

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 4, Issue 24, November 25, 2008

## Lakewood Public Library To Close A Chapter

# Ken Warren Announces Retirement

by Jeff Endress

Lakewood Public Library Director, Kenneth Warren, a civic fixture in the City since his arrival in 1984 has advised the Board of Trustees of his plans to retire effective July 1, 2009.

Mr. Warren, who oversaw a period of dynamic growth for the Library in both its services and facilities, will be sorely missed. Having worked hand in hand with Ken during an extensive construction and renovation project, I can attest to his devotion to the community. His love of his adopted community goes far beyond his efforts on behalf of the library. While certainly the multiple number one rankings in Hennen's American Public Library Ratings (HALPR) during his tenure speak volumes as to his efforts as Director, such recognition merely scratches the surface of Lakewood's true Renaissance man. The civic activities, in which he has been a part, included such diverse interests as being a founding member of the Lakewood Observer and LEAF, past president of the Lakewood Christian Service Center, past president of the Lakewood Kiwanis Club, the Lakewood Scholarship Foundation, as well as past president of the Ohioana Library Association.

Ken received his Masters in Library Science in 1976 from the State University of New York at Buffalo, following his receipt of a Bachelors



Lakewood Public Library Director Kenneth Warren, the "Wizard of Lakewood" always knew just the perfect book for your needs.

of Arts, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from the same institution in 1975. After working at the Lockwood Library of Buffalo, Waco-McLennan Library of Waco, Texas, as the Assistant Director of the Leonia Public Library and Director of the Dover Free Public

Library, Ken came to Lakewood as its director in 1984. During the next 25 years, it would be difficult to imagine a person who has had a more positive impact on this community.

During his tenure as Director, Ken oversaw the initial automation

of library functions, the expansion of children's activities, the extension of hours on weekends and a renewed commitment to the improvement of the collection. The Library, under his leadership, dealt productively with a great many issues, some, including budgetary retrenchment in the local government support funds and current issues of facility security under ongoing pressures from economic downturns represented opportuni-

## Mayor Proposes Green Refuse Initiative: Council To Consider Automated Collection

by Melissa Garrett

Mayor Ed FitzGerald presented a plan to City Council to automate refuse collection in the City as part of the 2009 Budget Hearings focusing on Refuse which took place on November 18, 2008. City Council will consider this plan as they make decisions about the City's 2009 Budget.

The Green Refuse Initiative proposes to automate the City's refuse collection system. This system will be more efficient, more economical and more environmentally responsible than the current system. The plan calls for all homes in the City to receive a refuse collection container which the city will provide. Residents will place this container on their tree lawn on their collection day and a refuse truck with a mechanical arm will lift the container off the street, empty it into the truck and return the container to its original position. Collection of recycling and

large item collection will remain the same. Cleveland, Akron, Columbus, Cuyahoga Falls, Solon, Beachwood and Bowling Green already use an automated refuse collection system.

This system will result in a significant savings in operational costs for refuse collection including personnel savings, decreasing the number of vehicles necessary for refuse collection, decreasing fuel costs and decreasing vehicle repair costs. It will also provide a more environmentally friendly way to collect garbage reducing the City's fuel usage and emissions. While there will be an initial capital outlay for trucks and containers, the City will save large amounts in operating costs and the capital will pay for itself.

Another goal of this initiative is to increase recycling efforts citywide. Throughout 2009, the City will place a stronger emphasis on raising residents' awareness about our recycling programs and encourage all residents

to recycle. In Lakewood, residents can recycle all glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage containers, all plastics with the recycling symbols #1-7, plastic grocery bags, paper, cardboard and yard waste. For more information about recycling, visit the City of Lakewood website at [www.onelakewood.com/pw\\_refuse.html](http://www.onelakewood.com/pw_refuse.html).

"We want to make refuse collection more efficient, more economical and more environmentally friendly in the City of Lakewood", stated Mayor FitzGerald. "I look forward to working with City Council to turn this initiative into a reality."

When Mayor FitzGerald took office at the beginning of this year, the City faced the biggest deficit in its history. Throughout this year, there has been an ongoing evaluation of the services the city provides in an effort to deal with the serious, ongoing bud-

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## 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)



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Chas Geiger receives the Key To The City from Mayor Edward FitzGerald at the Mayor's Ball November 15th at the Beck Center. The event enjoyed a nice turnout of over 250 people for a night of elegance and fun.

## “Be Thankful!” – Thanksgiving Eve Community Event!

by Rev. Jonathong Glass Riley

On Wednesday, November 26, the Lakewood Ministerial Association will co-host “Be Thankful” an ecumenical celebration with special musical guests, Scott Troyer and Katie Nelson --- two new voices in the realm of contemporary Christian music, who are currently touring through the northeast United States.

The service will begin at 7 pm, with a seasonal reception preceding the service at 6:15 pm. Location: The Lakewood Baptist Church (14321 Detroit Avenue; corner of Detroit and Lincoln Avenues).

This event is open to the public, and there are no admission costs. Rather, a free will offering will be collected, with all monies benefiting the ministries of the Lakewood Christian Service Center.

This promises to be a unique evening of both traditional and newer

music, aimed at honoring our diverse community united in common purpose and mission.

Those participating will include members and ministers from the Lakewood United Methodist Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, The Lakewood Christian Church, The Lakewood Congregational Church, The Church of the Ascension, The Lakewood Presbyterian Church, and The Lakewood Baptist Church.

Free Community Meals During Thanksgiving Week

Sat. 11/22 Lakewood Christian Church @ 11:30 am.

Mon. 11/24 Faith Presbyterian Church @ 5:00 pm

Tues. 11/25 Lakewood United Methodist Church @ 5:30 pm

Wed. 11/26 St. Edward High School @ 5:30 pm

Thurs. 11/27 Grace Presbyterian

## Start Your Holiday Shopping Here!

by Paula Reed

The line will be forming before the doors open for Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House. Eager shoppers know the oldest house in Lakewood (1835) is a festive spot to start your holiday shopping.

The sale features our Antiques Room where you'll find a one-of-a-kind gift or sentimental collectible for the person who has everything. Vintage linens, glassware and silver share space with antique ornaments. The other three rooms will be fully stocked with new and nearly-new gift items; tree trimmings, decorations, wrapping paper and anything you need for holiday entertaining.

The prices and variety at the sale are fabulous. If you're watching your budget this year, you must not miss this sale!

The best quote from last year's Christmas Sale on the Grounds: “I'm on a fixed income, but was able to find



something wonderful here for each of my children and grandchildren without exceeding my budget.”

Shop Christmas Sale on the Grounds at the Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit, on Saturday, December 6, 10:00 – 3:00 and Sunday, December 7, noon – 3:00. We accept cash, checks, VISA and Mastercard. Parking is available across the street at St. Ed's.

All proceeds support the programs and projects of the Lakewood Historical Society. Questions? Call the Society at 216-221-7343.



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Katie Nelson

Church @ 11:30 am.

Fri. 11/28 Trinity Lutheran Church @ 4:00 pm. Co-sponsored with St. Peter's Episcopal. Sun. 11/30 Lakewood Presbyterian Church @ 12:00 pm.

For more information, please call: (216) 221-4005.

## Grace Lutheran Church Offers Live Nativity Scene

by Rev. George R. Hansell, Jr.

Grace Lutheran Church will offer a Live Nativity Scene on Saturday, December 20th, from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Grace is located at 13030 Madison Avenue directly across the street from Madison Park.

This will be the second year that Grace has provided a Live Nativity

Scene. Last year, Sunday School children and adults dressed the roles of Joseph and Mary, Shepherds, Angels, and Wise Men. A stable was built by one of the members of the congregation to give the scene an even greater sense of authenticity. Enough children and adults volunteered to the degree that the scene was staffed by two shifts lasting one hour each.

The Sunday School and Members of Grace Lutheran Church cordially invite the Lakewood community and greater Cleveland to come and see this living witness celebrating the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For more information, contact the Church Office at Grace Lutheran Church at 216-221-4959, or e-mail Pastor George Hansell at [graceluthlake@juno.com](mailto:graceluthlake@juno.com).



# Ken Warren Retires

ties to proactively address potentially negative issues in a positive way. He is currently analyzing the effect of situational crime prevention techniques on facility and materials security.

Other issues, such as the cutting edge expansion of technology in both the Madison Branch and the Main Library, a multi-million dollar renovation and expansion of the Main Library as well as growth of service and programming, allowed Ken to raise the bar, for libraries throughout Ohio, as the Lakewood Public Library became the gold standard for service, programming and excellence.

Upon Ken's arrival at Lakewood in 1984, there was a grand total of one computer for the entire system; a Tandy TSR 80. During his tenure, the availability of public computers and electronic media has seen dramatic and cutting edge increases. The card catalog was replaced with a fully automated library catalog. A trio of IBM Selectrics where users paid a quarter an hour to type resumes grew into the Dennis Fedor computer center at the Madison branch. The open availability of WiFi at both branches, and the expansion and enhancement of the technology center at the Main branch with an abundance of state of the art computers are a testament to Ken's dedication to this work.

Ken's belief in and commitment to life-long learning has been demonstrated in the expansion of programming throughout the Library. Early childhood development with weekend wonders programs and the

early learning Libranium are favorites of preschoolers, Homework connections, and school related reading lists serve the school age library users, while older users enjoy programming that is as diverse as it is enlightening. All users have benefited from library hours which are far more extensive than any other library in NE Ohio as well as the unique ties that have been forged between the Library and other civic organizations including the Lakewood Observer, the Lakewood City Schools, LEAF Community, Mainstreet, and many others.

In addition to his work with the

continued from page 1

Library itself, Ken has been an active fixture with the Friends of Lakewood Public Library working long hours during the Friends book sales. Ten years ago Ken recognized there was a potential for loss of public funding and was instrumental in formation of the Lakewood Public Library Foundation to enhance the ability of the Library to obtain foundation grants, as well as 501(C)(3) charitable contributions. Since its founding, the Foundation has raised over \$500,000.00 for art, fund endowment, program improvement and technology.

