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Volume 9, Issue 3, February 6, 2013

Lakewood School Board OKs Placing 3.9 Mill Levy On May Ballot

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education, at its February 4 meeting voted unanimously to request that Cuyahoga County place a 3.9 mill operating levy on the May 7, 2013 ballot. It would be the lowest millage request for a levy since the 1970s.

An operating levy is needed to maintain excellent education in Lakewood. In the last two years, Lakewood Schools lost more than \$6 million in state funding cuts, funding that is unlikely to return. The district has also seen a decline in property tax collections going back as far as 2009. To address this reality, the district recently made more than \$8 million in cuts that included reducing staff, reducing course offerings, freezing base salaries and

increasing staff health care premium contributions.

"We have taken significant cuts in state funding and made significant cuts to our programming and now we are at the point that to maintain the programs our community told us it wants requires us to take this action (of placing a levy on the ballot)," Board President Edward Favre said.

Patty Ryan, president of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, attended the Board meeting to offer a letter of endorsement of the levy, signifying the business community's support of the effort.

"As it is critically important to maintain the quality of the programs and services for students in the Lakewood City Schools, Lakewood resi-

dents must know that the only way to protect and continue our excellent academic quality is to approve the proposed 3.9 mill levy," Ryan read from the endorsement letter.

The passage of the levy is critical to the future success of our children and our community. If approved, the levy would cost a Lakewood homeowner \$10 per month per \$100,000 of home value.

Levy funds would:

- Protect reasonable class sizes by providing enough teachers.
- Update outdated textbooks, technology, materials and programming.
- Help increase the high school graduation rate and college attendance
- Provide up-to-date tech-

nology to every student so they are prepared to compete for today's jobs.

• Continue local business partnerships to offer students real world learning experiences.

The Board's decision

comes after months of community meetings held last year where Lakewood residents helped school officials determine the future of Lakewood Schools, including identifying budget reductions and top priorities.

Reflections



School Board member Emma Petrie Barcelona looks on with a smile as School Board President Ed Favre, and Lakewood Municipal Judge Patrick Carroll get down with some of the little winners in this year's PTA Reflections. Keynote speaker and well respected Lakewood Artist Liz Maugans from Zygote Press is on the right. More from PTA Reflections on pages 8 and 9.

H2O's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

by Emmie Hutchison

One of the well-known quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asks: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" H2O volunteers answered that reflective question by committing their time to volunteering in their community on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In doing so, they have become part of a movement to turn the national holiday into a "day on, not a day off." This call to action reminds us to

make service part of our daily lives and to generate kindness at every opportunity. The work done by these Lakewood kids exemplifies that concept.

Student leaders played a large role in the event by brainstorming service site potentials, advertising the event to their peers, planning activities, following up with registrants, and extra responsibilities on the day of the event. There were 40 students who went to six different sites. One group went to the West-

erly and helped residents there sort donated pet food with My Best Friend's Bowl, a local organization dedicated to providing a temporary supply of food to the people in our community and their pets, with the goal of keeping pets and their owners together. Another inter-generational event took place at Crestmont North Nursing Home, where volunteers played games with elderly residents. Others had the chance to interact with small

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Lakewood Chamber of Commerce And COSE Collaborate On Energy Offerings

by Valerie Mechenbier

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) have announced a collaboration that will benefit area businesses and their employees.

Through this new partnership, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce members are now eligible to participate in the COSE Energy Choice program, a dedicated resource that addresses small business energy challenges.

The COSE Energy Choice program extends the opportunity for area businesses to enroll in savings programs that feature some of the lowest rates in the market on natural



gas and electricity generation. The program also lets participants conduct facility energy assessments and attend educational events. In addition, the COSE Energy Choice program provides discounted residential utility rates, so employees of area businesses can also take advantage of energy cost savings opportunities.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Lakewood

continued on page 2



H2O and RAD volunteers

Lakewood Events

Reading Mentors Needed!

by Christine Gordillo

Interested in volunteering in the schools and helping students? Hayes Elementary is seeking adult mentors for Project MORE, a reading mentoring program that aims to boost literacy among students with disabilities. Volunteers are asked to give 30 minutes of their time, at least three times a week. Contact Holly Bucci at 529-4228 if interested.

Kauffman Park Master Plan Community Meeting February 13

by Meg Ostrowski

Come hear what Lakewood Alive's Design Committee and Kauffman Park Friends have been up to since the community provided their input into the process of developing a Master Plan for Lakewood's seven-acre, downtown greenspace.

