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Volume 5, Issue 11, June 2, 2009

Everyone Takes A Swing To Kick Off

Lakewood Hospital's Vision For Tomorrow Project

by Pat Murphy

Construction of a \$2.7 million Orthopaedic Unit is underway at Lakewood Hospital. The announcement was made during a wall-breaking ceremony on June 1 led by hospital administration and the physicians and nurses who provide care on the unit. The Orthopaedic Unit will feature private patient rooms, which is a key component to the hospital's Vision for Tomorrow strategic plan. The project is expected to be completed fall 2009.

Construction will officially begin on Tuesday, June 2. Once the unit is complete, physicians, employees, patients and their families will enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere that creates a patient and family centric environment.

"This is an exciting time for everyone at Lakewood



From left, Orthopaedic Surgeons Kenneth Chapman, MD, Duret Smith, MD, Manuel Martinez, MD, Lakewood Hospital President Jack Gustin, and Chief Nursing Officer Michele Thoman

Hospital," says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "This significant milestone will set the tone for our Vision for Tomorrow plan, which focuses on improving the patient experience and establishing clinical areas of

excellence. This new unit will enable our highly skilled staff to provide the best care for our patients who can recover in a new, modern environment."

The new Orthopaedic Unit will feature private patient rooms that include



Jennifer Van Dyke, clinical nurse manager of the Orthopaedic Unit. The nurses are looking forward to moving into their new "home" this fall.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) approved bathrooms with shower; a flat screen TV; oxygen, suction, blood pressure equipment hidden behind a wood panel; cabinets that will hold patient belongings, supplies, dirty linen; sinks in every

room; a sleeper chair for family members who spend the night; increased adjustable lighting; wireless computer access; and computers in each room for nurse documentation.

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Dr. Alan Cole and Marilyn Rees Cole:

Celebrating Love, Children and the Summer Reading Club

by Kenneth Warren

Dr. Alan Cole and wife Marilyn Rees Cole grew up in Lakewood during the 1940s around the corner from each other. In reflecting on their lifetimes and love for each other, Dr. and Mrs. Cole remember fondly how Lakewood Public Library's Summer Reading Club inspired children to realize powers of achievement, concentration, conversation, imagination and intellect.

Over the past decade Dr. and Mrs. Cole have been celebrating their love for each other in relation to Lakewood Public Library's Summer Reading Club for children.

Though living in San Jose, California, Dr. and Mrs. Cole have been providing generous donations over the past decade to support reading incentives and programs to advance new generations of readers in Lakewood.

To keep the spirit of their love alive in perpetuity through partnership with Lakewood Public Library's

Summer Reading Club, Dr. and Mrs. Cole have presented a gift of \$50,000 on May 26, 2009 in order to establish an endowment fund.

Fittingly enough, given their deep and loving Lakewood memories of a lifetime of reading and childhood inspiration in Lakewood Public Library, the sole purpose of The Dr. Alan E. and Marilyn Rees Cole Endowment Fund the fund is to provide income in perpetuity for the support of summer reading club activities and programs for children.

"I remember the colored paper charts on the wall where the children's summer reading records were posted. Each week we would read a book in different area. We would report and reflect on our reading. We each got a gold star and square," Dr. Cole recalls.

"We remember our experience and love of reading which came from that. By the end of summer you had the feeling that you had been somewhere," adds Mrs. Cole.

There can be little doubt



The Coles then and now. Above from in a 1948 Social Studies class, left oval is Marilyn Rees (Cole), and in the circle on the right is young Alan Cole. Right is Dr. Alan Cole and Marilyn Rees Cole.

that Dr. Alan E. and Marilyn Rees Cole Endowment Fund will keep Lakewood's children moving through reading and challenging them to realize their potential. The heart-warming love story of their generous support for the Summer Reading Club has

inspired the library's community, staff and trustees alike.

"The Trustees are very grateful for the Cole's generous gift to the Library for the children of Lakewood. This recent donation gives the Library the opportunity, through eye-catching and fun

programs, to introduce books to and encourage reading by Lakewood's youth. Dr. and Mrs. Cole are directly helping to develop the minds of our children which is so critical to their future. What a

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Lakewood Observer

Barton Center Flea Market - June 6

by Curt Brosky

The Barton Community Center will hold its Barter and Buy Bonanza on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Over two dozen vendors will be selling new and used household items, including Tupperware and Mary Kay products. In addition, Barton Center's craft and resale shops will be open. The Snack Bar will serve lunch (hot dogs, pizza, potato salad, and deserts) from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Barton Center is located on the ground floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Ave.

Proceeds will be used to fund the many activities and classes offered by the nonprofit Barton Center, including transportation and instruction for computer and exercise classes. To find out more about Ohio's first senior center, call the Barton Center office at 216-221-3400.

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Cleveland Foodbank director of fundraising Julie Anne Simmonds and First Federal of Lakewood president and CEO Gary Fix

First Federal Of Lakewood Donates \$3.5K To Cleveland Foodbank, 5th Year Of Annual Partnership

by Christina Capadona

First Federal of Lakewood donated \$3,500 to the Cleveland Foodbank for its annual branch-wide checking account promotion. First Federal donated \$5 for each checking account opened Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2008.

“I am very proud to participate in this worthy cause for our fifth consecutive year, especially during these troubling economic times when many of our friends and neighbors are suffering through job loss and require services like the FoodBank,” said Gary Fix, First Federal of Lakewood president, CEO and managing officer.

The Cleveland Foodbank uses donated funds to make food available to local hunger centers for free. Each donation of one dollar allows the Foodbank to provide enough food for three nutritious meals for local hunger centers to distribute to local families.

“This year, demand for the Cleveland Foodbank’s services are up 21 percent from a year ago,” said Julie Anne Simmonds, director of fundraising for the Cleveland Foodbank.

ABOUT THE CLEVELAND
FOODBANK

The Cleveland Foodbank’s mission is to alleviate hunger by providing food and support to agencies that feed the hungry in Northeast Ohio. The Foodbank solicits, collects, sorts, and distributes nonperishable food, fresh produce, perishable and frozen food, and prepared meals to local hunger centers and other nonprofit agencies. Visit www.clevelandfoodbank.org for additional information.

ABOUT FIRST FEDERAL OF
LAKEWOOD

First Federal of Lakewood, with 12 full-service branch locations in Northeast Ohio and First Federal Lending offices in Columbus and Solon, Ohio, has total assets exceeding \$1 billion. Founded in 1935, First Federal of Lakewood is a community savings and loan institution with a deep-rooted tradition of financial strength, stability and integrity. Visit www.FFL.net for additional information.

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

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lakewoodhospital.org/neuro



Lakewood Health Care

Run For The Young 2009

by Pat Murphy

Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals are partnering with Lesjak Planning Corporation to host the second Run for the Young, a 5K run, 3K walk and one-mile kids run, on Saturday, June 27, at Crocker Park in Westlake. All race proceeds will benefit Cleveland Park Works, Fairview Park Recreation Department, Lakewood YMCA, Rocky River Recreation Department, Westlake Recreation Department and Youth Challenge to help support youth wellness programs in those communities

Presenting sponsor, Lesjak Planning Corporation, has a long history of participating in and organizing events to benefit children and adolescents. “We are proud to partner with the Cleveland Clinic hospitals and establish a race that will support community programs. This event will ensure that continued awareness and attention is placed upon the importance of healthy living choices for children,” says Dave Lesjak, president of Lesjak Planning Corp.

One in three children in the United States is classified as overweight or obese, a number that has tripled since 1970. It is estimated that the chance of remaining overweight as an adult is 20 percent at 4 years of age, but jumps to 80 percent for adolescents, putting our youth at high risk for chronic diseases, such as heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. These risk factors can be reduced through exercise and healthy -eating habits.

The Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals are deeply rooted in their communities and dedicated to meeting health care needs. “Our hospitals are committed to improving

Run
For the
Young
At Crocker Park

June 27th, 2009
Rain or shine!
Chip timing is provided.

5K Run and 3K Walk begin at 9 a.m.
1 mile Kids Run begins at 10:15 a.m.
Day of Race Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Application deadlines:
Mailed entries must be received by June 24th
Online entries must be submitted by June 25th, 10 a.m.

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Join us for the second annual **Run For the Young** at Crocker Park. Runners and walkers of all ages and levels are invited to participate in a 5K Run, 3K Walk or 1 mile Kids Run. All proceeds will benefit Cleveland Park Works, Fairview Park Recreation Department, Lakewood YMCA, Rocky River Recreation Department and Westlake Recreation Department and Youth Challenge to focus on the health fitness of adolescents in those communities.

Help keep the future healthy for the youth in our community.
Visit runfortheyoung.com or hermesccleveland.com to sign up today!

Everyone Takes A Swing To Kick Off

Lakewood Hospital’s Vision For Tomorrow Project

continued from page 1

“Patients’ family and friends will be encouraged to participate in the

healing process of their loved one,” says Gustin. Therefore, the unit will include a comfortable space for family to relax. The new unit’s family lounge will feature a flat screen TV; coffee machine and nutrition center; seating for several groupings of people; and wireless computer access.

Orthopaedics is just the first unit at Lakewood that will undergo this exciting makeover. “Construction will be ongoing at Lakewood Hospital until each unit completely transitions into private patient rooms,” says Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of the Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals. “As health care providers, we always want the best for our patients. As Lakewood Hospital continues to move forward with its Vision for Tomorrow plan, we will be able to better meet our patient’s needs now and into the future.”