Ken, for many years, has been delay-



Ken Warren circa 1984.

ing sustained work on a scholarly volume of literary criticism that discusses the lives and works of two Gloucester poets—Charles Olson and Vincent Ferrini. Having seen the fruition of the expansion and renovation together with the string of coveted Hennen's ratings, Ken Warren, referred to by many as the "Wizard of Lakewood" has decided that now would be the time to look towards those interests and complete his anticipated book. In his free time, he hopes to cultivate further his relationship to poetry through publication of "House Organ," a quarterly letter which he founded in 1993 and continues to edit from his Lakewood home on Belle Avenue.

The Board of Trustees has enlisted the aid of Linda Murray of the Ohio Library Council to facilitate and coordinate an executive search to find a replacement for Ken. It is anticipated that a new director will be named summer of 2009. Clearly the search will be exhaustive because the director who we are replacing is, in so many ways irreplaceable.



An illustration commissioned by Lakewood Observer, in 2004, by Nika Petruccio, to celebrate the twenty years of positive impact Ken Warren had made on the city of Lakewood, the city that sits on the edge of The Emerald Canyon.

## A Letter to the Residents of Lakewood.

A special offer for Lakewood residents only: Receive 25% off, one regularly priced item. Not valid with other offers or on previously purchased merchandise. Proof of residency required. Offer expires December 31, 2008.

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## Lakewood City News

# Lakewood Hospital Opens Newly Renovated Intensive Care Unit and Completes Three-Year Critical Care Renovation

by Anne Kuenzel

The opening of the newly renovated Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Lakewood Hospital marks the completion of a three-year critical care construction project, which includes the Coronary Care Unit, Neuro Integrated Care Unit and now, the Intensive Care Unit.

The entire \$7 million critical care investment, totaling approximately 25,000 square feet, promotes a comfortable, healing environment for patients who require the specialized care that the critical care areas provide.

The new 11-bed ICU, which serves the needs of the most critically ill patients, received numerous improvements, including technological and comfort upgrades offering a more state-of-the-art setting. The extensive renovations allow the hospital staff to care for patients in a more efficient manner.

"These renovations support our long-term strategy for Lakewood Hospital, which is to continue to invest in this great facility in order to provide the best care for our patients and to continue to offer quality services that best meet our community's needs," says Jack Gustin, President of Lakewood Hospital.

All of the renovated critical care

units feature an open floor plan where doctors and nurses have greater visibility of patient rooms. Each patient room has been dramatically improved with new patient monitors, beds and patient lift systems. Additionally, each room is equipped with dialysis capabilities as well as data connectivity and computers to allow for electronic medical record charting. The ICU also includes a newly designed blood gas room allowing for greater accessibility.

"Providing the best patient care in a healing, encouraging and supportive atmosphere is our priority," says Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Cleveland Clinic Regional hospitals. "Our investment assures patients and their families that they will be well cared for in a state-of-the-art environment. It is wonderful to have a unit that now better represents the high quality, around-the-clock care that our highly trained and compassionate critical care staff provides."

Lakewood Hospital is a 400-bed acute care hospital that has served the diverse healthcare needs of the City of Lakewood and Cleveland's Westshore communities since 1907. Offering 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 and nine community hospitals. [www.lakewoodhospital.org](http://www.lakewoodhospital.org)

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Election Update: Debate Night

Lakewood Public Library's role-playing game for youth in grades five through eight which focused on campaigning and winning an election concluded on Friday, November 14. Teams of students transformed librarians into candidates for the fictitious office of President of the United Streets of Lakewood. More information, including video of the speeches and debate, is available at <http://www.lkwdpl.org/youth/election.html>. The following is an article written by our high-school media correspondents, Mathias Hansen and Spencer Paul:

By Mathias Hansen and Spencer Paul

Wednesday, November 3rd: the night that the past five weeks have been building towards. This night the children enrolled in the Lakewood Public Library's role-playing game were to present their party's views and opinions in debate format. The three parties, the Beehive Party, the Republicrat Party, and the Three Arrows Party, led by Ms. Emmie, Mr. T, and Mr. Andy, respectively, battled valiantly to prove their worth to be the President of the United Streets of Lakewood.

First up was an opening speech by the Beehive Party. Their platform for the betterment of the Green Space in Lakewood involved adding more bike lanes to city streets and more bike paths throughout the Metroparks, in hopes to promote bicycle usage amongst the people of Lakewood. For their plans to improve the Library, they planned to make the upstairs more accessible to teenagers, including a more teen friendly environment and more comfortable furniture.

Next up was the Republicrat party, headed by Mr. T. For their Green Space initiative, they intend to pass legislation regarding the maintenance of playgrounds and add cameras and police presence to the area, and to

organize more sports in open spaces. Their policy towards Library improvement included starting a more vigorous citywide recycling program based in the Library. Their plan also included a policy regarding foreclosure; to renovate homes and reuse them or if homes were beyond repair, they would be demolished, with the salvageable parts sold for extra revenue.

Finally the Three Arrows Party took the stage, led by Mr. Andy. Their Green Space plans included cleaner city streets, more waste bins, and recycling bins in colors more noticeable than gravel and gray, presumably green. Stricter punishments for litterbugs would be enforced, i.e. heavier fines and more surveillance. They would also add more lights to the parks including solar powered ones to promote greener energy and safer environments for sports and activities later at night. For their Library plans, they intended to create a separate teen section, for the comfort and availability it would provide to teens, as well as the organizing of books for teens so that they wouldn't have to root through the children's section to find books they enjoy and so that children may not find books of material unsuitable for their age group.

Opening speeches were followed

by rebuttals and cross-fires, a trial and tribulation from which none emerged unscathed. After the verbal warfare had concluded, the choice then of President of the United Streets of Lakewood had been turned to the audience. Polls were opened shortly thereafter, in the Children's Department and online, one week was given for votes to be cast.

One week later, and the votes are in.

Coming in third place was Ms. Emmie, and second, Mr. T. Mr. Any won by a close margin. All this was done using a popular vote system. However, had an Electoral College system been used, Mr. T would have won by a landslide, having received votes from states from Maine to Texas. Thus concludes this fall's role-playing game, all the participating students have been invited to breakfast with the Mayor, the winning team sharing a table with Mayor Fitzgerald himself.

### Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

#### LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD FAMILY MOVIE

**Home Alone (1990)** Directed by Chris Columbus Rated PG A young boy's wish to be left alone comes true when the whole family flies off to Paris without him! As the holidays loom closer, so do a couple of burglars and the boy must defend his home. Living on his own is fun and exciting, but is he starting to miss his mom? Don't miss John Candy as the polka king of the Midwest! **Saturday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

#### SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:

**Sugarcoat** Kelly Wright performs sweet jazz vocals accompanied by Chris Hanna on keyboards. **Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

#### LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA

**Mary Poppins** "Practically perfect in every way." Walt Disney's proudest achievement still stands up against today's computer-generated fare. In fact, it looks better than ever. A proper nanny moves in with the family of a cold-hearted banker and introduces his children to the magic hidden underneath the surface of London—including the boyish heart of their father. Don't forget the supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Dick Van Dyke and all the great music! **Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

#### LEARNING LAB CLASSES AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It's fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate. You must have a Lakewood Public Library card in good standing the day of the class. No exceptions.

#### INTERNET BASICS

Get familiar with online basics and find out what the Internet is all about. **Saturday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

Multimedia Debate and Literacy

**Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

#### CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

**THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade**

Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth) for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in; call Main Library at (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

**December 1-4: Can You Dig It? December 8-11: Recycling Party**

**HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2008 - Thursday, May 21, 2009**

Need a little help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the new Homework Room in the Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library for help and resources. **Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library**

**CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade**

**Fridays, September 5 - May 22 at 4:00 p.m.**

Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428. **Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch**

**CLUB LIFE: For students sixth through eighth grade**

**Thursdays, September 11 - May 21 at 4:00 p.m.**

Make a difference and join the club. Learn new skills or hone those you already have as you participate in projects designed to help your community. For more information, visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth). **To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. Main Library Multipurpose Room**

#### FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. 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.

**Main Library: 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.**

**Madison Branch: Friday 10:30 a.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m., Sunday 3:00 p.m.**

**November 28, 29, 30: We are Family December 5, 6, 7: Let's Get Moving**



Mayor Ed Fitzgerald, Councilman Tom Bullock (ward 2) and Lakewood Public Library Director Ken Warren spoke with students in the library's "Election!" role-playing game at a special breakfast in the library's Multipurpose Room last Friday.

### Sunday With The Friends Presents Sugarcoat

If you've never had a chance to catch the jazz duo Sugarcoat, consider dropping by the Lakewood Public Library Sunday, December 7, for an hour of great music to ease you into the hectic holiday season.

Sugarcoat is made up of keyboard player Chris Hanna and vocalist Kelly Wright. They cover such classics as "Route 66," "Fly me to the Moon," "Don't get Around Much Anymore," and "Cry Me a River," as well as some favorites like "Moondance" and "Fever."

Chris has had a busy year, traveling with the road tour of "Love Janis" all over the United States, as well as keeping busy locally with Mary Bridget Davies, Kristine Jackson, Chris Allen, Doug McKean and many others.

Kelly continues to provide backing vocals for local favorite Anne E. Dechant down in Nashville, in addition to playing in a duo with talented guitarist Pete Cavano. You can pop in to Brother's Lounge the last Saturday of

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## Notes From Iraq

# Notes from Iraq: I Tapped My Eye

by Eric Smith

\*Lakewood native Eric Smith has been serving in Iraq since May. Major Smith is stationed at Forward Operating Base McHenry, near Kirkuk.\*

"Pass me up a bottle of water." The gunner reached down from his perch halfway out of the top of the MRAP while keeping one hand on the machine gun he was using to provide cover for our vehicle. Matt, our interpreter, who was sitting closest to the cooler in the back of the vehicle, handed him a bottle.

