klassen

The much anticipated evening of music with the talented Lakewood Guitar Consort will take to the stage June 1st. Months in the making, this concert featuring the seven-member classical guitar ensemble, under the direction of performer/teacher Christopher Ellicott is sure to be a highlight for late spring concert-goers.

The concert will take place Sunday, June 1st, 7:00pm at Cove United Methodist Church, 12501 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be

taken. If you'd like more information, please call 216-702-4523.

**Lakewood Guitar Consort** began three years ago to offer a group playing classical music experience for guitarists in the community. In residence at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, it is open to players of all ages and levels of ability. The ensemble performs free of charge throughout the community with any monies received being donated to local not-for-profit arts organizations.

**Christopher Ellicott**, director/founder of Lakewood Guitar Consort has a Bachelor of Arts in Music (guitar) from Baldwin-Wallace College and an

Associate Arts in Music (guitar) from County College of Morris (N.J.). He is on the adjunct faculty at Baldwin-Wallace teaching through the Conservatory Outreach Department. In addition, he teaches guitar at the Beck Center Music Department, and at TrueNorth Cultural Arts in Avon Lake. He performs frequently in the community as soloist and ensemble musician. He and his wife Karen founded Sunday in the Park – a clarinet and guitar duo. Christopher is also a church musician, singing and playing at contemporary worship services. He is a founding board member of the Cleveland Guitar Society and member of the Guitar Foundation of America.



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# Lakewood Board Of Education

*Matt Markling Introduces - School Board Unanimously Approved*

## May 15 - Peace Officers' Memorial Day

Whereas, on October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 designating May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police week; and,

Whereas, in 1994, President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-322 directing that all flags on all government building be flown at half staff on May 15; and,

Whereas, the members of the Lakewood Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Lakewood; and

Whereas, the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department increasingly provide a vital public service;

Whereas, it is important for citizens to appreciate the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement officers, and that law enforcement officers recognize their duty to serve all people by safeguarding life and property, protecting them against violence and disorder, and pro-

tecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression;

Now, therefore, the Lakewood Board of Education calls upon all citizens of Lakewood, and upon all patriotic, civic, and educational organizations to observe the week of May 11 - 17, 2008, as Police Memorial Week with appropriate ceremonies and observances to commemorate law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered dedicated service to their communities and have established an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

The Lakewood Board of Education further calls upon all citizens of Lakewood to observe Thursday, May 15, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and recognize and pay respect to

the survivors of our fallen heroes.

The Lakewood Board of Education further directs that all flags in

the Lakewood City School District be flown at half staff on Thursday, May 15, 2008, and every year hereafter.

## Lakewood Hospital Big Winner In Ambulance Chase



Overall Winner (928) Nick Gliha of Lakewood, Overall Women's Winner (993) Cate Fenster of Wooster, and Overall Men's Age 15-19 (775) Jacob Ott.

## Classifieds/Advertisements

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# Real Estate

## Today's Home Buyers

by *Monica Woodman*  
Prudential Lucien Realtor

If you are prospective home buyer searching for homes on the internet, good for you! Logging onto [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com) or [www.yahoo.com/realstate](http://www.yahoo.com/realstate) will take you to the area of your choice and let you select any price range you want. You can even pick how many bedrooms & bathrooms you would like. While it can be fun to look at homes online it makes sense to find your own price category first. With that in mind, back away from the computer and go speak with a lender.

Lenders will identify the amount you will be able to borrow for a home purchase. That amount will establish a monthly payment. What you can borrow and what you would like your monthly payment to be may differ. Knowing the difference can help you to be realistic with your budget. If you have a monthly

payment in mind tell the lender and the lender will show you the loan amount that will produce that monthly payment. Once you have loan approval ask the lender to issue a letter to that effect.

Having an established price range will help you search online. You may even find yourself leaving the virtual world and getting out into the real world. This is when you want to talk to a realtor. A realtor, like a lender, can help you find houses in your price range, but in a different way. When you decide on a house, who says that house has been priced correctly, compared to what similar houses have sold for in that area? A realtor can do a competitive market analysis which will identify the market value of that home. With this information you can make an educated offer. This has helped many buyers make a reasonable offer that a Seller will consider, but also avoid paying too much, especially in a Buyer's market.

## Realty Reality "Questions From Our Readers"

by *Maggie Fraley*  
Prudential Lucien Realtor

"How many Realtors are there in the US?"

First, it's important to distinguish that one can be licensed as a real estate agent, but to be a Realtor, one becomes a member of the NAR (National Association of Realtors) and subscribes to its strict code of ethics. The NAR was founded in 1905 with 120 original members. In April of 2000 there were 736,055 Realtors and that number swelled in April 2007 to 1,327,307. As of April of 2008, there has been a bit of

a decline with 1,244,872 current members of the NAR.

An interesting side note is found in an article by Jeffrey M. Hornstein, Ph.D, an independent scholar writing in the Oxford Journal. He examines what he labels the "Regendering of Real Estate Brokerage" as rapidly increasing numbers of women- he calls them "Rosie the Realtors"- took advantage of the postwar building boom in the 1930-1950's to enter the field. Today The Women's Council of Realtors is ranked 12th among seven hundred Professional Organizations for Women in the US.