Lakewood Hospital offers a full-range of Orthopaedic Services. From

total joint replacements (initial surgeries and revisions) to minimally invasive procedures, patients benefit from an expert team of orthopaedic surgeons and nurses, state-of-the-art equipment as well as inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. The new Orthopaedic Unit will be a great enhancement to the care patients receive at Lakewood Hospital. A ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the opening will be held in the fall.

In 2009, Lakewood Hospital will also be investing in a \$2 million Endovascular Suite and \$3.5 million in infrastructure updates – all part of its Vision for Tomorrow plan. For more information, or for construction updates, visit “<http://www.lakewoodhospital.org/vision>” www.lakewoodhospital.org/vision

Lakewood Hospital, an acute care hospital, has served the diverse health care needs of 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.



Lakewood Hospital President Jack Gustin, takes a swing at Lakewood Hospital’s future.

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Free Prescription Discount Cards

Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV), Council Vice-President, called the May 18, 2009 City Council Meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

by Christopher Bindel

The meeting started with a presentation of the Heritage Advisory Board's City Preservation Awards. These awards are given out annually to people who have taken on projects to improve or restore their property, keeping the historical heritage of the buildings in mind. This year marked the 8th year the awards have been given. Among those awarded were Dewey's Pizza, Emerson Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, Lakewood Public Library, St. Peters Episcopal Church, and a number of residences.

Next, the Council looked at the proposed ordinance to create stricter rules on nuisance properties. After Councilman Kevin Butler (Ward I) suggested a few minor changes, the Council unanimously adopted it.

Mayor Edward Fitzgerald announced his plans to partner with the National League of Cities to begin offering a prescription discount card to Lakewood residents. The program, which has been put together by Caremark, is offered through the National League of Cities to help the residents of

member cities better afford prescription medications. The card will give the holder an average of 20% off of almost all of their prescriptions at participating drugstores. In Lakewood, participating pharmacies will include Marc's, CVS, Drug Mart, Giant Eagle, Walgreens and Rite Aid.

The Mayor said he proposed the program "to offer savings on prescription drugs for residents who are without health insurance, a traditional benefits plan, or have prescription drugs not covered by insurance." He continued to say that the City will be able to provide this prescription discount card at no cost and that it is available to all residents, with no limitations. Although the Mayor did say that this "is by no means a complete solution," he said he believed, "it will provide some relief to Lakewood families." The program is able to start as early as June 1st. Council referred the Mayor's communication to the Health Services Committee, but passed the ordinance itself.

The administration requested to repeal a previous ordinance giving city workers longevity pay, to be replaced by a new ordinance rewarding city workers bonuses based on merit. Although this

ordinance had already been discussed to some extent, having been referred to and read twice by committees, the council still spent upwards of an hour discussing the ordinances with the administration. The Council did vote to repeal the previous ordinance and passed the new, merit-based, bonus system.

The council then discussed the MURAL program renewal ordinance. The MURAL program, as discussed in an earlier article, is a program that offers loan assistance to owners of mixed use buildings of retail and living space to help renovate the living spaces in these buildings. The Council passed the ordinance to continue offering these options to building owners.

Director of Planning and Development, Nathan Kelly, announced that the city had recently gained ownership of two properties. These properties, one on Webb and the other on Waterbury, have fallen into disrepair and have become nuisance properties. The City purchased them in the hopes that Council will approve of deconstruction of the houses and will then sell off the land. The hope is that nearby residents will be interested in the property. In the case of the Waterbury property,

it is adjacent to three businesses on Madison which are lacking sufficient parking. It is hoped that one of these businesses will buy the property to expand their parking; some interest has already been shown.

The last topic discussed was the re-launch of the City's website. The objective of this transformation was to make the site easier to use and less cluttered. Some of the features on the new site, with some still to come, include the ability to pay utility bills and tax bills on the site. There is also a section to report problems you notice around the city. Whether it's a pot hole, tall grass, or any of a number of other issues, you can now let the city know easily. You can visit the new city website at <http://www.onelakewood.com>.

After a long and extensive meeting, Council President Michael Dever (At Large) adjourned the meeting at 9:44 pm.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on June 15, 2009. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the Lakewood City Council, see onelakewood.com/CityCouncil/Default.aspx

Lakewood Wins Preservation Award

by Mazie Adams

The Cleveland Restoration Society and the American Institute of Architects, Cleveland recently honored the City of Lakewood, the Lakewood Historical Society and Downtown Lakewood (part of LakewoodAlive) with a 2009 Preservation Award. The Preservation Awards recognize projects that have contributed significantly to improving the quality of life in Greater Cleveland through the preservation of our historic architectural resources. These three groups have worked together to increase awareness of Lakewood's heritage and promote the preservation of our community's history.

City of Lakewood Planning & Development Director Nathan Kelly accepted the award on behalf of all three groups at the Cleveland Restoration Society's annual Celebration of Preservation at the recently restored Hanna Theater. The award committee stated that, "The entire streetcar suburb of Lakewood has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In the last several years, this historic city has successfully promoted preservation through the activities of both its government and its many nonprofits."

"In 2005, the City strengthened its demolition ordinance and then three years later passed a Preservation Ordinance. In 2006, the City nominated the Birdtown neighborhood, an ethnic enclave developed for workers of the Union Carbide Company, to the National Register of Historic Places. The City's Planning &

Development Department has applied for Certified Local Government status and has also surveyed the city's commercial buildings through Lakewood's Heritage Advisory Board. The results of the survey, including a ranking of historical and architectural merit, are being used to guide development decisions. Notable new projects, such as Rockport Square and Rosewood Place, have been carefully planned and incorporate preservation components. Successful and highly visible adaptive reuse projects, such as the Winking Lizard and the rehab of the First Church of Christ, Scientist into the Maxxum Corporation offices, also highlight the best of Lakewood."

"Non-profit groups have also worked to promote the city. In 2007, the Lakewood Historical Society, which has traditionally focused on its museum, archives, and education programs, created a Preservation Fund for endangered properties. To date \$20,000 has been raised. Downtown Lakewood, which recently earned accreditation from the National Main Street Center, holds many events that celebrate the vitality and walkability of the city's downtown. The group is currently developing design guidelines for the central business district."

"Preservation at the local level is often best achieved through thoughtful partnerships like that of the City of Lakewood, Lakewood Historical Society, and Downtown Lakewood. We commend these groups for their model efforts and their many accomplishments."



Dana's Legacy: A Park Memorial Program

The City is beginning a park donation program called Dana's Legacy. This program is designed to allow people to purchase items for the parks in the name of loved ones. The program was thought up by Judy Frankel who sought a way to memorialize her daughter Dana Rolland. She wanted a place where she could go to honor her daughter's spirit and memory. At 2 p.m. on June 6 (after Meet the Trucks) she will get her wish as a bench down by the lake becomes the first dedication through this program, made in honor of her daughter Dana.

The program allows people to dedicate flowers, trees and benches in the name of loved ones. Each dedication can be personalized with a plaque. The up-keep of each donation will be the responsibility of the city although donors are encouraged to decorate trees and benches with flowers. Any questions regarding donations through Dana's Legacy can be answered by contacting Holly Lauch at 216-529-6602 or by downloading a brochure that will be on City's website (www.onelakewood.com) soon.

Lakewood Public Library Events

All Programs Are Free And Open To The Public

MEET THE AUTHOR:

Open Borders—America Invaded: A Trilogy by Richard D. Ondo

True sportsmen know that Lake Erie fishing and boating can be dangerous. But who would ever expect a boat filled with terrorists to land in Northern Ohio? Novelist Richard Ondo has recently completed his terrorism trilogy with The Lore of Lake Erie, a dangerous mix of love, violence, mystery and the supernatural. He’ll be on hand to answer your questions and sign copies of his books which will be on sale at the event.

Thursday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:

“The British Are Here!”

Straight out of 1774, Private Zeih of His Majesty’s 64th Regiment of Foot shares his thoughts on life in the British Army. He’ll expound upon the details of his uniform, explain his equipment piece-by-piece, demonstrate weapons and discuss battle tactics. He may even shed some light on the origins of odd phrases like “Don’t let the cat out of the bag!”

Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

BOOKED FOR MURDER:

For Lovers of Murder, Mystery and Mayhem

The Overlook by Michael Connelly

When a physicist with access to radioactive materials turns up murdered, the authorities believe that it’s part of a terrorist plot. Detective Harry Bosch must battle the FBI to make sure that this murder isn’t swept under the rug in the larger War on Terror. Twelve action-packed hours follow in this adrenaline rush of a mystery.

Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA

Alien (1979) Directed by Ridley Scott Rated R

In space, no one can hear you scream... unless you’re in a pressurized cabin or something. At any rate, this is one smart, scary, strangely sexy movie—filled with pulse-pounding suspense and subtle imagery. Sigourney Weaver’s eyes practically tell the whole story when deep space truckers encounter a new life form that threatens to destroy the crew one by one.

Saturday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:

ThunderWalk Jazz Duo

Jazz music is go! Two guitarists from the Akron-based ThunderWalk Jazz Quartet will mix classic jazz standards with ballads, swing music and some original compositions for an earthshaking afternoon. Listen closely for the subtle rhythms of Latin, reggae and funk influence.

Sunday, June 14 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

LOCAL FILMMAKERS

Join us for four nights of short films from the most available local filmmakers as we search for the next great Ohio auteur. Many of the directors will be available for a question and answer session at each show.