"Thanks". We were on our way to visit one of our Civilian Service Corps (CSC) companies. These are organizations we have created based on the Civilian Conservation Corps that employed thousands of Americans during the Great Depression. Each company is focused on a vocational subject area and employs roughly one hundred men. They receive job training and then use that training on civic development projects. To get the program up and running, we've had to struggle through language difficulties, cultural barriers, and our own bureaucracy. The companies have been in the implementation phase for only several weeks and we have to visit each site every day to check on progress.

In the town of Riyadh (not to be confused with the city in Saudi Arabia) we have two CSCs: Riyadh Construction and Riyadh Roadbuilding. Both are run by Iraqi companies we've contracted to provide teachers, training equipment, and the training site. The combination of training plans and project management that these projects require, utilizing instructors imported from Kirkuk and Baghdad to teach poor, rural students, would be difficult in the best of times. With the strained and creaking infrastructure, and just-emerging private business class in our area, getting these projects off the ground is a challenge. And there are the insurgents. Enemy attacks have slightly increased, so my MRAP crew was on edge as we drove to Riyadh. Every pedestrian we saw, every vehicle, every piece of roadside trash was evaluated by the driver and gunner and then called over the radio. "Havoc Two, check out those three men on the north side of the road." "Roger, I've got a pile of something over here, looks like it might be plastic bags." "Three o'clock, man on a cell phone, is he looking at us?" "Watch that red Toyota on the left. Looks like three females in the back." "Two donkeys crossing the road - wait - they've gone back. Road clear."

Amidst the intercom patois, without warning, the gunner yelped in pain and fell down into the vehicle, simultaneously letting loose with an impressive stream of expletives over the intercom. "What is it? What's going on?" The driver asked. We heard a thunk as something landed inside the MRAP. We heard some cursing. "I got hit in the head." The gunner answered as he readjusted his helmet. "What is it? What hit you?" The driver's excitement was increasing. "I didn't get hit



Students in a successful training class.

anywhere else, just the head," answered the gunner. "Did it fall in the truck? What fell in the truck?" The driver's

they were going to be learning how "to clean the shoulders of the road." Bemused, I asked him how he was going to teach "cleaning the should-



LO's Notes From Iraq columnist Eric Smith and mother Pam Smith as they leave the Sarah Palin Rally in Lakewood Park.

voice raised an octave. "I didn't see who threw it." "IS THERE A GRENADE IN THE TRUCK?!" The driver was apoplectic. "No, just a rock. Lucky shot from some kid I guess." "Jeez, you gotta' tell us that next time. I thought we were screwed for a minute there."

When we pulled up in front of the Riyadh Road Construction training site, one hundred men in blue jumpsuits and hardhats were milling about, smoking. At the sight of the American vehicles turning in to the gravel lot in front, all one hundred simultaneously jammed their cigarettes in their pockets and ran into the building. I climbed out of the MRAP and walked to the classrooms where every student was sitting in orderly rows, notebooks open on their desks, staring intently in silence with feigned interest at a blank chalkboard. "Go get the site manager," I told Matt. "We have to talk."

The site manager popped out from around the building accompanied by a monster of a man in a worn dish-dasha. I told Matt, "Ask him what the students are doing now." The manager explained that things were just getting started, the students were studying very hard, and for the next two weeks

ders of the road" eight hours a day, six days a week, for two weeks. Something must have been lost in translation. At this point the giant man (who turned out to be the building caretaker) asked if we wanted to come drink some tea.

I politely declined, not wanting to spend too long at the site, but told him I would be happy to accept his invitation next time I visited. He started tapping his eyelid with his finger, making me think of tapping a saucer with a sausage. Meanwhile, the manager was still trying to explain to me what instruction was occurring while all the students continued to study the blank chalkboard. "He says 'I touch my eye'" Matt told me, referring to the caretaker's response to my declining the tea invitation. "Iraqis say that when they have invited you to their home and you promise to come back." I understood it as a colloquialism equivalent to "we'll see" or "I'll keep my eye out for you."

Meanwhile, I started to lose patience with the manager's justification for his poor performance. I pointed out that you can't teach people to clean the road for two weeks, I can see that no teaching is going on, and none of the students were in class when we arrived. He assured me everything would be fixed, it would just take a few more days, supplies were enroute but delayed, the students were tired from fasting during Ramadan, etc., etc. I told him I would be back in a few days and I was going to contact the contractor in Baghdad to notify them the terms of the contract were not being adhered to. We started to say our goodbyes and climb back into the vehicles to move on to Riyadh Construction, to repeat the scene at a different location, with a different company. As I said goodbye to the manager, I tapped my eye.

\*Major Eric Smith is serving in Iraq with the 10th Mountain Division. The division's home base is Ft. Drum in Watertown, New York where Major Smith lives with his wife Dina, three year old twins Kirsten and Skyler, and one year old son Neil. The son of Pam and Tom Smith of Lakewood, Major Smith graduated from Lakewood High School in 1990 and was commissioned into the US Army after graduation from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. \*

## Sunday With The Friends Presents Sugarcoat

Continued from page 5

every month to catch this great combination of vocals and gorgeous guitar.

Chris and Kelly also recently collaborated on a brand new Cleveland Christmas album. The record is the culmination of five years of celebrating the holidays with some good old rock and roll, and was produced by the legendary Don Dixon. The CD release

party for this Christmas album will take place on December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the House of Blues.

So take a little break from the hustle and bustle and revisit a simpler time with music that will never go out of style with Sugarcoat at Lakewood Public Library. This program is generously funded by Cuyahoga residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library.

## Mayor Proposes Green Refuse Initiative: Council To Consider Automated Collection

Continued from page 1

get challenge facing the city. All City Departments have faced cuts and are continually looking for ways to make their Divisions run more efficiently

and economically. However, the 2009 budget projections indicated there will be a million dollar deficit; the Mayor's proposal to automate refuse collection will eliminate approximately 50% of this deficit.



# Lakewood Business News

## Beshé Bath, Body & Spa Now Open

by Justine Cooper

Lakewood is well known for its small businesses that embody personality, charm, and that small town feeling that Lakewoodites and out-of-towners are drawn to. In difficult times economically for the nation, with businesses small and large closing in every town and big city, small businesses continue to pop up in Lakewood. Cereal bars, Green gifts, party places, consignment, high-end gifts and more have emerged on Detroit in the last few months. Madison has produced lit-up stunning windows to replace empty storefronts, from gorgeous Vintage/Antiques to new Salons, party place, gift shops, high-end consignment, spa body products, and more, to add to the plethora of good eateries, pubs, and eclectic mom and pop businesses. One newer business, Beshe Bath and Body, at Madison Ave (pronounced Bayshay) opened doors in October to a small shop overflowing with aromatherapy for all the senses and a charm that resonates the wholesome side of Lakewood. Beshe specializes in homemade bath and body products with natural ingredients your skin longs for, at drug store prices! Bath Products range from shampoos, body washes, bath powders, body sprays, milk and honey lotions, body mud, honey almond facial scrubs, heat wraps and masks, soy candles, and more. My favorites were the Snowman, Snowflake and Santa soaps made with milk and honey that are so affordable you can stock up for all your favorite teachers, gift exchanges, family members, etc. When you lather on soap or lotion that is filled with natural ingredients, you will immediately feel the difference from store-bought cheaper versions that don't sink in or have added mineral oil that is drying.

Other pampered items include specialty robes that can be engraved, slippers, and relaxation CD's for the bath, including belly dancing music for after the bath! The charm of the store includes unique and lovely hand-embroidered silk blouses by a local artisan at incredible prices, hand-made jewelry, and semi-precious and precious stones for males and females. Because owner Nichole Flagg is a young mom herself, she has a play area in the



back of the store for busy moms to shop while their child plays in their view. When I first stopped in to say "hello" before she opened, she had her sleeves rolled up and her hair pulled back while she was transforming the empty storefront one wall at a time with a calming mint green paint that blends with the gold metallic antique tile ceiling. Nicole stated that she had dreamt and planned for two years to open a store in Lakewood, after numerous craft shows and a kiosk cart downtown at the Galleria. Her products include jewelry, bath and body for both sexes. "We also allow for customers to create their own gift baskets. This is a perfect gift for baby/bridal showers, anniversaries, or any holiday. For those who want unscented products, such as those with sensitive skin, they are readily available for purchase. But for those who want to enjoy fragranced products, Beshe offers the chance for customers to blend their own scents, or choose from mixtures offered by the store. In addition, the spa offers printed material to guide first time aroma mixers through the process."

A lifelong Lakewood resident herself, Nicole loves the city and greets all with a warm welcome. She plans to expand Beshe's line by adding products like bamboo towels, pajamas, spa pillows, herb/potpourri bar, books, incense, linen spray, pet soap, and of course, more fragrances and essential oils. Because all of the packaging is recyclable, there are plans in the works to offer a discount to customers who bring in their empty bottles to buy more of

Beshe's products. As a private company that produces its own line, all bottling and packaging is done at the store. There is a pre-fragranced side, and on the other side there is a blending bar including fragrances, essential oils, and essential oil blends. You can mix your own combination of oils and purchase it, or add it to unscented products.

Beshe started with a major goal in mind regarding its product line: it should be affordable for anyone to pamper themselves. In essence, it's trying to offer a salon quality product for a drug store price. As a constant reminder of this goal, Beshe's Mission Statement is always posted, as follows:

"Beshe is devoted to enhancing the lives of today's busy women. We are committed to well-being, peace and tranquility to you through our products in a way that will make you feel good about being you; that will make your life a little more beautiful even if only for a moment. Our products and style are distinctive, as well as the consistently high level of quality. We strive to make your experience a pleasant one, with regards to keeping up with current trends, as well as creating our own."