Lakewood resident and urban planner, Bryan Evans will present a new vision for Kauffman Park on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi Purpose Room at Lakewood Public Library located at 15425 Detroit Avenue.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce And COSE Collaborate On Energy Offerings

continued from page 1

Chamber of Commerce in supporting their local small business members," says Steve Millard, president and executive director of COSE. "Controlling energy costs and consumption is important to a small business and will be even more important as future state and federal legislation is implemented. We will be working with the

local chamber to help Lakewood small businesses understand their energy strategy options."

"The Lakewood Chamber and COSE are always looking for ways to support small businesses and the COSE Energy Choice program offers a great cost saving opportunity," says Patty Ryan, CEO and president of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

H2O's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

continued from page 1

children when they went to Lakewood Child Care Center to help with flu-season disinfection of play areas. Eighteen students who participate in Asian Services in Action (ASIA)'s tutoring program joined our volunteers for a morning of enriching crafts and games (and had a great time!). Another group had the opportunity to set up an apartment for a newly-arriving refugee family, through a partnership with Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services. They set up beds, linens, toiletries, and kitchen necessities to welcome the family to their new home. Several of our volunteers picked up medical supplies to take to Medwish International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to repurpose medical supplies and equipment discarded by the healthcare industry with the objectives of providing humanitarian aid in developing countries to

save lives and reducing solid waste to save our environment. Finally, a group was invited to Hospice of the Western Reserve where they made dementia kits to assist people with memory loss. Each of these sites and partners helped make a meaningful day of service and taught H2O's volunteers about their mission and further ways to help others.

The program followed by lunch at the Women's Pavilion at Lakewood Park, where participants enjoyed pizza donated by Papa John's in Lakewood and potluck food provided by volunteers. Afterward, the day was concluded with some reflection on the morning of service and of the words and legacy of Dr. King. This part of the program was provided by Lakewood High School teacher Joe Loboizzo and his student leaders from Race and Diversity (RAD). They planned a small group and activity and a moving video tribute to Dr. King and other civil rights leaders. It was a perfect capstone to a special day. Many thanks to Papa John's in Lakewood, H2O's student leaders and volunteers, our service partners, Joe Loboizzo, students from RAD, and our many, wonderful, adult volunteers.

H2O is sponsored by the City of Lakewood's Division of Youth Office. H2O receives tremendous support from the Lakewood City Schools, generous donors and a dedicated group of adult volunteers.





THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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Upcoming Submission Deadline		Publish Date	
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Sunday, February 24, 2013		Wednesday, March 6, 2013	

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City News

The World Lives In Lakewood - Annual Diversity Potluck

by Barbara Schwartz

That “The World Lives in Lakewood” was the idea celebrated at the third annual Diversity Potluck, held at the Lakewood Women’s Pavilion Thursday evening, January 24th. The evening was sponsored by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC) and Lakewood High School’s Race and Diversity (RAD) and Identity Clubs. With snow all around, the Pavilion was a warm and welcoming place for individuals and families of Lakewood to talk and get acquainted, and to enjoy an abundance of home-cooked food representing family and cultural traditions, along with the generous donations of food from Lakewood businesses including Italian Creations, Deagan’s, Create-a-Cake, Giant Eagle, and St. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church.

Before dinner, Kathy Curran, President of The Goddess Temple, was asked to give a blessing. After dinner, the RAD and Identity Club students were asked to share the goals and activities of their organizations so we could all understand the issues that they face. The RAD students: Dominique Lee, Rokeishia Smith, Bilal Shah, and Darnelle Crenshaw-El said that the group has encouraged conversation and advocacy, and tries to learn from what has happened in the past in order to change the future. They have had a spoken-word night with an open mic, along with H2O participated in a Day of Service for Martin Luther King Day, and assisted in the Community Conversation on “The Other Wes Moore.” They have been very involved with



Map of the World showing where people in Lakewood were born.

Facing History and Ourselves, learning how to combat discrimination and prejudice through responsible actions. All are graduating seniors, and all had a great deal of praise for the support and encouragement of their faculty advisor, Mr. Joe Loboizzo.