Monday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

KNIT & LIT BOOK CLUB

Don’t let the name fool you. All knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, and needle-pointers are invited to keep their hands and minds busy with us. Nimble-fingered moderator Lynda Tuennerman encourages you to bring in your own suggestions for reading and needlework projects. Tonight’s title is Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

LEARNING LAB CLASSES:

INTERNET BASICS

Saturday June 6 at 3 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Thursday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 in the Main Library Learning Lab

WORD PROCESSING BASICS

Saturday June 13 at 11 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

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.

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES

SUMMER READING CLUB 2009

“ARRGH” YOU READING?: For children age birth through fifth grade

Avast, ye book-lubbers! Join the Summer Reading Club and choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading. Visit the Reading Club table once a week

to collect pirate stamps and tickets toward prize drawings. Receive a certificate, a nameplate and a special treasure when you finish the club.

Monday, May 11 – Saturday, August 15

Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

ROGUE READERS:

For youth entering sixth through twelfth grade

Blimey, ye scurvy scalawags! Join our Summer Reading Club for teens and tweens. Choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading and earn chances for prizes. Stop by the Reading Club table to sign up or for more information. Else you be walkin’ the plank to Davy Jones’ Locker.

Monday, May 11 – Saturday, August 15

Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

FAMILY PROGRAMS:

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., 4:00p.m.

Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

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

June 5, 6, 7: Look at Lucy Cousins

June 12, 13, 14: Let’s Take a Trip

SPECIAL FRIDAY PERFORMANCES: For the whole family

Every other Friday during our summer programming, we will feature a fun and exciting performer who will entertain the whole family. Seating is limited, and the doors will open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.

June 12 “How to be a Pirate” Party!

Kick off the summer with a “How to be a Pirate” party. Sing your favorite Karaoke song, make some great pirate wear, learn some pirate lingo, and have your face painted by the crew!

Fridays at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Summertime And The Killing Is Easy

by Andrea Fisher

Fans of murder, mystery and mayhem, take note. While you may be too old to participate in the library’s summer reading club, it is the perfect time of year to start attending Booked for Murder, our monthly mystery book discussion. In this month’s selection, The Overlook by Michael Connelly, veteran detective Harry Bosch takes on a murder case that may be part of a larger terrorist plot to threaten the city of Los Angeles, in a riveting, suspense-driven adventure that will keep you guessing with bated breath until the final chapter. Join us Thursday June 11 at 7 pm in the Main Library Meeting Room for Booked for Murder.

Originally published in sixteen installments in The New York Times, Connelly eventually rewrote and expanded some sections to make this work an entire novel. The Overlook is the thirteenth book in the Hieronymus Bosch series. Physicist Dr. Stanley Kent is found murdered in the trunk of his car on a Mulholland Drive overlook. That’s bad enough but this doctor also had known access to a deadly radioactive substance, which was stolen from a women’s clinic at the demand of masked criminals. When the possibility of a more sinister and larger scale terrorist plot emerges, the FBI and the department of Homeland Security try to usurp the case from Bosch. Keeping things interesting, Bosch’s former flame Rachel Walling comes on to the scene as an FBI agent. Bosch is determined to keep the case for

himself. This mystery is an explosion of fast-paced action, as Bosch and his new partner Ignacio Ferras work quickly to solve the case and discover the truth.

You have probably been spending way too much time reading in the sun. Cool off inside the library and discuss a good book. As always programs at the Lakewood Public Library are free and open to the public. Next month’s Booked for Murder will be meeting on July 9 to discuss The Shape of Water, a bestselling Italian mystery by Andrea Camilleri, where Inspector Montalbano investigates the murder of a high ranking politician found in a very compromising position and eats a lot of good food.

A Retirement Celebration for Director Ken Warren

Wed., June 24th, 2009

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Sullivan’s Irish Pub

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Lakewood People

Anila Nicklos: Lakewood’s Albanian-American Aqua Woman Extraordinaire

by Kenneth Warren

In Lakewood there is a beautiful, caring and intelligent woman, who has been selflessly helping immigrants and politicians alike connect to a creative and inclusive vision of a city’s multi-cultural dance. The woman inviting all to dance in service to the Lakewood life stream is, of course, Anila Nicklos.

Born with the sun in Aquarius, Anila is both a big city woman and a dancing sister of mercy whose roots and spirit of service go back to downtown Tirana, Albania.

Since landing in Lakewood in 1997 Anila has established a track-record of cultural, humanitarian and practical service that has made her an unmistakable star in the city that continues to attract a beautiful mosaic of cultures and peoples.

“I’m open-minded. I welcomed all the challenges that were in front of me. I made so many American friends. My family is in Lakewood. We’re Lakewoodites,” Anila declares proudly.

“Lakewood remains a big hub,” says Anila whose service both inside and outside the city to the Albanian-American community has become the material of legend.

Reflecting on countless acts of help she has been extending to Albanian neighbors, Anila confesses with a spirited smile, “I want to dance. I dance every day. When I walk to work, I have music in my heart and my soul, and every move is part of the dance.”

Whether the need is for help with interpretation, taking a child to the doctor, connecting the needy to a service bureaucracy, or helping the city to achieve goals of inclusion, tolerance and understanding across cultures, Anila provides service to neighbors without any charge.

“I probably understand the system



Considered by many to be the Albanian “Oprah Winfrey” Anila is seen here fellow Albanian star Jim Belushi.

better than anyone in the Albanian community. I help with utilities, job applications and social security. I’ve built up myself as I was helping others,” asserts Anila.

Anila has worked for Cleveland State University, Lakewood Public Library, Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation, Private School Aid Service, Fifth Third Bank, and The Cleveland Clinic. “These were great introductions to America. I’ve worked in different institutions and there’s

nothing to compare to Cleveland Clinic. It’s a place where people from different paths and ethnic backgrounds come together, willing to help patients get better,” says Anila, who was promoted to the position of Ombudsman.

Anila is also a journalist and short-story writer. Since 2004 she has written for Illyria, “the only Albanian-American Newspaper.”

“When I came in 1997 I didn’t think about writing. There was no time for me personally. In 2001 I was pulled

in by the Albanian American Association. I became editor for The Eagle,” explains Anila.

Plans are underway for Anila to write a column in the Lakewood Observer that features the city’s ethnic treasures.

Helping Anila with each move in her dance is Ron Nicklos. “He’s my pillar of strength and support. Whether it’s with my community, my family, or my personal career, I would not have been able to accomplish as much as I have without my husband Ronald Nicklos.”

Indeed, Anila’s arrival in Lakewood, with her international vision and commitment to service, seems timed perfectly to the starry script of the Aquarian Age, which evokes rising feminine power, technological transformation and the extension of humanitarian values.

“What I bring from my international background is an appreciation of life in America and what we have here. I really love Americans. I really appreciate America. I’ve been welcomed here. I truly believe people in America are blessed with opportunities. Their lives have a value.”

Anila is especially attuned to the dynamic of giving and receiving. She credits her attunement to humanitarian concerns to traditional values rooted in her family and native country of Albania. From her mother and father, says Anila, she learned the art of giving and caring. With three brothers, as she reflects, she learned the art of guidance, reconnaissance, and sharing constructive input about the challenges and expectations of the world outside the immediate family. From Old World values of family caring and connectivity, then, she extends to Lakewood immigrants guidance and constructive input about challenges in the New World.

“I think helping others makes you a better person. You are kinder, more giving,” says Anila.

Anila’s advice to new neighbors is by turns elegant, ethical and smart: “Get more education. Never stop learning. Never stop growing. Never stop being curios. Never stop dancing. Never stop loving.”



Ron Nicklos, with then Mayor Thomas George, and Anila, at Tom’s birthday party.



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Lakewood Schools

Mrs. Marshall's Amish Built Log Cabin Raffled Off To Support Local Charity

by Kimberly Barto

Like the great pioneers of yore, Mrs. Maureen Marshall has blazed many trails in her profession. "Settling" in Lakewood Schools 35 years ago, she has been guiding students and forging new paths ever since. She's about ready to load up the wagon train and head on to new adventures but not before offering up an authentic Amish-built log cabin that has resided in her classroom for the past ten years.

Acquired from Amish carpenters in Holmes County, this 4' x 6' log cabin has offered students the opportunity to feel like they have been part of colonial times, real pioneers out on the prairie, or in some instances, lords and ladies, when the cabin has been transformed into a castle.

As Mrs. Marshall starts to pack up Room 210 in Lincoln Elementary school, the one item that will not fit in

her packing box is the log cabin. The plan is to have a raffle with one lucky winner taking home his or her own log cabin! In keeping with Mrs. Marshall's passionate support of The Cleveland Food Bank, all proceeds from the sales of the raffle tickets will benefit that organization.

Mrs. Marshall's Log Cabin Raffle is open to anyone interested in a great charity and the possibility of taking home his or her own log cabin! For any former students of Mrs. Marshall, we hope that you will join her for an Open House in front of Lincoln School on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. to share your good wishes. The winner of the log cabin will be drawn that evening.

Raffle Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Contact Kimberly Barto at 216-227-0383 for tickets or more information.

Zoe Lukens Graduates Summa Cum Laude

by Mary Breiner

Lakewood High School alumna Zoe Elaine Lukens completed her college career last month with a flourish. On May 17 she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin and the previous evening was admitted to the Wisconsin Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society in an initiation ceremony on campus.

Ms. Lukens majored in Anthropology and minored in African studies and French, having studied a semester in Senegal. She will return to campus this fall for an Honor Semester. A 2005 graduate of Lakewood High, she is the daughter of Thomas and Nancy Lukens of Clifton Blvd. in Lakewood.