In fact, "Beshe" was named after the Egyptian God "Be" who was known for pampering and taking care of himself and of course was combined with "she" to include the female for all ages. With prices starting at \$1 it is a nice shop to take kids to pick out teacher, family and friend gifts. Nicole participated in LIA's recent artwalk and continues to display art for a local artist on the wall. She is one who thrives on working together with other businesses to continue to revitalize Madison, so she will be participating in upcoming events of MAMA, MBA and LIA!

Beshe is located in the 15700 block of Madison, (15707) just a few doors down from Goddess Blessed with ample parking in the front, side and back Her hours are: M, T, TH, F, S 10-7.



### LUNCH & LEARN Special Holiday Program



#### St. Joseph Academy presents "Cecelia's Song"

All girls a cappella singing group  
performs holiday favorites!

**Thursday, December 18, 2008  
at 11:00 a.m.**

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## Light Up Lakewood

# Light Up Lakewood Make A Night Of It!

by Mary Anne Crampton

Anticipation is growing for this year's Light Up Lakewood event. Elsewhere in this issue you will see all the wonderful plans that LakewoodAlive volunteers have made for you. It is going to be a night of fun, fun, fun!

Warm up and fill up at any one of the food venues that will be open December 6th:

**Aladdin's, Boston Market, Burger King, Caribou Coffee, Cereal Central, Chipotle, Dave's Cosmic Subs, The Doghouse, Domino's Pizza, Phoenix**

**Café, Einstein Bagels, The Melt Bar & Grilled, Quizno's, Sakura's Japanese Cuisine, Subway, The Souper Market, Taco Bell, The Winking Lizard.**

Lakewood's youth service organization, H2O, is creating a Twigbee-style shop filled with low-cost handmade gift items. H2O's one-night store will be open from 4 -8 pm and will be located in the INA building, in the former Curve's space at the corner of St. Charles and Detroit. All sale proceeds will support the programming of this wonderful organization.

In the space right next to H2O, sá-lón blue is holding an open house

with free catered refreshments in their beautiful space.

Norka Futon welcomes visitors to its cool store next to Phoenix Coffee. Norka is offering a Light Up Lakewood special of 25% off futon covers that night.

Cerny Shoes is offering a free boot tray to visitors as long as supplies last. Stop in a see their wide range of high quality and up-to date shoe styles and buy a gift for yourself or someone you love!

Green Smart Gifts will be offering refreshments for children and adults (later in the evening). Kids can

also stop by to make an ornament out of recycled and found objects. Mary Evans, owner, is also keeping a "Women's Holiday Wish List" in advance of a men's shopping night on Thursday, December 18.

For those of you looking to warm up with a toast to the season, Rozi's Wine House will be hosting a "spirited" Holiday Wine Tasting from 6-9p.m.

These are just a few examples of what our downtown businesses will be offering during Light Up Lakewood. We look forward to seeing you in Downtown Lakewood on December 6th.

## Fourth Graders Compete To Light Up Lakewood

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

Hundreds of fourth graders are penning for the honor to "flip the switch" and literally Light Up Lakewood during the downtown lighting ceremony.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is once again sponsoring an essay contest for all fourth graders

in town, asking the students to write about "Why I Love Lakewood."

Last year's winner, Jaret Pustai, a fourth grader at Lakewood Catholic Academy, impressed the panel of judges with his contagious enthusiasm about Lakewood.

"Lakewood is the best city in the world!" Jaret wrote. "I love Lakewood

Park. It is so fun. I like to go down by the lake and look at Cleveland and watch the waves go by."

He went on to highlight Lakewood Library, Madison Pool, all the shops in the city and the churches and praised them for being neat and clean.

"We had a panel of six judges from our community, from school

principals to publishers, that had the right experience to choose the winner," said Patty Ryan, vice president of the Lakewood Chamber. "These judges were looking for a "4th grade voice" that described the great things about our city. The consensus was that this essay was simple, sweet and true. It was a difficult decision because so many of the essays were great."

The chamber hopes to hear from all 550 fourth graders in the city this year. The winner also receives a cash prize of \$100.

"This is such a positive, feel-good contest – it's a joy to organize," Ryan said.

The 100- to 150-word essays had to be submitted by November 21. The winner will be notified by phone on December 1 and invited to partake in the opening ceremonies for Light Up Lakewood.

## Upcoming And Past Lakewood Events

by Catherine Calabrese

Did you miss the West End Halloween Painting Contest or want more info? Go to our website: [www.lakewoodchamber.org](http://www.lakewoodchamber.org) and you can find out who the winners were and view some great pictures of the event.

Love to write? Know a fourth grader who is has a way with words? The 2nd annual Light Up Lakewood "Why I Love Lakewood" 4th Grade Essay Contest will soon be in full swing. The contest is open to all of Lakewood's 4th graders. Participation forms were sent to students through schools and are also available at Lakewood Library and the Chamber of Commerce. Kids, need some Christmas

money? The winner will receive a prize of \$100 and will also flip the switch at the Holiday Lighting Ceremony on December 6th during Light Up Lakewood.

Vice President of the Lakewood Chamber, Patty Ryan, said, "The Why I Love Lakewood Essay Contest is probably my favorite event the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce hosts. Last year, over 100 essays were entered and the kids wrote about everything: their favorite places to shop and eat, their school, their neighborhood, the parks, the lake...even the black squirrels in Lakewood Park! It's clear that the fourth graders in Lakewood love their hometown, and when you read their essays, it is contagious."

Selling in a Tough Economy- On Friday, November 21st, the Lakewood Chamber hosted a breakfast at the Clifton Club. The meeting was sponsored by Benefits 1. Diane Helbig also spoke at the event.

## H2O's Holiday House Offers Gift Options For Lakewood's Youngest Shoppers

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

Inspired by the festive Higbee's Twigbee shop, young volunteers in the city of Lakewood's H2O "Help to Others" program are busy as elves creating inexpensive holiday gifts for a Santa shop that will open during this year's Light Up Lakewood event on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Located in the former "Curves" storefront location at the northwest corner of Detroit and St. Charles avenues, H2O's Holiday House will feature

handmade and student embellished items from 50-cents to \$10.

Shoppers are sure to find gifts for moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and everyone else on their lists. Proceeds from the sale of H2O gift items will be used to brighten the holidays of several Lakewood families.

While Light Up Lakewood officially starts at 6 p.m., H2O Holiday House will open at 4 p.m. for "early bird" shoppers. Stop in and enjoy the creative handiwork of the H2O elves.



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# Light Up Lakewood Schedule

### Lighting Ceremony (Lakewood Hospital Green)

6:00 p.m. Street entertainment begins  
 6:15 p.m. Santa arrives to LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD

### Masonic Temple

6:30 p.m. Lincoln Elementary Choir  
 6:40 p.m. Horace Mann Elementary Choir  
 6:50 p.m. Hayes Honor Choir  
 7:00 p.m. Lakewood High School Chamber Choir  
 7:15 p.m. Gold Coast Follies  
 7:35 p.m. Beck Center Children's Choir  
 8:00 p.m. Contra Dancing demonstration

### Lakewood Public Library

3:00 p.m. Home Alone movie  
 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Holiday Crafts & Activities  
 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Holiday Music by pianists Tracy O'Malley,

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Kathy Barrick and Paige Von Mehren  
 Santa at Library. Numbers for Santa available at Children's Room main desk.  
 Storytimes every half hour  
 Lakewood Catholic Academy Band  
 Lakewood Catholic Academy Choir  
 Garfield Middle School Choir performs  
 Harding Middle School Choir

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

6:45 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

### Street Activities

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Ice Designs: Ice Sculpting – Sinagra Park  
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Aaron Bonk: Juggler  
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Peddlers of Mirth  
 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Horse & Trolley  
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Red Hackle Pipes & Drums  
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Costumed Holiday Characters

*Join Us for a  
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*Downtown Lakewood  
 Saturday, December 6, 2008  
 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.*

- ✦ Lighting Ceremony at Lakewood Hospital
- ✦ Santa & Friends at the Lakewood Public Library
- ✦ Street Entertainment
- ✦ School Choirs and Bands
- ✦ Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
- ✦ Refreshments & More

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# LIA'S MAMA & DADA

## Lakewood Highlighted On Fox 8 December 10 That's Life With Robin Swoboda



Rachel Stephens, the producer for "That's Life With Robin Swoboda" on Fox 8 spent a couple days in Lakewood checking out things to do. The December 10 show will highlight Rozi's Wine House, The WestEnd Tavern, The Winchester, Green Smart Gifts, and Lion and Blue. Above Rachel speaks with Tina Dolatowski as her husband Michael works in the back. Left: she speaks with the leader of Lakewood's Green movement and owner of Green Smart Gifts, Mary Evans. Check out the stores and show!

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# A Holiday Gift Guide

## Thank You Madison Avenue

*Dear Goddess Blessed,*

Walking into your store is like taking the time to give myself a big hug! Whenever I feel that I am tapped out and I get that tired look on my face, I know it's time for a little nurturing of the mind, spirit, and body. I am grateful your store is right down the street to help me do that. Thank you for your book selection especially geared towards women for reference and inspiration. Particularly, Christian Northrup's books about women's health issues have been a godsend. Oprah knows what she is talking about when she claims her to be her favor-

ite OB/GYN. Also, the Karen Drucker music CDs are my absolute favorite and are uplifting and comforting. I would have never known about her had you not been there to introduce me to them. And I love the many pampering and therapeutic products like the herbs, essential oils, and aromatherapy candles I use for my tea and bath time to soothe my tired mind and body after one of those long days.

*Sincerely,*

**Mel Page, Robinwood Ave.**

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# Veteran's Memorial



Mayor Edward FitzGerald speaks at the dedication to the new Veteran's Memorial at Lakewood Park.



Lakewood's safety forces joined in the service.



Then the ceremony began, Lakewood citizens always turnout for Veteran's Day.



Mayor FitzGerald, Jim Kilbane of American Legion Post 451, John Kikol (Chairman of the Lakewood Veterans Memorial Renovation Project), and Father Duke of SS Cyril & Methodius Church



Patty Steele attended the ceremony with her father and veteran, Emro Saksa.