The students of Identity, while a much newer group, have benefited from the support and experience of RAD. The four, all sophomores, are: Meghan Tyburski, Devon Chodzin, Ann Marie Elaban, and Sarah Matthiesen, and with the support of their faculty advisor, Matt Heslep, they have been working for acceptance for individuals who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender. They have also worked on the problem of bullying, and hope to add books that promote self-esteem and acceptance to the elementary school libraries. The four have been participating in the Dare2Care program to develop young leaders through opportunities to come together with youth from all over the country. This

past summer they learned to sail a tall ship out of Mystic, Connecticut as part of that learning experience. It was very evident from all eight of the students that they have involved themselves in important work that will benefit their school and community, as well as in opportunities to develop their own abilities.

Others attending were also asked to share some of the work of their organizations. Carol DeLaat coordinates the Intercultural, Interfaith Initiative, which meets at the Lakewood Library. Murat Gurer spoke for The Turkish Cultural Center and the Niagara Foundation, saying that the only way to have a peaceful community is to dialogue. Rev. Paula Maeder-Connor, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, and David Connor talked about the work of Trinity Lakewood Outreach (TLO), which runs a weekend pantry twice a month, serves meals, produces an organic garden, and has collected school supplies. They said

they are always in need of donations and volunteers. Mike Tuttle, Block Club Coordinator for the City of Lakewood, had information to pass out on what Block Clubs can do for renters and owners on making neighborhoods that people love. He also shared city information on how to report a problem.

Bringing people of the world together within the borders of Lakewood to talk, learn, and enjoy delicious food, is in keeping with Lakewood Community Advisory Commission’s mission, which is to advise, educate and promote community relations, foster participation in the community; to be proactive to promote respectful conversations and collaborative efforts among and between residents and city officials; and to promote equity, respect and diversity within the city.

The next planned event of the Commission, working together with The Lakewood Family Collaborative, will be the second Welcome to Lakewood, which will be held at Garfield Middle School on Wednesday, April 24th from 7 – 9 p.m. The purpose of the event is to help families and individuals new to Lakewood find ways to be more engaged, involved and develop a long term commitment to the community. More information will be coming, but for now, promote self-esteem and acceptance. SAVE THE DATE!

Barbara Schwartz has lived in Lakewood for over 40 years and is a member of the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission.



Map of North America showing where people were born.

Kindergarten Parent Info Night Set for February 13

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools will be hosting a Kindergarten Parent Information Night for parents of preschoolers interested in learning about the district’s kindergarten program. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 13, at 7 p.m. at Horace Mann Elementary School’s Cafetorium. Horace Mann is located at 1251 W. Clifton Blvd.

Mark Gleichauf, the district’s Director of Teaching & Learning K-12, will host the evening and review what is addressed in the curriculum, how a typ-

ical kindergartener’s day unfolds, what the registration process is, how to determine which school a child will attend and what parents can expect from a Lakewood City Schools education.

Following the formal presentation, parents will be welcome to ask questions about this important milestone in a child and parent’s life. Although the event is geared to parents who are unfamiliar with the district’s kindergarten program, any one is welcome to attend. For more information, call 216-529-4203.

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Contact Kimberly Moss at 330.972.5526 or kmoss1@uakron.edu to RSVP, or for questions. lakewood.uakron.edu

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City Council News

Texting While Driving Now Illegal For Everyone

by Christopher Bindel

On Tuesday, January 22, 2013, Council President Brian Powers called the semi-monthly Council meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The meeting was held on Tuesday, as opposed to its usual Monday, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The first item of business was to excuse Councilwoman Monique Smith who was absent due to the birth of her son Benjamin Zachary Smith. Council approved her absence.

Councilman Powers (At-Large) then read a report from the Committee of the Whole regarding their recommendations for appointments to some of the city's boards and commissions. For the Planning Commission they recommended William J. Gaydos and for the Audit Committee they recommended Michelle McCue. For the new Tree Task Force the Council was going to continue their Committee discussions of possible appointees in executive session after the Council meeting.

After Councilman Powers finished giving his report Council then confirmed the appointments of both Mr. Gaydos and Ms. McCue.

Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) then read a report from the Public Safety Committee regarding the proposed ordinance that would strengthen the State's no texting law in Lakewood. The State's law makes texting a primary offense for minors, meaning that they can be pulled over

and ticketed just for that. However for adults it is considered a secondary offense, which means they have to be pulled over for another reason before they can be cited for texting. The proposed ordinance would make texting a primary offense for all drivers, regardless of age.