Zoe Elaine Lukens

Board members chairing the finance, human resources and community services, education, and communication committees offered other reports. Mr. Berdine noted that re-work on external masonry will occur after the school year is out. All work is being done at no additional cost and

is part of the original restoration bids and simply a fine tuning of the original project.

The next regularly scheduled Lakewood City Schools Board of Education meeting will be held at Grant Elementary on Monday June 15th at 7 p.m.



photo by Ellen Brinich

Left to right: Edward Favre (president), John Kamkutis, Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy (vice president), Kenneth Warren (Library Director), and Matthew John Markling

School Board Honors Lakewood Public Library Director Kenneth Warren

by Margaret Brinich

Called to order by Board President, Mr. Edward Favre, at 7:05 p.m., the June 1st regularly scheduled meeting of the Lakewood Board of Education Meeting was punctuated by recognitions and accomplishments representing the past, present, and future of Lakewood Schools. Board members in attendance were, Mr. Edward Favre- President, Mrs. Besty Shaughnessy- Vice President, Mr. Matthew Markling, and Mr. John Kamkutis. Treasurer Mr. Richard Berdine and Superintendent Dr. David Estrop were also present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. David Estrop led off the Superintendent Report with the graduation exercises for the Lakewood City Academy. LCA board members, LCA staff, Dr. Estrop, and Mr. Farve individually recognized each of the four graduates for their accomplishments. Focusing on this year's theme, of "time," the LCA staff shared their chosen quotes as personalized send off to their students. LCA Coordinator Ms. Terrilynn Elwell presented each graduate with their official diploma. Family and friends of the graduates joined the LCA staff in a celebratory reception held in the school board building immediately following the ceremony.

At the middle school level, the 27 members of the 7th and 8th grade Power of the Pen teams were given certificates in recognition of their success this spring at the district, regional, and state competitions. Power of the Pen is an extracurricular competition during which students are given a surprise writing prompt and perform a creative writing exercise in a finite period of time. In preparation the students attend regular before and after school writing practices throughout the year. This year Lakewood hosted the regional competition and sent 9 students onto the state level. Mrs. Karen Adams was singled out of the six staff advisors running the middle school based program, as she is retiring at the end of the '08-'09 school

year. Mrs. Adams spent 15 years heading the Power of the Pen program, along with fellow teacher, Mrs. Chris King.

Mr. Kenneth Warren, Director of Lakewood Public Library was present for his proposed budget request from the Lakewood Board of Education regarding Lakewood Public Library. All Board members received copies of the Library's annual report and will be given a second opportunity to analyze and question the budget proposal as they deem necessary during the June 15th meeting.

Mr. Warren's report drew particular attention to a recent donation by Dr. Alan Cole and Marilyn Rees Cole. As long time Lakewood residents and supporters of the Library's Summer Reading Club. Now living in San Jose, the couple's \$50,000 donation is being established as the Dr. Alan E. and Marilyn Rees Cole Endowment Fund and will continue to fund the ever popular Summer Reading Club well into the future. Focusing on the years of collaboration between the library and school system, rather than the details of this year's budget, Mr. Warren's address of the Board was a testament to the joint efforts of two of Lakewood's strongest public institutions, the schools and the library.

Notably, Mr. Warren was also the recipient of well deserved proclamation recognizing his years of service to the Library and the larger Lakewood community. Read by Board Vice President Mrs. Betsy Shaughnessy, the Board unanimously adopted the resolution bestowing accolades emphasizing Mr. Warren's dedication, vision, and intellectual contributions to Lakewood over the course of his time as a civic leader. In their individual commentary on Mr. Warren's career, each member reiterated their appreciation and respect for his ability to create a stimulating environment through which all persons can and continue to choose to further their own knowledge for the betterment of themselves and their community.

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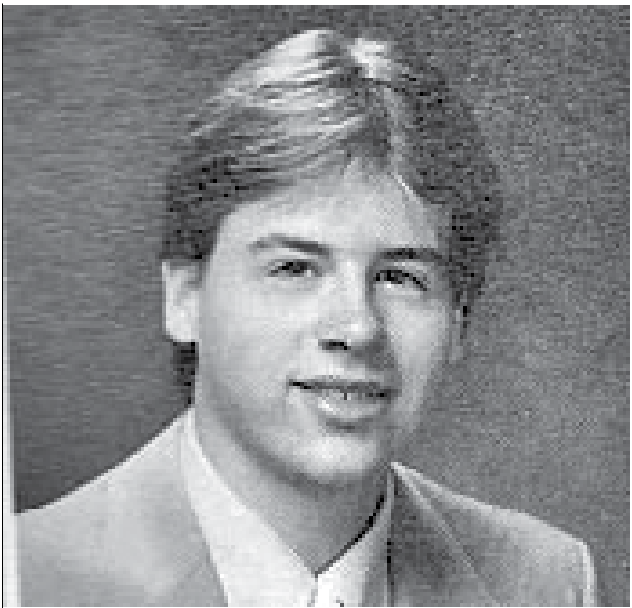
Take a walk down memory lane

By Fiza Shah

The old building holds many memories for Lakewood High School students of all grade levels. This is the last year students, with their cumbersome book bags, will trudge up and down the ancient stairs on their way to the scorching hot classrooms. This is the last year students will walk down the crowded and rustic hallways, scuffling past the hordes of students to reach their next class. This is the last year students will obliviously stare at the windowless old building walls, grieving over the monotonous day.

However, some of the teachers these students blatantly ignore also spent many class periods, obliviously staring at the same wall as students. They, too, trudged up the same stair cases, wrestling their way through a hallway full of students to reach their next class. The old building has built memories not only for the current senior class, but also for the teachers who taught them.

Edward Holmok



Ed Holmok, who teaches woodcrafts and Project Lead the Way, said he “discovered who [he] was” here. If it hadn’t been for the classes offered here and the memories he created in those classes, Holmok might have become a businessman, rather than the teacher who has inspired many of his students.

In June of 1988, Holmok received his diploma on the same stage this year’s seniors will cross.

He created many memories in the

hallways, classrooms, and unnoticed corners of the old building during his four years as a student at Lakewood High School.

“[During my time at LHS] I don’t remember a great report or a great test, but [I do remember] a great class,” Holmok said. He took advantage of the many “great classes” offered here.

During the years Holmok attended school, there was a small engines class in the area that now houses the copy center. On one occasion, Holmok needed to get the transmission in his Mustang fixed. Instead of taking it to a mechanic, he took it to school, where he fixed the problem on his own.

“I was appreciative of the opportunity to do something meaningful for [myself] in school,” he said.

Holmok said this is the difference between school today and school when he was growing up. He said that today, “teachers don’t have the opportunity

to involve more hands-on-learning because everything revolves around standardized tests. That’s why, Holmok says, that these classes don’t exist as much anymore.

“We live in a designed world. Everything we see was made by someone else,” Holmok said. “Participating in hands-on classes allows you to help create the world around you.”

The Mustang, however, didn’t survive his high school career. While driving to school one day, Holmok totaled his car by crashing it into the car in front of him. Lucky for him, he was wearing a seatbelt and didn’t sustain any serious damage. However, his friend, who was in the passenger’s seat, wasn’t wearing a seatbelt. He hit his head against the windshield and had to go to the hospital.

“If there is one thing students take away from this story, is to always wear your seatbelt,” said Holmok.

After high school, Holmok attended Ohio University with a business major. However, he soon realized he wasn’t interested in business. When he looked back at Lakewood High School and the classes he took here, he realized what he needed to do.

He received a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, having been

inspired by his Small Engines class. Later, he got a job at a post-secondary school, where he helped to teach.

On one occasion, Holmok became sick and realized he couldn’t go to work that day. He thought, If I’m not there, who is going to help those kids? That, Holmok said, is why he decided to become a teacher. He wanted to help young people.

“I try not to let [my students] quit, even if they hate me for it,” he said. This is one of the many lessons Holmok learned from just one Small Engines class.

“You can do whatever you want and get whatever you want,” Holmok said. The trick, he says, is never giving up.

“The time that you put [an engine] together and it doesn’t start and the time that you put it together and it does start are learning experiences,” Holmok said. “The other side of learning that you can’t capture on a paper and pen is attitude.”

In the beginning, Holmok never imagined he would come back to LHS to teach. He said he “remember[s] graduating and saying [he] would never look back.”

Nevertheless, he did look back, and what he found changed the course of his life.

eration.

She was a cheerleader during her sophomore year. There were not as many opportunities for girls to play sports. “We were kind of expected to stand at the sidelines and cheer for the boys,” she said.

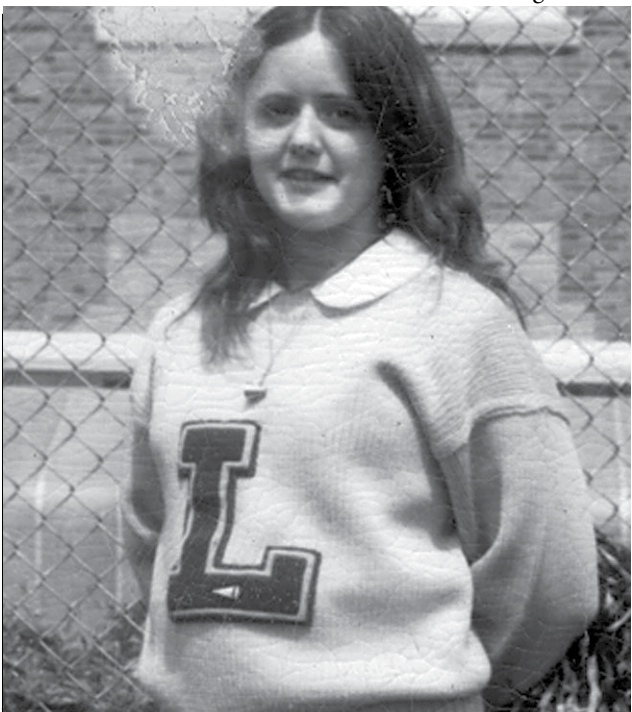
There was a lot more school spirit during the time. The cheerleaders would call out cheers into the crowd and receive a warm and enthusiastic response, as the crowd chanted the cheer back.