Mayor FitzGerald and Magdalen Lampman



The Four Vet Chorus; Dave Slife, Lynn Daberkow, John Kasper, and Dan Lenqahan.

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## Lakewood Schools

# Garfield Middle School Veteran's Breakfast And Recognition Program

by Rosemary Wagner

On Monday, November 10, 2008, Garfield Middle School hosted the 12th annual Veteran's Day Breakfast and Recognition Program. The Garfield staff and students, with the assistance of H2O, Garfield Civics Club, and the Garfield PTSA, welcomed nearly fifty veterans with an opening breakfast. During breakfast the veterans had an opportunity to share stories with each other and with Civics Club members. The PTSA provided a wonderful breakfast for these ever so deserving veterans.

There were over 700 staff and students in attendance for the recognition program that followed. Beginning with the entrance of the color guard the entire audience rose in unison to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" and sing along with the Garfield Chamber Choir as they sang the "Star Spangled Banner." Superintendent Dr. David Estrop and Mayor Edward FitzGerald were in attendance to offer opening remarks and offer their gratitude to our country's veterans. The Garfield 8th Grade Band played a rousing rendition of "Armed Forces on Parade" as veterans from each branch stood and were acknowledged by the students as their theme song played.

The keynote speaker was Retired Sergeant First Class Pat Foye a 35-year Lakewood resident and current detective in the Lakewood Police Department. Sergeant First Class Foye spoke on the impact the military had on his life and the opportunities the service provided him. He also shared countless stories of Lakewood residents who he would meet around the world serving in the armed forces. As a Lakewood High School graduate he reinforced the importance of education and named many of his former teachers as being a positive influence on him. Sergeant First Class Foye also gave personal testament to his humble beginnings and the "never give up attitude" that has made him successful today. Concluding, he gave his warmest thanks to the veterans in attendance and those who

have served that have quietly gone on with their post-service lives. Sergeant First Class Foye's comments were met with a rousing ovation as his words struck a chord with the veterans, students and staff, and the Lakewood community as a whole.

The Veteran's Recognition Program continued with presentations from Garfield students and staff members paying tribute to our veterans and to our military personnel currently in active duty. Patriot's Pen winners Diana Maliqi, Madeline Schreiber, and Alyssa Sharrer were recognized for their winning essays on the topic, "Why America's Veterans Should be Honored." Each of the winners will receive a U.S. Savings Bond from the VFW. Mrs. Ellert on behalf of H2O and the Garfield students announced that 48 care packages along with over four hundred letters were being sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr. Fassett representing the Garfield staff and students announced that Gar-



Veterans share their stories with Garfield Middle School Students

field Middle School will donate \$1000 toward the renovation of the Veteran's Memorial at Lakewood Park. The program ended with veteran and retired Lakewood teacher Bob Rice leading the band, as the choir accompanied him, in the playing of the "Garfield March" which Mr. Rice along with his son Gary wrote and composed.

Many of the veterans stayed after

the program to visit students in classrooms and share their stories. The event concluded with a luncheon for our honored guests and where the camaraderie and celebration continued. The Veteran's Breakfast and Recognition Assembly is always a wonderful and inspiring event which could not take place without the combined efforts of the Garfield Middle School and Lakewood communities working together.

## Parent Advocates For Lakewood Students

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Recently, parents along with concerned Lakewood residents have been coming together to discuss issues facing Lakewood City Schools. A new grassroots group, PALS (Parent Advocates for Lakewood Students), has been formed to improve communication with the Lakewood City School Board of Education while providing a forum for parents who may have specific concerns on a variety of issues facing their neighborhood schools. One of the most important things a citizen can do to stay informed is to attend a school board meeting. Most board meetings are open to the public; however, there are different types of meetings. The following is a summary of each so that you know when you can attend a school board meeting.

Regular and Committee of the Whole Board of Education Meetings: In Lakewood, the Board of Education

usually holds two Regular Board Meetings per month. These meetings are usually held on the first and second Monday of each month, but the Board can change meeting dates, times and locations. Regular Board Meetings have an agenda prepared in advance and sent to each Board Member. The Board usually reviews all items at the first monthly meeting, but takes no action on most items. At the second monthly meeting, most items are acted upon by the Board.

Special Board Meetings: Special Board Meetings can be called anytime by the President of the Board, the Treasurer of the School District, or by two members of the Board. The agenda as presented must be followed unless altered by the Presiding Officer. These meetings are not always open to the public and can go into an Executive Session anytime while the meeting is in session. You may contact a board member before attending.

Executive Session: The Board and its committees can meet privately in an Executive Session to discuss issues that are not for public view, such as personnel decisions.

Additional definitions may be found in the online Board of Education Bylaws and Policies Book, as well as the schedule of school board meetings, at the Lakewood City Schools website: [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org). The next school board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., December 1, at the Board of Education building on Warren Road.

PALS will be getting together again from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on December 4 in the auditorium of the Lakewood Public Library Main Branch. Parents with children attending Lakewood Schools and members of the community are invited for coffee and cookies and to join discussions on choosing a new superintendent and other school-related concerns.

## Lakewood School Board Member Matt Markling Appointed To State-Wide Attorney Task Force

by Ruth Duale

Lakewood School Board Member Matt Markling is one of approximately 15 attorneys appointed to serve on the Ohio State Bar Association Task Force on Attorney Advertising and Marketing. The Task Force is charged with reviewing the current state of attorney advertising in Ohio and the manner in which it is regulated. Markling is

a founding partner of the law firm of McGown, Markling & Whalen Co., L.P.A., which serves the legal needs of private and public schools throughout Ohio and Florida.

Markling is serving his first term as a member of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education. For more information about School Board Member Matt Markling, please visit [www.lakewoodschoolboardmember.com](http://www.lakewoodschoolboardmember.com).

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Before



## Lakewood Perspective

# What Now? Lessons Learned From The Campaign Trail

by Bret Callentine

by Bret Callentine

Wow. It's been so long since this whole election process started that I hardly know what to do with myself now that it's over. Now that we no longer have to sort through tons of political junk mail, now that our phones have stopped being assaulted with automated messages, and now that the focus of the entire nation is no longer on our state, now what do we do? Well, just like after every other general election, we get back to taking care of ourselves, resigned in the knowledge that we're not likely to see or hear from any of those politicians until the next election cycle.

But fear not, because even though I'm a healthy skeptic as to how many campaign promises will actually see the light of day, that's not to say that we can't take something from this election process. Looking back, there are a few lessons from the campaign trail that I think can help us all this winter. But, like sorting through dozens of anonymous polls, it's just a matter of knowing how to interpret the data.

Lesson One: Sometimes it's best to filter out the negative. I know I'm not the only one who got tired of being bombarded with negative advertising. There was and still is a lot of bad stuff on the air, literally. Now that the cold weather is here, furnaces everywhere are kicking

into high gear, and if all of your ducts have been sitting dormant all summer long, I don't have to tell you how much dirt, dust and debris has settled in. For a couple of bucks, you can get a new furnace filter that will catch most of the stuff you never wanted to breathe in and your furnace will run a whole lot more efficiently and effectively.

Lesson Two: Avoid blowhards. Politicians who do nothing but blow hot air are not nearly as costly to the average home as a door or window that leaks it. A simple way to check for gaps is to walk around the inside of your house with a lit cigarette on a windy day. Hold it up to all of your door and window frames. If the smoke goes anywhere but

straight up, you've got a problem. If a window doesn't close completely, seal it with insulating tape or plastic window wrap. If the leak is through the jamb, then you can easily plug the gap with commercially available insulating foam (always check the label for proper application techniques).

Lesson Three: Like ACORN says... register, register, register. And just like with the election, you don't need a photo ID. But in this case, I'm talking about floor and wall registers. There's a reason those vents are adjustable. Take a couple of moments to close up the registers in rooms you don't use and open up the vent closest to your thermostat. And speaking of thermostats, if you haven't already, it's time to buy a programmable one. There's no point in heating a house with no one in it. Most units are relatively cheap when you consider the nearly immediate savings you'll realize. And installation is not as difficult as you might think.

Lesson Four: Don't be afraid of Joe the Plumber. He might not have been the deciding factor, but love him or hate him, Joe was a tremendous influence on the election. Likewise, getting a little help from a heating and cooling expert can be tremendously beneficial in finding ways to save on your gas or electric bill. A furnace or boiler isn't a hands-off appliance; it needs a checkup once in a while, not just to ensure efficiency, but also safety. Which reminds me, now is as good a time as any to check your smoke detectors and make sure you've got a good carbon monoxide detector in the house.

And, Lesson Five: Apparently, change is important. If nothing else, I think we all learned that Ohio, and the nation as a whole, is ready for change. But the kind of change that will make the most difference to you and I isn't going to come from filling out a ballot. A politician may or may not be able to affect the economy, but each and every one of us has the ability to change our habits, change our methods of consumption, and most importantly, change the way we live, and that is the quickest way to achieve a positive outcome.

Like I said before, the election is over; we've done what we can in that arena. Now it's time again to move the focus back to the variables that are within our immediate control. The time for speeches is gone; the time for action is now. Barack Obama won an election by motivating the individuals, who by themselves might not seem significant, but when added together were essential to success. All of the suggestions listed above, taken individually, may seem insignificant, but I promise you that if you take the time to address them, together they will bring you considerable savings. And that is a change I can rally around.

## Full Of Life And Young At Heart

by Thealexa Becker

Just let it happen, please.

That is the philosophy that Gudrun, who moved to Lakewood in August, lives by. After growing up in Brooklyn, New York and living in such varied locations as St. Louis, Connecticut, and California, it might seem surprising that she chose this location to finally settle down.

There were two major factors that contributed to Gudrun's move from Connecticut to Lakewood, Ohio. The first was the new YMCA. "I swim everyday," said Gudrun, who at age 80, stands stately with a short salt and pepper bob cut and bright blue eyes. "And there are wonderful people at the Y."