The Committee held several meetings with members of the community, students, the Administration and members of the Police Department. They found that much of what they were trying to accomplish with the new ordinance is actually covered by the current Full Time Attention ordinance which is already on the books. This includes making texting a primary offense for adults. Because of this, the Committee decided to amend the proposed ordinance to mirror the state ordinance, eliminating the primary offense for adults. However they decided that they would start enforcing the Full Time Attention ordinance for texters of all ages, making it a primary offense for adults. Due to this change they discussed ways of educating the public of the change and the possibility

of signage at city entry points.

Council then proceeded to pass the substitute ordinance, which had the changes in it.

Coming to the end of possibly the shortest agenda ever, the floor was opened up for public comment.

The first member of the public who wished to speak was Shawn Nutting. Mr. Nutting is a tattoo artist who has been a resident of Lakewood since 2011. He asked Council to consider changing the current ordinance regarding tattoo and piercing shops. According to Lakewood's current ordinance, any such shop is required to have a licensed doctor on the premises at all times of operation, making it nearly impossible to open such a business in Lakewood. Mr. Nutting is interested in opening a tattoo parlor in Lakewood but is restricted by the impracticality of this ordinance. Likewise he said he knows of other artists that would love to work in Lakewood. He also said he knows of patrons who drive long distances from the east side to get to the shop he works at in Elyria, and knows they would like the shorter drive to Lakewood. He

already has a business partner and has talked to a commercial building owner about renting a storefront, but cannot move forward until the ordinance is changed. He came to the meeting hoping to find a councilmember who might be willing to work with him to change the ordinance.

The next member of the public who wished to speak was Dominic Latessa. Mr. Latessa owns a quadricycle which he uses to drive around his autistic son. He said it is the only vehicle he has access to that can transport his son since his girlfriend uses their car for work and school and his son is not able to ride a bike. Mr. Latessa was cited by police for driving a 'toy vehicle' in the street, however when the case went before Judge Carroll he said that the quadricycle was not adequately covered by any ordinance therefore not making it illegal to ride in the street. The city is currently considering a course of action on how to handle the situation, and Mr. Latessa was asking that they do not pass new legislation making it illegal.

After a pretty short meeting, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Cuyahoga County Residents Invited To Vote For Big Ideas

by Jennifer Schlosser

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture invites residents of Cuyahoga County to help decide which two large-scale arts or culture projects will receive up to \$150,000 each through its new Creative Culture Grants program.

Cast your vote now at www.cacgrants.org/vote!

"We launched this program to both bring new, creative projects to our community and to let our community have a say in which projects would receive public funds," said Karen Gahl-Mills, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's executive director. "The six finalist projects embody the great creativity of our region's arts and culture organizations and artists, and we encourage all county residents to get involved in the public vote."

Residents in Cuyahoga County may vote from February 1-20, in two ways:

Online at www.cacgrants.org/vote

until February 20 at 11:59 p.m.

By mail until February 15. Paper ballots are available for download at <http://www.cacgrants.org/creative-culture-grants.php> or by calling 216-515-8303. Paper ballots must be delivered in person or by US mail to Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's offices (1501 Euclid Avenue, Suite 407, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115) by February 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's Board of Trustees is expected to approve and announce the winning projects during its regular meeting on Monday, February 25, and the projects will take place between March 2013 and August 2014. For more details about the grant program and to view the complete program rules, visit <http://www.cacgrants.org/creative-culture-grants.php>.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture's mission is to inspire and strengthen the community by investing in arts and culture. CAC was approved by Cuyahoga County voters in 2006, and since 2007, CAC has invested more than \$95 million dollars in more than



208 local arts and cultural organizations in Cuyahoga County. CAC's vision for its first ten years of public funding for arts and culture is to help build stronger, more resilient arts and culture organizations, create vibrant and energetic neighborhoods infused with culture, and establish Cuyahoga County as a hub of creative activity and a destination for artists. For more information about CAC, please visit www.cacgrants.org.

Jennifer Schlosser is Communications Manager at Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

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School Board News

Board Takes First Steps Toward Placing Levy On May Ballot

by Mark Moran

The Board of Education unanimously approved a motion at its January 22 meeting to begin a process for placing a 3.9 mil operating levy on the May 2013 ballot.

The resolution that was approved requests the Cuyahoga County's Fiscal Officer to certify the millage amount. After receiving the certification the Board will hold the final vote to place the operating levy on the May ballot at its February 4 meeting.