Along with being a cheerleader, DuPerow was also on the gymnastics team.

For four years, students remained in the same homeroom class with the same people. This way, many students developed lasting friendships. Here, DuPerow met Nadeem Essi, who she describes as a “chubby, geeky kid that no one really liked.” However, after talking to him, DuPerow realized what a nice person he was. DuPerow is still friends with Essi, who is now “gorgeous” and lives in New York.

DuPerow likes Lakewood because it “is a perfect balance between Cleveland and Bay Village.” The city houses, she says, a mixture of “preppy, snobby kids and juvenile delinquents.”

Terri DuPerow



Terri DuPerow is a current Spanish teacher and former cheerleader.

In 1976, when DuPerow attended Lakewood High School, there were only two security guards – one male and one female.

During that time, students were given the opportunity to leave during their lunch period. However, due to the

lack of security, many people also left during their self-directs. DuPerow said that she often went to her friends’ houses, to “eat and drink coffee.”

During her time in high school, there was much less drug and alcohol abuse awareness as compared to now. For example, in English class, DuPerow and fellow classmates were expected to do a demonstrative speech on a topic of their own choice.

One of her peers chose to demonstrate to the class “how to roll a joint.” Today, this topic for a project would merit at least a suspension. However, the English teacher sat in the back of class, watching as she would any other project.

Crowds of students stood on the sidewalk of Robinwood Avenue to smoke. At the time, students were allowed to smoke cigarettes. However,

these teenagers would also avidly go to Robinwood to smoke marijuana and do other drugs as well. DuPerow wasn’t one of these students.

“Adults didn’t realize how bad it was, at the time,” said DuPerow.

The gym classes weren’t coed during DuPerow’s time as a student. They included activities like archery, fencing, and swimming. DuPerow recalled the swimming suits that were used by the girls. The one-piece garments were given out by the school. The suits were not made out of the same material found in swimwear today, DuPerow says – when they got wet, the suits sagged.

Also, when the girls attempted to use the dryer, while standing in a puddle of water, they would get electrocuted.

DuPerow said that school “was hard emotionally” for many students because “all kids wanted to be accepted, understood, and valued.”

DuPerow was friends with students of all different types. According to DuPerow, the social groups during the time were not the same as they are now. There were “preps, jocks, geeks, and stoners,” but the “Goth and skaters” groups are newer to this gen-

The Best of The Lakewood Times

with LHS teachers

Stephanie Boyd



By the time Stephanie Boyd graduated from Lakewood High School in 1981, what is now known as the New Building had already been built.

She spent most of her time in the West Gym, where she would practice for the girls' gymnastics team, which was a State Champion at the time.

The boys' and girls' gymnastics teams shared the West Gym for practice. Because the students usually arrived several minutes before the coaches, Boyd said, she and her team had a lot of fun. There was a trampoline in the middle of the gym the team members used to showcase the daredevil within them.

On one such day, Boyd, along with the other members of the boys' and girls'

gymnastics teams, was practicing in the West gym before the coaches arrived. Boyd and her fellow gymnasts would jump off of the track around the West gym to land on the trampoline. One time a couple of boys grabbed Boyd and swung her across the gym so that she could grab the gymnastics rings that were hanging from the roof. Suddenly, the coaches walked in and saw Boyd dangling from the roof.

While the coaches stood on the sideline, praying she didn't hurt herself, Boyd slowed down and jumped to the mats beneath her. Luckily for her, and probably the school, she didn't sustain any permanent damage.

Boyd will miss the West Gym the most, because it holds the most memories for her.

During her time at LHS, the student social groups were very different. Today, students are divided among jocks, preps, nerds, Goths, and the thousands of other categories students have invented. However, during the 1980's, according to Boyd, there were preps, jocks and "freaks."

Boyd was not a jock, but said she tend-

ed to be friends with everyone. "I was the girl that the really nerdy kid would ask out, because he knew I wouldn't be mean," she said.

During that time, the L-Room was mostly occupied by the jocks. So, Boyd and her friends tended to spend their time in the east end of the West Gym, which they called the "Talking Commons." Boyd recalls the jukebox, which would always be playing the song "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" by Meatloaf. Boyd despised and continues to despise that song. She said she used to push a friend into the jukebox, causing it to skip the song.

Boyd admits she wasn't really a "good girl." During that time, she and many other students would smoke cigarettes next to the flagpole on Bunts. On one occasion, she got caught and was given an ISS. During that time, the parking lot that now holds the modular classes was for the Civic Auditorium. The auditorium belonged to the city, rather than the high school. Since the rule was that students were not allowed to smoke on school property, students would use that parking lot to smoke and socialize.

Boyd also remembers the major drug bust at Lakewood High. One day, as she was walking home, she saw Channel 3 News suddenly pull up. Then, just as quickly, Channels 6 and 8 arrived. Following the news reporters, a "patty wagon," or police van, pulled in. The police marched into the building. Moments later, they walked out with, as Boyd re-

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calls, at least 10 kids. They were charged of selling drugs in the city of Lakewood, not at Lakewood High.

This drug bust was on the eve of Sheriff McFaul's reelection. Boyd said this was a ploy, by McFaul, to win the election. Sure enough, McFaul was re-elected.

Today, many students complain about the old building either being extremely hot or extremely cold. Boyd remembers one specific effect of winter. The toilets in the old building bathrooms always froze with the cold weather, and students enjoyed flushing them, watching the iced water crack.

Academically, Boyd describes herself as "an average student." She had a GPA of about 2.5. Though she earned Cs in her math and science classes, Boyd loved English, Spanish, and social studies classes.

Her favorite teacher was Mrs. D'Caprio, who was "a petite, classy, Italian woman" who taught Spanish. D'Caprio didn't accept laziness. "She really cared," Boyd said.

Marty Harris



Lakewood, in 1958, was not the Lakewood we know today. According to Marty Harris, Lakewood was more like Bay Village when she was a student. It was not surrounded by Cleveland, Rocky River, or any other cities. Instead, it was surrounded by country. For example, Westlake, at the time, used to be an orchard.

"Things were much more black and white then," Harris said. "We would never

swear and would always obey our teachers. Today, it's different. Today, almost everyone can be seen swearing. We weren't open sexually, either."

Harris went to Lakewood City Schools and graduated from Lakewood High School. She then moved to Illinois to attend University of Illinois. There, she got a bachelor's degree in psychology and counselor psychology. In 1985, she returned to Lakewood with her husband to claim her mother's house after she passed away. It has now been 25 years since then, and she "[loves] being here."

Harris acknowledges the strong difference between then and now. While she was still in school, a war was raging on in the world. During 1950 to 1953, the Korean War was being fought. Then, two years after Harris graduated, in 1960, the Vietnam War was also officially underway.

Harris remembers seeing kids from different countries in the hallways of Lakewood High. In 1956, Lakewood welcomed Hungarian families during the Hungarian revolution.

"Lakewood has always been a community that receives war-torn families," Harris said.

The economic background of Lakewood was also very different. Students could

quit school and still find a well-paying job. However, many students stayed in school in order to avoid being drafted. If you did graduate high school, it was almost certain that you were going to college.

During this time, teachers were not allowed to be married. This rule was put into place to ensure that teachers were putting enough time into the education of their students. Harris says this extra time was evident in the many late nights teachers devoted to their work.

It was unusual for married women to work at the time. Harris said she "[remembers] running home during lunch, and [her] mother was there to make her lunch."

That's not the only difference between now and 1958. Today, social events for teenagers mostly center around parties and the unacceptable behavior commonly associated with these parties. Girls in the 1950s didn't host parties, but rather potlucks. At a potluck, each individual makes and shares a different dish with friends.

Besides socializing, school was also very important to Harris. "My parents didn't even allow me to watch TV," she said, "because they didn't want anything distracting me from my schoolwork."

Harris also enjoyed playing sports in high school. Lakewood High didn't have individual sports teams. Instead, students participated in sports through homeroom classes. Each student participated in the sports, and the best from each homeroom were chosen to compete against other homerooms. Harris enjoyed a variety of

sports, including field hockey, tennis, basketball, and softball. "

I feel like because I have lived in Lakewood all my life," she said, "I am able to help students here better."

The Lakewood Times is now reprinting some of its best articles in the Lakewood Observer. We hope you enjoy the "Best of the Times" and would like to invite you to comment on any of our stories. Comments can be directed to the Observation Deck or e-mailed to lakewoodhigh-times@gmail.com.

Over the '08-'09 school year, the Lakewood Times has worked to begin rebuilding the reputation the paper enjoyed for years. The beginning of our success was evident in the awards won from the Ohio Scholastic Media Association contest, and we will aspire to continue growing next year with a new staff and fresh ideas. We hope you enjoyed the sampling of our stories as we endeavored to help the Times become successful once again, and please continue to follow the paper next year.