The other major factor was the "fabulous, beautiful, large, gorgeous" Lakewood Public Library. "A library is a major requirement for a place to have," she said. "The people of Lakewood should be proud." Gudrun was taken with the LPL almost upon entry. Standing in the center, she was amazed at the size. Books have always been an important part of her life.

Sitting in her cozy lakeside loft, she talked about how her mother encouraged her to look up words she didn't know. "I would say 'But I don't know how to spell it,'" Gudrun said. "And she would say 'Look up all the ways you think it could be spelled'. Books and words mean so much to me. I started to do the New York Times Crossword puzzle early in life."

But her love of the written word

goes far beyond a fascination with books and language. Two years ago, she published her own book of poetry and she now plans to write her own memoirs. "I think in a real way I want to leave behind the story of my life," Gudrun said. "I want to make sense of my life. That's my goal."

In order to write anything, however, she needs a chunk of time to withdraw from everything, something that wasn't possible before. After coming out to Lakewood twice for the christening of her two great-grandchildren, she contemplated living here. "I thought 'What a nice place to live,'" she said. "I really like it here."

In the few months that she has been here, she noted that life seems slower here. That and there aren't nearly as many car horns as in the bustling metropolitan areas she has known. Now that she's here, even though she has traveled to almost everywhere imaginable, she doesn't think she is going to go anywhere else.

She retired when she was 65 and became active in the community and social events. Now she waits patiently for her 9th floor apartment to be remodeled, something about which she is extremely excited. She's hoping that it will be finished by Christmas so that she can enjoy the new delicately frosted glass doors, modern shaped tables and a sleigh bed.

"I'm 80, I claim it, I want to be 80," Gudrun said. "I'm not here to make an impression on anyone but myself. Being old is the nicest thing that has ever happened to me."



Aside from having the "ultimate freedom", her friends have told her that she has no fear of being apprehended. Indeed, it is easy to see that Gudrun is not afraid to speak her mind in a calm and insightful manner.

"I'm not bitter I'm old or alone," she said. "When you get old, you are more willing to be alone."

The question is sure to come up regarding her unique name, which is simply Gudrun. In the age of computers, it is difficult to have only one name, as well as one that is apparently so easy to mispronounce. One anecdote, which Gudrun recalls with both amusement and slight embarrassment, showed her frustration at the rampant mispronunciations. There were so many occasions on which her name had been butchered that when she walked in the door to a meeting and was greeted with yet another incorrect pronunciation, she stamped her foot and exploded "It's GUDRUN, Gud-run!". Her face turned red when the gentleman addressing her calmly repeated that he had said "Good morning."

As for the future, Gudrun doesn't think that she will really move anywhere else. "If people want to see me," she said confidently. "then they can come here..."



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# Lakewood Recreation Schedule

**For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can also register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com).**

## Pee Wee Basketball League – Instructional (Grades 1-2)

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering Pee Wee Basketball for boys and girls in grades 1-2. Players participate in 4x4 co-ed non-competitive basketball games using an 8' basket, 28.5 balls, on side or shorter basketball court. Games are 8 4-minute quarters with a running clock. All players play 4 quarters. Teams are required to play man to man defense and games are officiated by Lakewood High School basketball players. Teams will practice 1 time per week as a group. Games are played on Saturday's beginning in January. Volunteer coaches are needed to assist with the program. Cost is \$45 Resident/\$65 Non-Resident. Registration deadline is November 30.

## Bantam Basketball League (Grades 3-4)

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering a Bantam Basketball boys league and a separate girls league for kids in grades 3-4. Players participate in 5x5 basketball games using a 9' basket, 28.5 balls, on a full length basketball court. Games are 4 6-minute quarter with a running clock. Clock will stop the last two minutes of each half. Teams are required to play man to man defense and games are officiated by Certified Ohio High School Athletic Association Basketball Officials. Teams will practice 1 to 2 times per week. Games are played on Saturday's beginning January 10. Volunteer coaches are needed. Cost is \$45 Resident/\$65 Non-Resident. Registration deadline is November 30. All participants 10 years of age and older must have a physical on file at the Recreation Department prior to participating. All players participating in the Bantam Basketball League are required to attend the mandatory skills testing. Team composition is determined by skill level. Participants must be registered with the Recreation Department prior to the testing date.

## Bantam Basketball League (Grades 5-6)

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering a Bantam Basketball boys league and a separate girls league for kids in grades 5-6. Players participate in 5x5 basketball games using a 10' basket, 28.5 balls, on a full length basketball court. Games are 4 6-minute quarter with a regulation clock. Teams are required to play man to man defense and games are officiated by Certified Ohio High School Athletic Association basketball officials. Teams will practice 1 to 2 times per week. Games are played on Saturday's beginning January 10. Volunteer coaches are needed. Cost is \$45 Resident/\$65 Non-Resident. Registration deadline is November 30. All participants must have a physical on file at the Recreation Department prior to participating. All players participating in the Bantam Basketball League are required to attend the mandatory skills testing. Team composition is determined by skill level. Participants must be registered with the Recreation Department prior to the testing date.

## Middle School Travel Basketball

Lakewood Recreation Department will be entering boys and girls teams in the Westside Collaborative Basketball League. Any 7th or 8th grade boy or girl who is not playing on the school team has the opportunity to play on a Lakewood Recreation Boys or Girls Team that will compete against teams from Berea, Brookpark, Columbia Station, Fairview Park, Middleburg Heights, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls and Rocky River. Teams will play a 10 game schedule starting in January (5 home/5 away). Games are on Saturdays. Players are responsible for their own transportation. Volunteer coaches are needed. Cost is \$75 per player (game uniform included). Interested participants should attend the After School Open Gyms at Harding and the Before School Open Gyms at Garfield. Registration information will be available at the Open Gyms. All participants must have a physical on file at the Recreation Department prior to participating.

## High School Intramural Basketball League

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering intramural basketball for boys and girls in grades 9-12. Players participate in a Varsity League (11th & 12th Graders) and a JV League (9th & 10th Graders). Players must play within their grade levels. Players may sign up as a team or as an individual. If signing up as a team, information for all players including name, address, phone number and fees must be included at the time of registration. Maximum is 10 players per team. If teams do not have 10 players, individuals will be placed on your team. Individual registration will be placed by the Recreation Department. Games will be played on Saturdays starting in January. Cost is \$45 per player (game jersey included). Registration deadline is December 19th.

## Ranger Cheerleading

Lakewood Recreation Department is offering cheerleading for kids in grades 3-6. Participants will learn cheers in an enthusiastic and fun format. Evening practices will be held two nights per week (time and location to be determined). Participants will cheer at the Lakewood Recreation in house basketball games played on Saturdays. Cost is \$45 Resident/\$65 Non-Resident. Registration deadline is November 30. All participants 10 years of age and older must have a physical on file at the Recreation Department prior to participating. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081.

## Babysitting Training

Instructed by Family Health Educators - Babysitter training program for ages 11-16 will instruct students on marketing skills related to babysitting, child development, baby care and diapering, simple first aid, safety issues for babysitter and children, and American Heart Association infant/child CPR skills. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. \$45 Resident; \$55 Nonresident

## Reiki (Levels I & II)

Instructed by Gina Tatsumi - Learn Reiki the Japanese form of energy healing and relaxation. Reiki can be used for self healing and healing of others. It is a form of alternative healing that is now being used in hospitals. Class includes attunement and certifications. Reiki II has a pre-requisite of Reiki I and includes knowledge and use of Reiki II symbols as well as attunement and certification. Class limit 10. (6 total hours) Reiki II Tues/Thur 12/9 & 12/11 6:30-9:00 p.m.. Room 109, Garfield Middle School, 14113 Detroit Avenue. \$125 Resident; \$135 Nonresident

## Intermediate Internet

Advance your understanding of the internet and understand what your kids are doing online. This class informs about current trends, ideas, and websites like MySpace, YouTube, Wikipedia, Digg and Amazon. Learn about Web 2.0, blogs, social networking and bookmarking, shopping, using the library online and much more. Class limit 16. (2 nights). Wed/Thur 12/3 & 12/4 6:00-8:00 p.m.. Room 320, Harding Middle School, 1661 Madison Avenue. \$49 Resident; \$59 Nonresident

## All About Google

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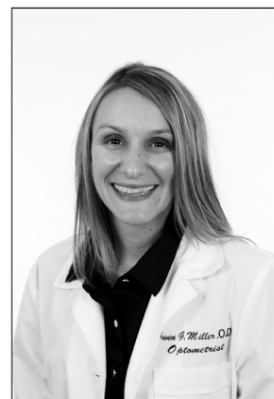
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## Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

# A New Memoir By Herbert Gold, Lakewood Native Turned San Francisco Icon

by Vincent O'Keefe

Early in his new memoir, *Still Alive! A Temporary Condition*, Lakewood native Herbert Gold asks the intriguing question: "Where are the flower folks now?" At age eighty-four, Gold is uniquely positioned to address that question, since he has long been a chronicler of the Beat Generation. In fact, Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac were his classmates at Columbia University in the 1940s.

Gold has enjoyed a lengthy and distinguished writing career, having published a large variety of novels, short stories, essays, and journalism. Although he was raised in Lakewood, he lived in New York City, Paris, and Haiti (among other places) before settling in California. Over the past five decades he has become synonymous with the San Francisco literary scene.

Born in 1924, Gold grew up on Hathaway Avenue and attended Taft Elementary School and later Lakewood High School. His father was a Russian-Jewish immigrant who owned a vegetable store in Cleveland. At age seventeen, Gold rebelled against his parents by hitchhiking out of town and joining the carnival circuit. Soon he entered the Army during World War II and trained as a Russian interpreter and paratrooper but never saw combat. Later he became a Fulbright scholar and attended the Sorbonne in Paris, studying with famous American writers Richard Wright and Saul Bellow.