Superintendent Jeff Patterson said the levy is needed to maintain excellence in the face of the loss of more than \$6 million in state funds—funding that is unlikely to return—as well as a decline in property tax collections going back as far as 2009.

“There has been a shift in the burden of paying for education and that shift has happened from the state level to the local level,” Patterson said. “The operating levy will allow us to keep operating in the district for an additional three years, maintain our excellent programs, integrate technology into our classrooms, maintain our all-day, everyday kindergarten classes and promote safety and security in our schools.”

According to the Board, the district recently made more than \$8 million in cuts that included reducing staff, reducing course offerings, freezing base salaries and increasing staff

healthcare premium contributions.

The 3.9 mills is the smallest Lakewood school operating levy request in decades. If approved, the levy would cost a Lakewood homeowner \$10 per month per \$100,000 of home value, according to the Board.

“I know it is never pleasant talking about taxation, but I know the Lakewood community is very involved and wants to be educated, so we will be taking the next several months to talk about this tax issue,” Patterson said at the January 22 meeting.

“We cannot continue to offer the range of programming we do and keep abreast in the changes in technology that help prepare our students for 21st century jobs without additional revenue,” Patterson said. “There is nothing left to cut without damaging the excellent schools our community expects.”

According to the Board, levy funds would protect reasonable class sizes by providing enough teachers; update outdated textbooks, technology, materials and programming; help increase the high school graduation rate and college attendance; provide up-to-date technology to every student so they are prepared to compete for today's jobs; and continue local business partnerships to offer students real world learning experiences.

Lakewood resident Christina McCallum, the mother of two

Lakewood school children, will serve as co-chair of the levy campaign committee along with Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers. At the Board meeting on the 22nd, she said she believes the levy is essential.

“We all know Lakewood Schools have faced increasingly difficult choices in the last several years, thanks in part to the economy nose-diving and more recently state cuts to operating funds,” McCallum said. “Lakewood City Schools have done an excellent job of managing and adjusting to these financial changes and an ever-growing number of unfunded mandates from State and Federal Education Departments. We have to remember that a levy slated to last 3 years stretched to last 8; and the most recent levy, passed before the economy declined, has lasted as the District said it would, for 3 years.

“Tonight I want to express my support for Mr. Patterson's recommendation that the District pursue a levy in May. It is important to me as a mom and as a resident of Lakewood that our community continues to support quality education and really, to protect, our schools.”

Also speaking at the meeting was Sandy Donahoe, also a parent of Lakewood schoolchildren, who said the district has done its best to cut expenditures before coming to the

community to ask for more support. “Here we are at another crossroad, of asking this supportive community to once again reach into their wallets and monetarily support this district,” she said. “I know and read about the districts where levies fail....We can't go there!”

“I believe that this administration and the board are moving in the right direction and are being fiscally responsible and are doing what they can in the face of major state funding cuts,” Donahoe said. “...We need to move forward with this levy.”

Also at the January 22 meeting the Board set in motion the process to eventually sell the McKinley Elementary School, located at 1381 West Clifton Blvd. The school, which has been shuttered since 2007, has an estimated market value of \$1.1 million, according to the Board.

Christina McCallum said there is widespread misconception that funds from a sale could be used for operating expenses. But she explained that since the schools were originally built with dollars from a bond voted on by residents stipulating that the funds be used for building, any money from sale of the buildings can only be used for capital improvements, not daily operating expenses.

Mark Moran lives in Lakewood.

Cuyahoga Job And Family Services Has New Name

by Kathy Augustine

The newly named agency, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services (CJFS), is a result of the merger of Employment & Family Services and Cuyahoga Support Enforcement Agency. Cuyahoga Job and Family Services provides comprehensive child support assistance and administers public benefits including Medicaid, Food Assistance, Subsidized Child Care and other programs.

Help with child support is available at Office of Child Support Services, located at 1640 Superior Ave, Cleveland Ohio 44114. CJFS services are also available at our Neighborhood Family Service Centers: 1641 Payne Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114; 8111 Quincy Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44104; 9830 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44102; and 4261 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland Ohio 44144.

The Office of Child Support Services is dedicated to helping family members live better lives through

the services of establishing paternity (fatherhood) and collecting child support orders. For more information customers can view the website at www.childsupport.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216-443-5100.

Additional CJFS services include Healthy Start - free health insurance for low to moderate income families; Ohio Works First- cash assistance which includes work activities, Prevention, Retention and Contingency; Job Training and Placement Services. For more information see www.employment.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216-987-7000.