Lakewood Historical Society

Vintage Base Ball Comes to Rockport

by Tomahawk Demagall

The Cleveland Blues Base Ball Club will host the Mansfield Independent Base Ball Club at the Old Stone House Field Base Ball Grounds in Lakewood Park on Saturday, June 20, 2009, from 2:00- 3:30 p.m. Both clubs are vintage base ball teams that play by the rules of 1867 and use period uniforms and equipment.

Many of the Blues' players are from the Rockport area or have lived in Rock-

port at one time or another. The Blues travel throughout the state, playing other clubs at historic base ball grounds. The club's home field is League Park, and this is their inaugural season.

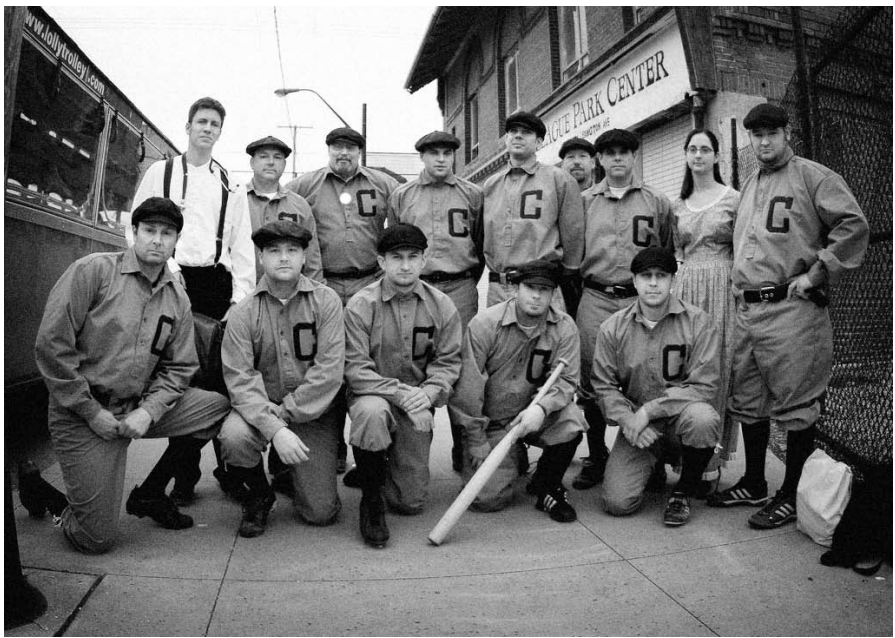
The rules of base ball were very different from today's game. The ball was slightly larger than today's ball, and bats were much bigger and heavier. Players caught that ball with their bare hands, and catching the ball on a bounce was an out. The pitch was

delivered underhand from 45 feet away. Players were fined for swearing, spitting and gambling. The game of base ball was considered a gentleman's game back then, and a club's reputation was

just as important as winning or losing. The match is free. Informational flyers will be handed out to fans, so come out and enjoy base ball, the way it was meant to be played.



Cleveland Blues at Mansfield Reformatory Base Ball Grounds



Cleveland Blues at Mansfield Reformatory Base Ball Grounds

Madison Park

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- Free activities include:
- Face painting by Madison Branch Library.
 - Hugging booth by Lakewood Family Room of the city's Early Childhood Division.
 - Jump rope and hula hoop contest by Live Well Lakewood.
 - Gardening activities by LEAF.
 - Basketball skills & activities by newly formed Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee.
 - Fast pitch booth contest by Lakewood Neighborhood Police Officers.
 - More demos and information from fitness and health related local businesses and services.

Prizes donated by local businesses.

Used outdoor sport & recreational equipment needed! Do you have any such items not being used around your house? Let us help put it to good use. Donations can be dropped off at the FOMP table or Madison Branch Library.

Brought to you by The Friends of Madison Park (FOMP). FOMP is committed to the revitalization of Madison Park and the desire to retain and highlight the park's rich cultural diversity and historical roots within the City of Lakewood. Regular monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the park or Mahall's 20 Lanes at 6:30pm. Visit the Madison Branch Lakewood Library for more information or email Madison.park.friends@gmail.com.



Museum Guides Needed!

by Mazie Adams

Bring history to life by giving tours of the Oldest Stone House museum. Recently designated Lakewood's first Landmark, the Oldest Stone House museum accurately interprets the everyday life in Rockport Township (now Lakewood) during the 19th century. The museum is operated by the Lakewood Historical Society.

Museum guides, called docents, give tours to school groups and the general public throughout the year. The society will provide all the training and information needed to create a wonderful educational experience for our visitors.

For more information on becoming a museum docent, contact Anne Marie Schiska at 216 221-7343 or educator@lakewoodhistory.org. This is a great way to celebrate our community's history and to meet new people!

You've gone by the little stone house in Lakewood Park a million times. Next time, stop in for a tour! The Oldest Stone House museum is open for tours on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

It's Lakewood's Time To Celebrate Dr. Dave Estrop

by Patty Ryan

All are welcome at a farewell open house to honor Dr. David Estrop, Superintendent of the Lakewood City Schools from 2004-2009. The reception will be held at the Beck Center for the Arts on Thursday, June 4th from 4-6 pm. There will be formal farewell remarks at 5:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar.

Please stop by to thank Dr. Estrop for his service to our community and wish him luck in his new position as Superintendent of Springfield Schools.

Lakewood Observer

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MAMA / Lakewood Is Art

What's Special About The Lakewood Artwalk

by Mel Page

It was just in 2007 when a few Madison businesses and local artists joined efforts to create a spring and fall art walk on Madison Ave. with 30 businesses participating as art stops. Now with the growing efforts of Lakewood Is Art (LIA) and Madison Avenue Merchant Association (MAMA), the art walks are growing too! New this year, art walks will be every second Saturday of the month until October. There are already over 45 businesses signed up to be art stops. Each business will be sharing their own art or making space available in their store for local guest artists to showcase work. As the very name of LIA affirms, Lakewood is full of art throughout. On Madison you will find art galleries, artisans, skilled

craftsmen, and performing art businesses among the art stops. Also, many of the guest artists displaying are from Lakewood as well.

With the art walk now being a regular monthly event you don't need to cram in all the art stops in one day. With Madison being over two miles long, you may prefer to pick a stretch of Madison closest to you to visit or discover a more unfamiliar area. Also, with the longer hours of the walk you can take your time enjoying all the rest of what Madison has to show you. Take some time to admire the architectural styles of the mixed-use buildings and churches. Stroll through one of the two parks.

Sixteen independent and locally owned restaurants are at your service

to provide you with some flavorful art of their own that will fit any pallet (listed east to west, * signifies outdoor seating): Shamrock*, Flying Rib, Thai Kitchen, Coffee Pot, Mahall's, Waterbury Coach House, Thai Hut, Sullivan's*, Lakewood Village Tavern, Angelo's, Khiem's Vietnamese, El Tango Taqueria*, Players*, The Red Rose Café*, Buckeye Beer Engine*, Screaming Rooster, Golden Gate Chinese. If your just looking for a little something sweet keep in mind Sugar Bears, Bela Dubby, Tommy's Pastries, Malley's, and Elmwood Bakery.

So what's so special about the

Lakewood ArtWalk on Madison Ave? The answer can be nothing or everything. As beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it's the surrounding community that can make it nothing or everything special. Whatever comes to your mind when you think of Madison Ave. we can all agree it is not: stuffy, pretentious, imitative, bland, expensive, or over rated. However, what it is: casual, humble, authentic, diverse, and affordable. Come enjoy local art, cuisine and shopping. Explore, experience, and be inspired. The first Lakewood ArtWalk is Saturday, June 13, from 12 to 8 p.m.

Beck Center Thanks Supporters and Friends

by Fran Storch

"These tough times are trying, but this is when giving matters most."

Beck Center would like to thank the community for its recent over-

whelming support. On March 31, we sent an urgent appeal to the community to secure much needed short-term funds, and you responded loud and clear! In just one month, we received \$151,295 from more than 800 donors, which exceeded our goal of \$150,000!

In addition to monetary gifts, you've told us how much you value this organization and what it provides to your families and to the community:

* "The Beck teaches self-confidence, effective communication skills, and the ability to think 'outside the box' to our young people."

* "It's well worth the drive six times a year to see the exceptional shows at the Beck."

* "My kids would be much less rounded individuals without the Beck Center in their lives."

* "For 10 years my Saturday mornings meant donuts and classes at Beck Center's Youth Theater. Beck made me who I am today and gave me a passion for the stage that I am indebted for."

* "The Beck Center is an extraordinary, unique organization."

* "We are not a family very talented in the arts, but anyone living in Lakewood knows what a valuable asset the Beck Center is!"

* "I used to say my car could drive itself to the place with all the classes, rehearsals, and performances my family enjoyed over the course of 16 years."

The community appeal is the first phase of a larger funding initiative, entitled Open for Imagination, to position the Beck Center for long-term sustainability. The goal of this larger initiative, launched by Beck Center Board of Directors and chaired by Don Carlson, is to create a working capital fund and position the institution for success into the future.

We encourage everyone to sign up for summer classes and camps, purchase theater tickets, make a tax-deductible donation, and spread the word about the Beck Center and what it has meant to you and your family. Visit our website at www.beckcenter.org, call 216.521.2540 x10, or stop by at 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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Live Well Lakewood

Rising To The Live Well Lakewood Wellness Challenge

Kadleck Pursifull,

I haven't always lived well.