## Real Estate Education – 1950's Style

by *Val Mechenbier*  
Prudential Lucien Realtor

I was recently given a book titled Questions and Answers on Real Estate, by Robert Semenow. The highly-credentialed author offered the second edition of his book in 1955 so that real estate brokers "might avoid the pitfalls of incompetency and unethical practices" and to "provide a source of study material for the applicant qualifying for admission to the real estate fraternity." His chapter on "Agreements of Sale" lists persons who do not have full con-

tractual capacity, among them: infants & minors, mentally incompetent persons (including insane persons, deaf and dumb persons, and drunkards), and married women. The author does explain that the contractual limitations for married women "are intended for the protection of the wife, but today, with the ever widening sphere of feminine influence in everyday affairs and business, there is no real practical justification for such limitations." Little did he know how real estate law and real estate representation would change over the next 50 years!

### Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)

by *Andy Tabor, Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien*

April	2007	2008
Single Family Closed	29	39
Single Family Pending (Under Contract)		57
<b>Interesting Real Estate Information</b>		
Lakewood Single Family Homes		
Currently for Active in Multiple Listing:		353
Currently under Contingency:		20

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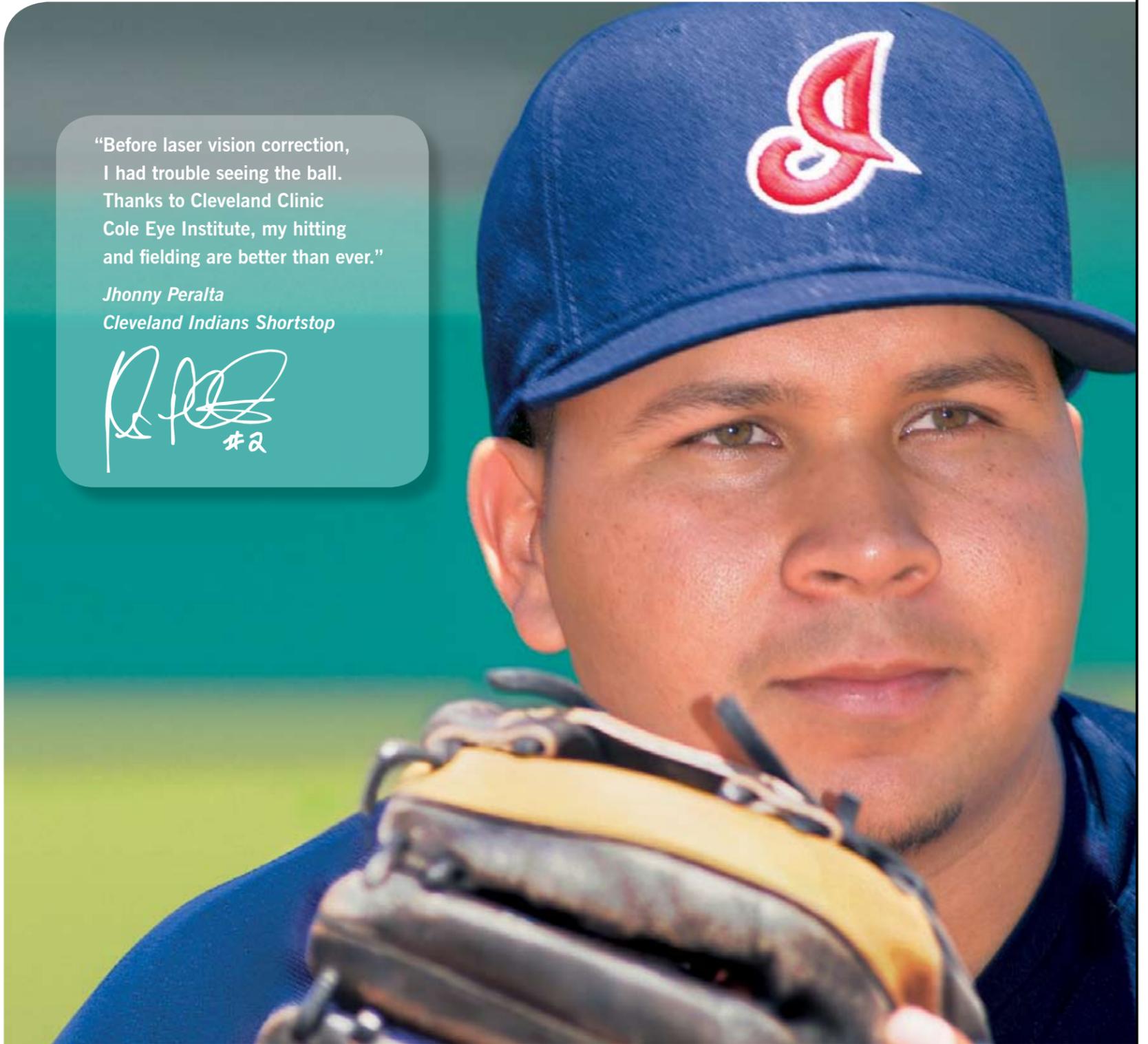
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