Customers can access services in person at any of the five Neighborhood Family Service Centers and can apply for benefits or manage their existing case online www.OJFSBenefits.ohio.gov.

Child Support customers can get information about their case online using the Child Support Customer Service Web Portal at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocs/>.




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Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

February 6

Health and Wealth: Numerology: A Three-Part Journey to Self-Discovery – Part 1

Numbers are the foundation of society and civilization, but they also have a profound spiritual aspect that is rarely discussed in business meetings. Laura Varcho steps out of the shadow of Navarre G. Devureaux to show you how to cast your own chart and interpret the results for personal success.

Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 7

Documentary Film: “The Woodmans” (2010)

Directed by Scott Willis

Young Francesca Woodman was a photographer ahead of her time. She began in the 1980s, with avant-garde black-and-white nudes while the rest of the photography world obsessed over glossy, vibrant color. Once her work was finally recognized, it became widely influential and has been ever since. But this came years after her tragic death. The child of two talented artists, Francesca defined herself and her art by different standards and made such an impact that it’s hard to believe she did it all in 23 years.

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

February 9

Western Movies: The Golden Age, Part 1

“Shane” (1953) Directed by George Stevens

Wyoming homesteaders are peaceably working their farms when a cattle baron decides to confiscate their land. The locals fight back under the leadership of Van Heflin, but when feared gun thug Jack Palance is hired to target Heflin the farmers begin to unravel. Just then Shane rides up to the homestead looking for a job. Heflin’s young son Joey idolizes the stranger and sees him as a mythic hero. But is Shane just another hired gun?

Saturday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 10

Sunday with the Friends: Walkin’ Cane Blues

Austin “Walkin’ Cane” ladles up a hot blues gumbo seasoned with jazz, folk and rock ‘n’ roll. These are the Delta blues, served over slide guitar with a side of baritone vocals. Classic songs mix with originals inspired by a meal shared with Robert Lockwood Jr. where “the stories flowed like grease off our plates.”

Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 13

Health and Wealth: Numerology: A Three-Part Journey to Self-Discovery – Part 2

Numbers are the foundation of society and civilization, but they also have a profound spiritual aspect that is rarely discussed in business meetings. Laura Varcho steps out of the shadow of Navarre G. Devureaux to show you how to cast your own chart and interpret the results for personal success.

Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 14

Booked for Murder: Tales of Cleveland

“Silent Hour” by Michael Koryta

For a good, spine-tingling mystery, look no further than your own backyard. Cleveland has plenty of dark tales that will keep you up late at night. Share your midnight thoughts with this friendly, law-abiding group of mystery lovers. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs for more clues and full book descriptions.

Thursday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Sunday With The Friends:

Kent Dockus: Violin On Fire

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

No instrument stirs the hidden recesses of the soul quite like the violin, but Lakewood’s own Kent Dockus wants more. He likes to add a little juice with a five-string Viper electric, playing everything from classic rock to modern pop with a fiery, classical flourish.

Dockus, who uses audio loop pedals, effect pedals and sequence pedals to create a full orchestra sound with kick, will perform on Sunday, March 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Since he was vaccinated by the Trans Siberian Orchestra and Mark Wood, Dockus has only one passion: to play his Viper for the world. So far, he’s on a great path which includes everything from solo performances to front man for Twin Engine (which Buzzbin Magazine named one of the top ten bands to see).

Sunday with the Friends takes place nearly every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. These programs, featuring musicians, actors, dancers and scholars, are free



and open to everyone thanks to generous funding from the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

This free event will be held at Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue in the Main Library Auditorium. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/friends for more events. No registration is needed. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.

February 16

Five Star Films: “Girl with a Pearl Earring” (2003)

Directed by Peter Webber Rated PG-13

Dutch master artist Colin Firth maintains a home and studio in 17th century Delft. He depends upon the patronage of cruel commissioner Tom Wilkinson. The only person in his huge household with whom he shares any empathy is poor servant Scarlett Johansson. He secretly paints a portrait of her. His jealous wife finds out and demands consequences.

Saturday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 17

Sunday with the Friends: Elegance: A Baroque Opera House

Soprano Kathleen Bosl and company perform selections from the Baroque Era of classical music, an opulent and passionate time that set the standard for all great music to come. Guest flautist Rachel Kim and pianist Rosalima Valdez Pham will accompany Kathleen for an afternoon of delightful arias. This program takes place in the First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

February 18

Washington’s Birthday – Library open normal hours

February 19

Knit and Lit

Gail Eaton hosts a social club for multitaskers—a combination book club and stitchery group. She’s looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs to find out which book will be discussed next.

Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Great Lakes Theater Festival: “DOUBLE HEART” by David Hansen

An imagined prequel to MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, David Hansen’s “Double Heart” envisions the early courtship of Beatrice and Benedict, providing a fascinating backstory to Shakespeare’s timeless tale. Written in poetic verse, this one-hour touring play is appropriate for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 20

Health and Wealth: Numerology: A Three-Part Journey to Self-Discovery - Part 3

Numbers are the foundation of society and civilization, but they also have a profound spiritual aspect that is rarely discussed in business meetings. Laura Varcho steps out of the shadow of Navarre G. Devureaux to show you how to cast your own chart and interpret the results for personal success.

Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

February 23

Lakewood Art House Cinema: “All the Real Girls” (2003)

Directed by David Gordon Green Rated R

Paul is a womanizer and a loser who has slept with every girl in his small, isolated town. When Zooey Deschanel returns home, much more grown up than he remembers, he is thrown for a loop. She might be his best friend’s sister, but he won’t miss the chance to add a notch to his bedpost. The thin line between what he might gain and what he thinks he could lose becomes a wide expanse as beautiful as the surrounding Appalachian Mountains.

Saturday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Madison Branch Bright Days

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

As the leaves begin to fall, come to Madison Branch for books, crafts, fun and games.

Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services

Tuesdays and Thursdays, ongoing through March 28 at 4 p.m.

Family Weekend Wonders

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. These free programs are offered every weekend throughout the year at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. No registration is needed. Check out our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) for times and upcoming themes.

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Weekends With Wee Ones

For families with children under 2 years old

Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. We will provide materials and ideas for those wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year and there is no need to register in advance.

Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services

Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library

Shake Off The Winter Cold With Blues And Opera

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Lakewood Public Library hosts some diverse musical talent. From rock to jazz, blues and beyond, nearly every weekend music flows from the most talented artists in Northeast Ohio.

Austin “Walkin’ Cane” ladles up a hot blues gumbo seasoned with jazz, folk and rock ‘n’ roll at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 10 in the Main Library Auditorium. These are the Delta blues, served over slide guitar with a side of baritone vocals. Classic songs mix with originals inspired by a meal shared with

Robert Lockwood Jr. where “the stories flowed like grease off our plates.”

Austin “Walkin’ Cane” Charanghat, who acquired his nickname while jamming on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, has won accolades from the Cleveland Free Times and Scene Magazine, and has performed his slide guitar rhythms with the best of the best across the country. When they say the Blues is in the blood they are referring to Cane, who was even married at the legendary Sun Studios in Memphis, Tennessee. Immediately following the reception

he began work recording his CD.

Then, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 17 in the Main Library Multipurpose Room, Soprano Kathleen Bosl and company perform selections from the Baroque Era of classical music, an opulent and passionate time that set the standard for all great music to come. Guest flautist Rachel Kim and pianist Rosalima Valdez Pham will accompany Kathleen for an afternoon of delightful arias. This program takes place in the First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Sunday with the Friends takes place nearly every Sunday at 2 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue. These programs, featuring musicians, actors, dancers and scholars, are free and open to everyone thanks to generous funding from the



Austin “Walkin’ Cane”

Friends of Lakewood Public Library. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/friends for more information.

Outback Ray’s Amazing Animal Show

by Eric Knapp

Have you ever seen a blue-tongued skink or been hugged by a 13-foot python? Well now is your chance! Outback Ray wants to show off his friends like the hissing cockroach, hairless rat, fennec fox, several boas, an alligator and a chacoan horned frog. Outback Ray’s Amazing Animal Show is fun, exciting and very educational. This hands-on show featuring 10 to 15 captive-born, exotic animals is extremely entertaining for kids of all ages.

Outback Ray has been doing live animal shows since 1987 and has had a passion for animals since he was a child. He has appeared on television, radio talk shows and has trained animals for commercials. Not only does he do shows, he also breeds, trains and studies exotic animals. Outback Ray shares his knowledge and the passion he has for exotic animals with his audience. He captivates families with his own unique “family,” all while sharing fascinating facts about each one. Learning is fun and exciting when kids can hold and cuddle his amazing animals.