A former smoker, I used to begin and end my day with a Marlboro Light, celebrate with too many adult beverages, and indulge in way too many take-out pizzas and Peanut Butter Parfaits. (No offense DQ.)

I really didn't realize how un-well I was until I retired my matches and lit a fire to start exercising and eating right several years ago.

Now 30 pounds lighter with more visible muscles than ever before, the challenge of staying fit and eating well remains a daily endeavor for me and for most people I know. But for Lakewood residents and people who work in the city, it just got a lot easier.

That's where the Live Well Lakewood Wellness Challenge comes in. It's a 10-week program geared to helping people improve their overall health and wellness in a supportive team atmosphere. Led by Live Well Lakewood and sponsored by the City of Lakewood, Discount Drug Mart, Lakewood City Schools, Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood Recreation Department, Medical Mutual of Ohio and OSU Extension, the challenge involves free weekly nutrition and exercise classes, a T-shirt, and other great incentives.

Along with my four teammates – husband-and-wife duo Darren and Missy Toms, Melanie Shearer and Kelly Ohmer – who make up our team aptly named “4 Barbie Belles and a Ken,” I joined the more than 200 people who signed up for the challenge. We took our first step May 6 with a pre-assessment screening, which would give us



LIVEWELLLAKEWOOD

all a starting point to gauge our fitness improvements.

I have to admit my blood pressure was up as I entered the auditorium at City Hall that Wednesday night. I have the reading on my health screening form to prove it: 134/83.

Although in good health, I had worries: What would my first cholesterol reading reveal? How much would the scale betray me? Why did I have to have my measurements taken? Why in the world did I sign up for this? If only I had another week to lose some weight...

Turned out, my fears were my own hang-ups about numbers that mat-

tered more to me than anybody else. All shapes, sizes and ages were abuzz in the room. The energy was similar to the start of a road race. We all had our numbers, clipboards and the excitement brewing around our collective wellness was inspiring.

I was immediately glad I came.

We moved counterclockwise around the room first having our cholesterol taken, then blood pressure, waist and hip measurements, weight and height, and then strength and flexibility tests.

The assessment ended with a counseling session to review the preliminary findings. By the time I sat

down with Norma Collin, one of the four founders of Live Well Lakewood (along with Paula Reed, Bonnie Sikes and Lisa Griffis), I was glad I had succumbed to some peer pressure and decided to step up.

My cholesterol turned out to be excellent, registering at 132 for a total count. Ideal is less than 200. With heart disease and high cholesterol in my family history, that's a number I want to preserve and safeguard as long as possible.

My blood pressure was borderline high but since it fluctuates so easily, Norma suggested that I check it regularly throughout the 10 weeks and keep a log. My body mass index was considered on the high side of normal – yep, it's time to take off the extra pounds from hibernating all winter – and my height measured an inch and a half shorter than normal. I wasn't alone, most of my teammates reportedly shrunk and I noticed more shock from participants at their height reading than from their numbers on the scale.

My hip-to-waist ratio was in the healthy range below 80 – an important number because carrying extra weight around the middle is a precursor to developing heart disease and diabetes. And thanks to all the time doing yoga and sweating in the gym, I scored high in flexibility and strength.

Overall, I'm pumped. My wellness starting point isn't too shabby yet still far from where I wanted to be. But it is clear that the journey – at least until July – is bigger than me or the health of my family. It's a community-wide team effort of 200 plus people you might just see pounding the pavement and walking the 180 miles of sidewalk in the city in the next several weeks.



Pam Ehren, RN, checks residents blood pressure as part of the pre-assessment health screening for Live Well Lakewood Wellness Challenge.

Celebrating Love, and the Summer Reading Club

continued from page 1

wonderful tribute to their hometown and their commitment to learning!,” say Nancy Seibert, President of the Lakewood Public Library Board of Trustees.

“The Dr. Alan E. and Marilyn Rees Cole Endowment Fund will enable us to create amazing programs annually that promote reading and fellowship in today’s youth,” adds Andrew Harant, Manager for Children’s and Youth Services.

Dr. and Mrs. Cole attended Hayes Elementary School and Harding Junior High School. Mrs. Cole is a Lakewood High School and Miami University graduate. She served with distinction for fifteen years as the Department Secretary for the History Department at San Jose State University.

Dr. Cole earned a masters degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in ministry at Vanderbilt University. Most recently, Dr. Cole has served as a chaplain in

convalescent homes.

Needless to say, Dr. and Mrs. Coles are avid readers, with plenty of solid recommendations for reading.

Mrs. Cole is a reader of autobiography and biography. Build Me an Ark: A Life with Animals by Brenda Peterson is a favorite.

“The first chapter alone is worth buying the book,” explains Mrs. Cole, making reference to the effects of military maneuvers on porpoises and the author’s experience of swimming with these marvelous creatures in slipstream.

“I love mysteries, animal books, dog books, says Mrs. Cole, who has trained Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

William Shakespeare is another favorite author of Mrs. Cole, who as a violin-playing music major managed to take as many literature courses as possible. Mists of Avalon, Marion Zimmer Bradley’s retelling of the Arthurian legend from the feminine perspective also ranks high on Mrs. Cole’s best book list.

Dr. Cole’s reading is deep and

wide-ranging with a particular interest in history, philosophy and theology. He reads about thirty scholarly books each year.

“He underlines every book he reads,” notes Mrs. Cole with affection.

“I treat a book as a conversation. It’s a slow process,” explains Dr. Cole.

Dr. Cole recommends The Search for Meaning: A Short History by Dennis Ford, a book that explores how human beings invest life with meaning. Other books of present interest to Dr. Cole include: The First Paul:

Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church’s Conservative Icon, by Marcus J. Borg, John Dominic Crossan; The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright; The Jesuit and the Skull: Teilhard de Chardin, Evolution, and the Search for Peking Man by Amir Aczel.

Dr. Cole remains active in Adult Education. He is currently involved with book group at the Retirement Center where scholarly authors are invited to engage readers of their books in conversations.

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Pulse Of The City

So Why Are You Still Single? Those Among Us Who Are Different...

Perhaps you've heard of the recent tale about that great single lady from Scotland who surprised judges at a recent contest with her outstanding singing talent? She came on stage, simply dressed and without pretensions, and captivated the world with those talents in spite of people's preconceptions and the numerous adversities in her life.

Well, there are wonderful people like her in every community: people who, for one reason or another, might seem different in some way. If we are fortunate, we discover many hidden treasures about them, if we are willing to simply listen and learn.

Speaking of being single, it never takes too long, does it? Sooner or later, at just about any social gathering, the personal questions start up. For a single guy like me, those questions sometimes take an uncomfortable turn, particularly when the subject of marriage comes up.

Let's face it, marriage is the norm in our society, and that's probably a good thing, because that's been the traditional way that our species continues to populate this old earth. (Although as anyone whose head has not been in the sand for the last fifty years knows, it is entirely possible that children often can and do come along outside of the marriage model.)

For an increasing percentage of our society, however, marriage seems to be coming along much later in life, if at all. That this has been a troubling trend to many is no secret. Having children later in life can involve an increased health risk to both the prospective mother and the child, and parenting can also become harder to deal with, as the already older parents age and face the normal life issues that can arise.

For some, seeing a single, never-married person in their 30's, 40's, or 50's gives people the opportunity to start thinking about a number of preconceptions towards that single person. In our world, people who seem different from the norm have often faced misunderstandings, prejudice, and irrational attitudes.

by Gary Rice

Unfortunately, sometimes there can be justification for those suspicions. Singles are often misunderstood, but they can also misunderstand others. Some troubled souls can, at times, become sociopathic in their outlook to the world, and once in a while, some have done great damage to those around them. Early childhood traumas or disabilities can create long-term trust and intimacy issues that can be difficult for a person thus affected to resolve in their later years. Still, I would think that, on the whole, singles often have very good and personal reasons for being single while living healthy and constructive lives.

I'm certainly no psychologist, but I am one of those who went through quite a few childhood situations that no doubt created some long-term issues that I've had to work with in my adult life. Fortunately, I've always had a good cheering section to help me get through those rough times, and that's a gift that, unfortunately, not everyone's had.

From early childhood, I've had to live with conditions that forced me apart from the "normal" situation that most children faced. I had severe speech and hearing impediments, along with an orthopedic condition necessitating special shoes. These conditions, along with several others, prevented me from participating in physical activities that the other children could do. Along with the teasing and ostracism that went with being different in a school environment back then, I was often the youngest person in my class. Coupled with all of this were numerous surgeries (some life-threatening) that I frequently faced during those school years.

These kinds of things tend to wear down one's self-esteem, while at the same time put into place a strong fear of rejection. Of course, as a young person goes through their trials of life, they often do not understand those dynamics at the time.

In my own case, for these reasons and others, I just did not want to get particularly close to people for years. Oh, I was fine in terms of general socializing. Unlike many who go into personal cocoons, I was not only able to function, but even thrive in a great many ways. Having, for example, experienced the trials of growing up with multiple "disabilities," I dedicated my professional life towards helping other young people work through their own difficulties as a special education teacher.

As far as allowing people into my personal space went, however? Not too often. Having those then-called "disabilities" caused me considerable grief over the years, with everything from those school teasing issues, to people questioning my intelligence, to having difficulty with those automated speech-activated phones being unable to understand my voice these days.

On the other hand, as I indicated, having these conditions also propelled me into the field of Special Education, enabling me to help hundreds of children also afflicted with various conditions of their own; and that has truly been a blessing. Many have been inspired over the years by the example that I've tried to set in coping with my own adversities.