Interestingly, the first of Gold's twenty novels—published in 1951 and titled *The Birth of a Hero*—was based in large part on his childhood in Lakewood. But in hindsight Gold considers the book "a work of my extreme youth," and instead recommends people interested in his novels read his most acclaimed book, *Fathers*. Published in 1967, *Fathers* is a work of autobiographical fiction that explores the generational tensions between a Russian-Jewish immigrant father and his American son in the Cleveland area.

In our recent interview, Gold was emphatic: "I have very good memories

of Lakewood." One of those memories is brought to life in *Still Alive!*: "I still remember Miss Collins, my teacher at Taft Elementary School in Lakewood, Ohio, who touched my head indulgently, impatiently, tenderly, as I stood in line at the drinking fountain: 'That was nice work. But you misspelled 'gruesome.' I had written a 'grewsome' story. Her praise thrilled me; her criticism made me want to work harder. She stroked my hair! Perhaps, more than seventy years later, I still write to please Miss Collins."

On the other hand, Gold's book also recollects a negative aspect of his Lakewood childhood: anti-Semitism. In a chapter titled "Lakewood, Ohio, 1930s," Gold recounts a traumatic event that he and his brother Sid endured on Hathaway Avenue at the hands of a prejudiced neighbor. Rather than hold a grudge against his neighbor, however, Gold has a striking reaction: "But in the years that followed . . . Wonderment and gratitude flowed over me because he had taught me something it had been time for me to learn, that part of my job in life was to protect my brother."

This remarkable attitude toward the struggles of life permeate Gold's memoir. He exudes a graceful acceptance of all the traumas and heartaches that accompany life's joys and triumphs. Early in the book he sets the tone: "My adolescent rage against my parents . . . now is transformed into gratitude."

Structured as a series of vignettes, *Still Alive!* focuses on important moments in Gold's closest relationships, including with his two ex-wives and five children. The results are often profound meditations on the evolution of human relationships over many decades. As Gold explains, "I wanted to touch on spots of my life that were meaningful for me and that I hoped would be meaningful for other people." Indeed, through its exploration of the aging process, Gold's longitudinal memoir compels readers both to rewind and fast forward their own intimate relationships—e.g. with spouses, ex-spouses, lovers, siblings, friends,

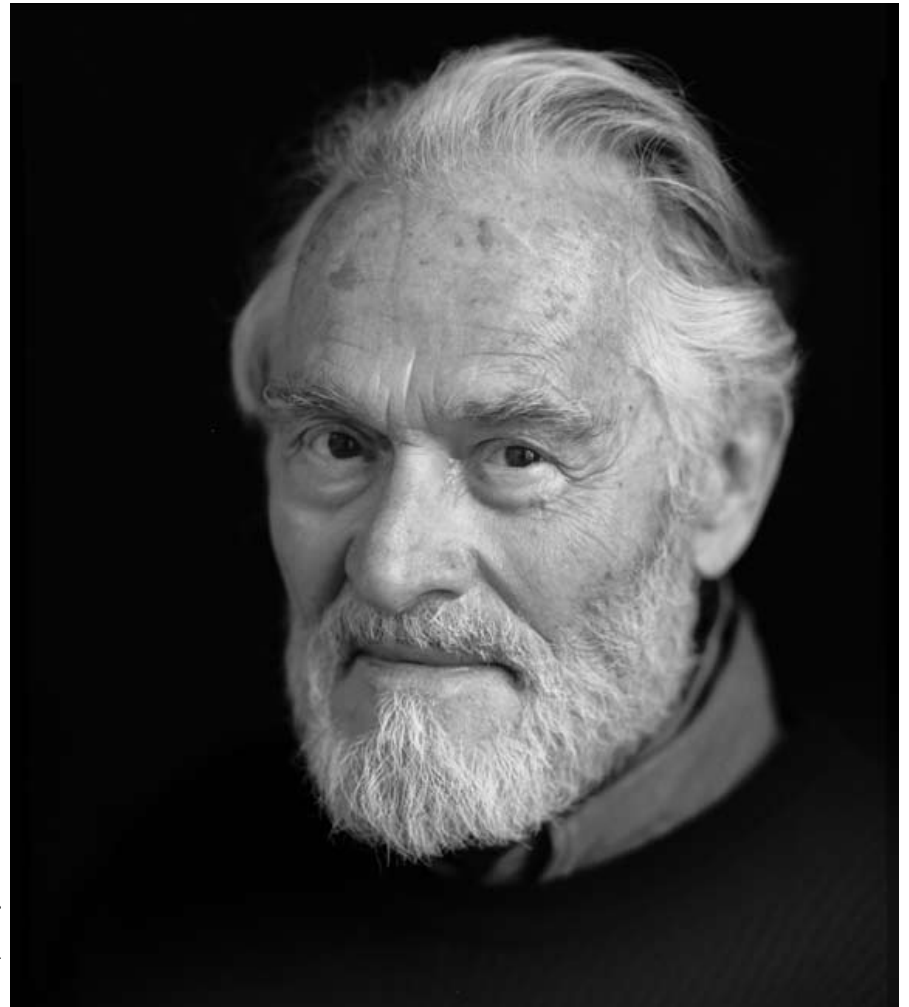


photo by Dennis Letbetter

parents, children, and even enemies.

The emotional core of the memoir is Gold's relationship with his deceased brother Sid, to whom the book is dedicated. Gold explains: "He was the kid brother I bullied, nagged, and loved, the one who remembered the childhood we shared." In a chapter titled "King of the Cleveland Beatniks," Gold explains that Sid and his bohemian cohorts gathered at a local Arabica, "the café where Sid held court." Poignantly, Gold is the caretaker (and protector) of the novel that Sid worked on for fifty years but never completed. Gold also notes that Sid was "memorialized in a comic strip by his friend R. Crumb."

In his Afterword, Gold states: "This is a book about . . . aging and time passing, and about not aging and time standing still." One of the ways he illustrates the concept of "not aging and time standing still" is through photographs. For Gold, moments of great elation—and great trauma—create snapshots that last for life.

In a loving tribute to his brother, Gold explains how he remembers Sid: "I keep a photograph in a place where I pass seldom so that familiarity won't make it invisible. It's from a time before he grew his beard; he is grinning, holding a pipe, poking the air with the pipe, telling a story. He's in command of an audience."

Unfortunately, a mental snapshot can also define a relationship more somberly. As he grieves the death of Marvin Shapiro, his young pilot friend who is shot down in World War II, Gold imagines the scene: "I saw Marvin's face—grinning, acne-pocked, delighted by life—under his parachute swinging down and then exploded in midair as he hung between heaven and

hell. I've seen him there for more than sixty years, and so he will be always."

Despite the fact that many significant people in Gold's life have passed on, the overall tone of the book is uplifting, affirmative, and frequently humorous. Perhaps this is tied to his identification with the optimism of the flower children (though he's not afraid to poke fun at the excesses of the 1960s). Such a positive outlook extends to his vision of Cleveland, which he calls "the Paris of Northeastern Ohio" and describes with pride: "Little-known fact: Cleveland embodies the Left Bank, North Beach, any of the new or old Greenwich Villages, just as Walt Whitman contained multitudes. Hart Crane and R. Crumb had lived in Cleveland before the Arabica bohemians, and they were pioneers for those who would surely follow after."

In a 1997 tribute to Allen Ginsberg on [Salon.com](http://Salon.com), Gold articulated the powerful legacy of the Beats and other bohemian movements: "The counter-culture, the underground, whatever the label it's given (New Wave, Punk, Slacker or Gen-X, Y or Z), the long tradition of American bohemia enriches, deepens, performs an act of rescue for an increasingly massified culture." Given some of the progressive currents of today's Lakewood, it seems fitting that a Lakewood native would go on to become a San Francisco icon.

Ever the upbeat beatnik, Gold concludes his memoir with a simple question. Even with all the tears that mingle with life's laughs, "what's not to like about living?"

*Still Alive! A Temporary Condition* is available at local bookstores, libraries, and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



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## Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

# Masonic Temple Ballroom Hosts *Mud In Yer Eye*

by Melissa Page

On the first Saturday evening of the month contra dancing is going on here in the heart of Lakewood. Contra dancing takes place at college campuses and urban and rural communities nationwide. Every age finds enjoyment and exercise from the traditional American community dance. It stems from the 17th century English Country Dance and the music is mostly traditional Irish, English, and Scottish jigs and reels. The band, Mud In Yer Eye, currently consists of about forty musicians from all over Northeast Ohio. On any given night there may be 10 to 20 band members up on stage. Jan Larsen, the long time coordinator of the band and psychology professor at Case Western Reserve University, plays the hammer dulcimer. Also on stage you will find a variety of instruments such as fiddle, banjo, mandolin, recorder, accordion, and piano, depending on which musicians play that night.

The Masonic Temple attracts musicians and dancers from Oberlin to Twinsburg. Contra dance is for any one who can walk to a beat. The very heart of it is to draw people together for an enjoyable occasion whether they are young, old, slow, energetic, experienced or beginner. You do not need to come with a partner. Contra dancing starts with couples paired in a line. Whether you switch partners for every song or you keep the same partner all night, you will still connect with several different dancers regularly. Anyone can be a dancer on the first try. The steps are meant to be simple. Lessons are not required, or even usually taught, other than teaching sessions held before the event. Here the caller will go through most of the variety of steps and moves that you can expect during the night. Before each new song, the caller takes dancers through the order of steps that will be repeated during the song such as allemandes, ladies chain, and right hand star. To further ensure that all will keep pace, the experienced dancers cordially keep beginners on track as you exchange with them during the dance. In addition to the contra dances, the band performs a couple of waltzes



Swinging partners in the Masonic Temple Ballroom

during the evening to mix it up.

Contra dancing has been described as "an amusement park ride we make for ourselves." Although they've been

regularly performing here for some time, who knows how long Mud In Yer Eye will be coming to Lakewood as their venue choice? Whether you come

to dance or just sit back and enjoy the music, you will be glad you came for the rich and enthusiastic experience of a contra dance.