At this point in my life, I'm happy to say that I'm enjoying a fine personal relationship of trust, rekindled from many years ago when I was too young to know how important it is to work on these things. From that rekindling has come a renewed awareness on my part that there is always room to learn and to grow in our lives, and not just professionally, but personally too.

As I also discovered long ago, perceived difficulties can turn into gifts. I might not sing like that wonderful lady, for example, but the gift of teaching others has been a very good gift indeed. Some have even called me courageous.

Actually, I do not feel very courageous at all. I still am quite self-conscious about my conditions, and still have to fight off negative feelings from time to time. I also know that a part of my not getting married was that fear of rejection. I'm still too private at times, and I still don't always let people get overly close with those trust issues; but truly, stuff like this does get better with time and effort, and especially, I do believe, with God's help. Much so, in fact.

So many times, I have seen the good that has come out of these struggles, both in my own life, and in the lives of others...in the pulse of this city.



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Out Of Lakewood

Big Cool Cats Music Festival Deep With Lakewood Roots



Steve Presser, Big Fun Toy Store, and Lakewood residents Thomas Mulready, CoolCleveland.com online network and Denis Devito, the Cats on Holiday band.

by Peter Chakerian

The Cleveland area has long been known as a bastion for musical talent. Despite ever-changing musical tastes and trends, the talent that has launched (and taken root) here over the last 50 years is impressive beyond measure.

The first annual Big Cool Cats Music Festival draws the spotlight on Cleveland’s venerable music scene with an all-day music showcase and festival concert Saturday, June 20 from noon - 11PM at Cain Park Evans Amphitheatre, 14591 Superior Rd., (at Lee) in Cleveland Heights.

Offering a dynamite, main stage lineup and “unplugged” acoustic performance in the Cain Park colonnade, this inaugural event-created by Cleveland Heights resident Steve Presser (proprietor, Big Fun Toy Store), and Lakewood residents Thomas Mulready (CoolCleveland.com online network) and Denis Devito (the Cats on Holiday band)-is sure to give music fans a thrill or two.

The idea for the Big Cool Cats was born over a cup of coffee between Presser and Devito. Presser had longed to attend a music festival showcasing some of the region’s hottest talent, but no one had stepped up to create such a thing. They phoned Mulready, who created the Performance Art Festival and co-founded the Ingenuity Festival of Art and Technology, and quickly hatched a plan for the day-long con-

cert. The concert is copresented with the City of Cleveland Heights, which operates Cain Park.

In addition to the “swamp-pop” style of Cats on Holiday, the festival features a diverse range of multicultural sounds: legendary Cleveland reggae outfit I-Tal, polyrhythmic world beat band Mifune, Americana-rockers

The Magpies, “zydecajun” outfit Mo’ Mojo, and alt-pop band 70 Lewis all comprise the Mainstage entertainment. Artists Jessie Barnes, Jack DiAlesandro and Jon Mosey will be featured between Mainstage acts in the Cain Park Colonnade on a special unplugged stage, assembled by the Cleveland Heights non-profit arts education organization, Roots of American Music (ROAM).

A Joan Jett Signature Melody Maker guitar will be raffled off at the Big Cool Cats Music Festival, with the proceeds benefitting Heights Arts, the non-profit community arts organization offering art classes, public art projects and venues for arts in Cleveland Heights.

Co-sponsored by CoolCleveland.com and Big Fun, The Big Cool Cats Music Festival’s partners also include Gibson Guitars, Jak*Prints, Positively Cleveland, COSE Arts Network and IBuyNEO.com.

For tickets and info, visit the website, <http://www.BigCoolCats.com>. For ticket discounts and special offers, please visit <http://CoolCleveland.com>



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“Pro Death?”

by The Rev. John Tamilio III

I just returned home from church. I am writing these words on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009. At 11:00 o'clock this morning I was officiating at a service where twelve youth were confirmed and the members of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio shared the bread and cup of the Eucharist. It was a joyous celebration. At the same time, 1,000 miles away, shots rang out at the Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. George Tiller, a prominent physician known for performing late-term abortions, was assassinated. According to an almost immediate web posting by England's The Independent, Tiller "remained prominent in the news in recent years, in part because of an investigation begun by former Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline, an abortion opponent." The following thoughts (yes, I am a Pro-Choice clergyperson) are not meant to debate the ethics of late-term abortions, nor are they a diatribe against the "one-issue" former Kansas Attorney General who constantly blurred the separation of Church and State with his orgasmic prying into the medical records of countless women. These reflections are offered with a broken heart. First of all, I do not understand why some people (though certainly not all) associated with the Pro-Life movement feel that the sanctity of life does not pertain to the physicians with whom they take umbrage. Is it me, or is this the height of hypocrisy? "We think all life is sacred, so let's kill people!" Hello, Joseph Heller! I am not a huge fan of abortion, but I am Pro-Choice because I feel as if I have no right to tell my next door neighbor what she can or cannot do with her body. It is a choice between her, her husband, and her doctor. Since I am none of the three, it is none of my business. Furthermore, I am very leery about the government legislating reproductive rights. It is, to say the least, a slippery slope. "I am sorry, Mrs. Smith, but since you already have



four children and you are on welfare, we must sterilize you." That said, militant Pro-Life advocates who murder doctors who perform "legalized" abortions are nothing short of psychotic, and, dare I say, evil. Liberals are often tongue-lashed for challenging decisions that they feel are unjust. They were labeled "un-American" when they opposed the legislation of the Bush-Cheney Reich, yet they followed such laws as they advocated for change. (Remember the Patriot Act? I did not cancel my telephone service.) I do not know too many liberals who shoot religious fundamentalists, card-carrying members of the NRA, or many a conservative Midwest school board member who would rather burn copies of Catcher in the Rye than encourage our children to read this Salinger classic. Yes, I am infuriated by such absurdity...but I am also broken-hearted. Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life. Democrat vs. Republican. American vs. Iraqi. These are human constructs. I do not know the mind of God, but I do know that God does not side with any of these "human" political factions. God is in the business of love. It is high-time that we start doing the same.

John Tamilio III is the Senior Minister of Pilgrim Congregational Church in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. JT3 is a former resident of Overland Park, Kansas and now lives in Lakewood, Ohio with his wife and their three children: Sarah, Jay, and Thomas the Dragon.

Letters To The Editor
Real Customer Service

After being released from Lakewood Hospital this past March, I was still extremely weak. I could barely walk and couldn't get myself in and out of bed. There was no place for me to sleep except for one of my living room chairs. Since I had spent two nights sleeping in an upright sitting position, I knew there had to be something better. In conversation with a good friend, we decided that I needed a La-Z Boy recliner. She called to make arrangements for me because I was still very sick. Bob and Mike at the La-Z Boy Store on Brookpark Rd. in N. Olmsted bent over backward to get me the recliner as quickly as possible. They started by answering the phone a half hour before the store opened and then they went into full throttle. They found the sale chair we were requesting and after

the delivery people said they couldn't deliver until Monday, Bob and Mike called the owner, Ted, and got his van. Within four hours of contacting their store, my La-Z Boy was delivered and set up in my living room. These two men went to extraordinary lengths to get me my chair. I have never had any retailer go through so much to provide me with what I needed. In these tough economic times, competition is stiff. One of the deciding factors for those looking to make a large purchase such as furniture is customer service. I thought that I'd share my story so that other Lakewooders would know about this La-Z Boy store. This is the place to go when you decide to buy a recliner.

Sharon Kinsella

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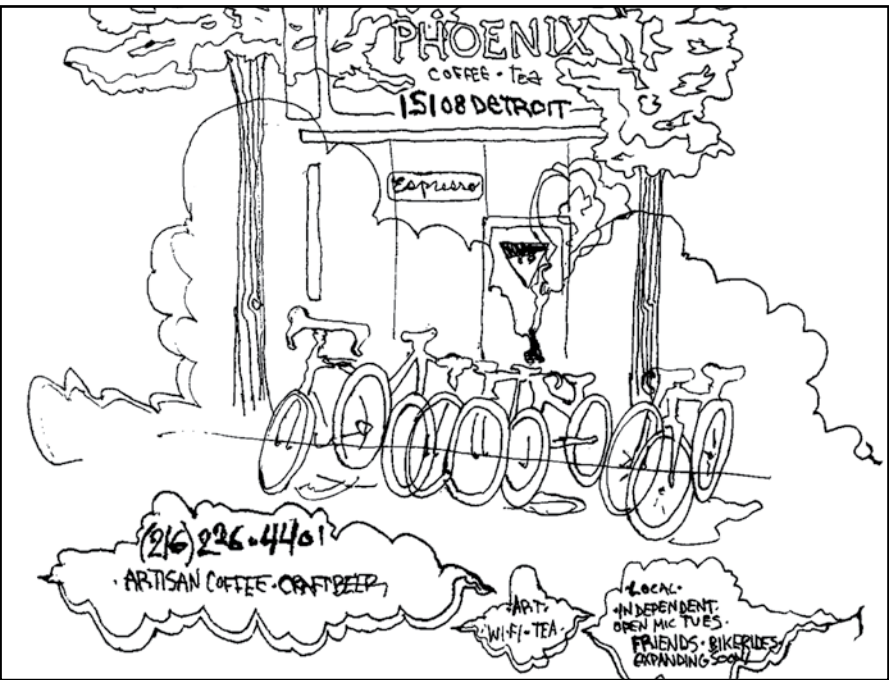
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