The next Mud In Yer Eye event will be Saturday evening, December 6. Lessons for the contra dance start at 7 p.m. in the Masonic Temple basement while the annual Light Up Lakewood musical entertainment performs in the ballroom. The Contra Dance kicks off immediately afterward at 8 p.m. till 11 p.m. and costs \$6 per person. Due to Detroit Ave. being closed around the temple you should enter the Andrews parking lot off of Clifton Blvd. Soft-soled shoes or tennis shoes recommended and dress for comfort.

For more information on contra dancing or Mud In Yer Eye visit [neohiocontradance.org](http://neohiocontradance.org).

## Lakewood's Growing Arts District Gains A New Gallery

by Scott MacGregor

Lakewood's growing profile as an art destination has received yet another shot in the arm with the opening of the Galleria D'Arte, a new gallery located in the heart of Lakewood and featuring the works of several local artists.

The owner of this new gallery is Theresa Busser, a longtime Lakewood entrepreneur and former owner and proprietor of the Merry Arts Pub and Grille which is across the street from the gallery.

Theresa and her husband Dave also own the building which houses the Galleria D'Arte. They are happy to announce that the City of Lakewood has just approved their plans to renovate the building's facade along Detroit Avenue which will restore the structure's original classic appearance.

"Lakewood is a great place to do business and we consider this renovation to be a good investment," states Theresa, "the Galleria D'Arte will anchor our efforts to draw in other enterprises that are seeking attractive and affordable business space."

Theresa has been tireless in her efforts to attract local artists working in a variety of media such as painting,



Theresa Busser and Lakewood photographer Lucian Bartosik review a selection of Bartosik's latest work for display in the Galleria D'Arte.

watercolor, graphic illustration, fiber art, clay, and photography.

As a result, the art collection currently on display is eclectic and ranges from the comic book art of Gary Dumm, the cat art of Laura Dumm, original paintings and illustrations by Nadine Bailey, the amazing Etch-a-Sketch renderings of George Vlosich, and the sports figure portraiture by his brother Greg Vlosich.

The Lakewood artists whose selected works are on display in the gallery include: Lucien Bartosik, Joyce Bolte, Jan Bostwick, Erik Fisher, Kerry Hazard, Len and Pam Jezior, Peg Laboda, Scott MacGregor, Marcello Mellino, Holly Miller, John Rehner, and Gary Yappel.

The Galleria D'Arte is located at 15612 Detroit Avenue and is open Saturdays-11am to 5pm, Sundays-Noon to 4pm, and during the week by appointment.

## British Sensibility Translates Well In Reflective Monologues

by Susan Fenske

I was really looking forward to experiencing a show in Beck Center's Studio Theater for the first time. The studio theater, or black box theater, is very small and as the name suggests it is painted entirely black. There are few if any props and lighting is minimal. Black box theaters were created in the 1960's and 1970's when experimental amateur theater groups were looking for low cost spaces to present their avant-garde pursuits. The audience sits so close to the actors it feels as if you can speak directly to them and that they can speak to you, and that actually happened when I went to see Talking Heads 2.

The only monologues I knew were the Jay Leno/David Letterman kind. Of course this is nothing like that. I had anticipated being captivated by the purity of this kind of theater and I was. Talking Heads 2 is the brainchild of British playwright Alan Bennett whose works have spanned television, film, radio and stage. Known for examining the lives of downtrodden and often overlooked segments of the population, these stories are poignant and spark an element of introspection.

Act I follows Robert Hawks as Wilfred, a handy man with a dark secret. As the monologue unfolds, words alone expose the turmoil in his

life. Proving even more intense, Act II features Dorothy Silver, as a nursing home resident reminiscing about life and love. These able actors draw you in, the audience grew so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Both are eloquent and astonishing to watch.

Be sure to check out the paintings in the main lobby from artist Yarek Godfrey. He has displayed his art here in Cleveland before. His work has been called "stunning gothic classicism" and the sepia-toned pieces are definitely worth a look.

Talking Heads 2 will be playing at the Beck Center's Studio Theater until December 7. Call the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 for ticket information.

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## Conservation Corner

# Buy Nothing Day

by Heather Ramsey

Though many are unaware of its existence, there is another sort of holiday coming up (though, depending on when you have picked up this issue, it may also just have passed): Buy Nothing Day. Though its origins lie in Canada and the day is most heavily promoted through *Adbusters* magazine, a Canadian social-activist and anti-consumerist publication, it has developed into an international movement, with participants in more than 50 countries. In the US, Buy Nothing Day is slated for the day after Thanksgiving, which in recent times has been labeled "Black Friday," the day when hordes of consumers rush out to malls to purchase goods at steep discounts. For the rest of the world, which generally lacks such a day, it is the Saturday afterwards.

Though our economy has its difficulties, and buying nothing is not exactly what the economic doctors have ordered, the world around us may feel differently. The average American consumes more than anyone else in the world. According to an *Adbusters'* ad, the average North American consumes ten times that of a Chinese citizen, and thirty times more than an Indian citizen. As China and India have been developing quickly of late, one can only imagine what this ratio would be had they used a poorer country, like Haiti,

Rwanda, or Bangladesh. And while it is wonderful that American citizens can purchase goods from anywhere at anytime, we have all been made familiar with the statistic that this lifestyle contributes more than anyone else's to global warming. Meanwhile, economic indicators do not take important environmental issues into account. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a statistic used widely to compare economies, does not properly account for the degradation of the environment. Clear-cutting forests to make timber or paper products increases the GDP, as companies sell the labor to cut the trees, then profit on the processing and the final sales. An oil spill or other toxic waste cleanup increases the GDP, as companies are paid to clean it up. Industries that pollute the air contribute to the GDP. And, so do the medical costs of those made ill by pollution.

Of course, there is no easy fix to such issues, but as global warming becomes a more imminent threat, they must be addressed somehow. And, though political action will be needed to truly solve the majority of environmental issues, there is no limit to what individuals can accomplish through grassroots movements, like this one. Rather than hurting business, in the end this type of movement will sup-

port those businesses who operate soundly - those who create good products in a safe way, without exploiting the environment or workers.

While buying nothing for a single day may seem an overly simple task, I cannot count the number of days where I would think that I had purchased nothing, but then recall the odd random want or need that I did, in fact, decide to fulfill - a pack of gum, a midday snack, a meal out rather than at home, that pair of earmuffs or cheap gloves to deal with the sudden onset of cold weather, etc. But, with focus, the task is also not a difficult one.

And, yes, there is the theory that you may just go out and buy the same goods tomorrow even though you didn't shop today. This is true. But, the spirit of Buy Nothing Day is not really about one particular day, but about

thinking outside of our consumer box. Rather, the idea behind Buy Nothing Day is to commit to a lifestyle of less consumption (and, equally importantly, intelligent consumption) and, consequently, less waste. The proponents of the day hope that, in addition to staying home on November 28th, you will be led to celebrate Christmas differently, and, then, make a New Year's Resolution (and, yes, ideally, even keep it) to change your lifestyle in 2009 and beyond.

Even if your celebration is small and doesn't extend past your immediate family, at least you have saved that much waste, and that much money. And whatever you do do on Buy Nothing Day is likely to be much more fun than hitting the stores would have been.

So, why not spend a day without spending?

## Mifune's Second Release Well Worth "Time"

by Thealexia Becker

With a provocative title and a formidable touring career to live up to, Mifune is set to release "Time is Watching Us Bleed", on November 28th, their second album since their formation in 2005. The eight piece group with a self-described afro-electronique sound that combines multiple genres made a name for themselves touring not only in the Cleveland area, but on the east coast and down south as well.

"Time" does not disappoint with a strong brass and synthetic presence on each track and a singer who possesses a voice akin to British songstress Adele. Her sound is both full and surreal, which at first might seem disconcerting, yet it becomes integral to the soul of the album by the third track. It is difficult to imagine any other quality of voice with this unique brand of music, much less another singer with less depth.

It goes without saying that each of the musicians in Mifune is talented, and it is this professional quality that allows the tracks to meander into different styles effortlessly and believably. Each song is paradoxical, filled with a mellow jive but at the same time expressing a wealth of emotion. A less skilled ensemble would sound forced and campy. The unified sound that Mifune creates while incorporating unlikely instruments is in itself an accomplishment worthy of attention.

Almost every track could be neatly packaged as a single, yet there are standouts. The first and not the least of which is the title track "Time is Watching Us Bleed", a latin-grooving charmer that is as alluring as it is bizarre. It is also, largely because of its length, the most radio friendly single and likely

the one that will be heard most often on the airwaves. Another gem is hidden at the very end of the album, but its title alone merits attention. "Master of the Flying Guillotine" is not only strange, but amusing in Mifune's use of oriental musical elements to portray what could be seen as a musical version of "Kill Bill". The truncated vocals at the high end of the vocal range are hard to ignore and only add to the pleasant absurdity.

Mifune's songs carry a political undercurrent as well, with some becoming outright statements about current issues. One of these tracks, "Sin City", is particularly lively and upbeat while jabbing at Washington politics. The horn ensemble especially shines on this track along with the driving percussion.

The only drawback to Mifune's sophomore release is the length of some tracks. None of the tracks merit serious criticism on a musical level, and essentially any critique will amount to a matter of preference as the album is stylistically unblemished. However, a few of the tracks could stand to be a little shorter as occasionally the listener gets lost in the middle. One of the strengths of the album is its ability to surprise with each new track, but sometimes that effect is dampened by lengthy melodic breaks which halt the flow of one song to the next. On that note, it is worth mentioning that those same breaks will produce ample solo opportunities in live performances.

What makes the album worthy of praise is its inherent diversity. Many groups falter in attempts to change their sound from one album from the next, while Mifune changes their sound on each track and still remains unmistakable.



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*Must be able to lift 50 pounds.*

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**Contact Trish Rooney, Executive Director, at 216.226.6466**

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