All of Outback Ray’s animals live in his home as pets and are given the



Outback Ray

greatest care possible. The animals are trained and handled daily to ensure the safety of the audience as well as the animals. There are no venomous animals used in the shows.

This program is open to the whole family. It will be held on Saturday, February 23, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary. If you have questions, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.

Library To Offer Patrons Help For E-books

by John Guscott

The holidays have come and gone, and perhaps you now find yourself in possession of a brand-new e-book device, but have yet to figure out how to use it (maybe it’s still in the box!). Or, maybe you are already a Kindle veteran, or a Nook whiz, but know next to nothing about the free e-book resources available to you as a Lakewood Public Library cardholder.

Well, look no further, the library’s E-book Doctor is in!

Beginning this February, assistants at both the Main Library and Madison Branch will be on hand to provide per-

sonal assistance to help you use your e-book device, as well as how to access and utilize the library’s e-book services.

Appointments are starting the week of February 10, and are held at the following times and locations:

Main Library Learning Lab - Sundays from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Madison Branch - Thursdays from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Appointments are for twenty minutes, and registration is required.

Call 216-226-8275 (ext. 127) to set up an appointment at the Main Library, or call 216-228-7428 to register for appointments at the Madison Branch.

Numerology Lecture Series

by Ben Burdick

Beginning this Wednesday, February 6th at 7 p.m., the Lakewood Library will host Numerologist Laura Varcho’s three part lecture series, “Numerology: The Doorway to Self Discovery” in the Main Auditorium. The series continues for the following two Wednesdays, February 13th and 20th at 7 p.m.

The first lecture will focus on the meaning of the numbers, the second will focus on the formulas and techniques of creating the chart, and during the third lecture, Ms. Varcho will provide personal one-on-one insight, interpretation and guidance to each attendee regarding their chart.

Upon completion of the third installment, each attendee will have created a complete numerology chart, which can be for themselves or any other person of their choosing (providing they have the necessary data to complete a chart). Information needed is the subject’s full name at birth and birthdate. Attendees should bring notebook and pencil. All other materials will be provided.

This interactive series will promote discussion between instructor and attendees and will strive to provoke thought and exploration into the topic of Numerology.

Numerology is the science of numbers as they apply to designating and



Numerologist, Laura Varcho

defining human characteristics and experiences. Ancient scholars took the qualities of numbers they discovered developing mathematics one step further by applying these qualities or attributes to human character and circumstance.

The study of Numerology is a way to help find answers to such questions as: What are my greatest strengths? What is my heart’s desire? In what area of life do my talents lie? Where can I best put my energies to make myself and others happy and fulfilled? What are the obstacles I need to overcome in order to achieve my goals? What can I do to achieve self-realization?

Explore Numerology to: “Know thyself” and “To thine own self be true”!

Sharing The Dream

by Marge Foley

These beautiful handmade cards were crafted by students attending a program at the Lakewood Public Library on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. After stories and a song celebrating King’s life and legacy, the participants had fun making a greeting card to warm the hearts of nursing home residents. The cards are being distributed to folks living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus. A take-home booklet about the life and work of Dr. King was also made by each child.



Reflections 2013

Reflections: A Mirror Into Students' Ideas

by Christina McCallum

Reflections is an annual art contest sponsored by the National PTA. The program gives students ranging from preschool through grade 12 the opportunity to create art around a particular theme in one of the following six categories: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Visual arts includes but isn't limited to media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. The theme for the 2012-13 program was "The Magic of the Moment."

Each Lakewood City School with a PTA organizes an in-school con-

test. Entries are judged blindly at the school level, then move to the Council (or school district) level, before being sent to the State level and finally, to the National PTA level. A maximum of 24 entries may advance at each step.

The Lakewood Council of PTAs takes an active role in promoting the PTA Reflections Program throughout its nine eligible units: Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA), Roosevelt Elementary PTA, Horace Mann Elementary PTA, Harrison Elementary PTA, Grant Elementary PTA, Lincoln Elementary PTA, Garfield Middle School PTSA, Harding Middle School PTSA, and Lakewood High School PTA.

This year the total number of entries from our 9 participating PTA units to the Council contest was 133. In the schools with more than 24 total entries, independent experts judged the entries blindly to reduce the number of entries to no more than 24 for the Lakewood Council PTA's competition. Consideration was given to pieces' artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of theme. Out of the 133 Council level entries, 24 pieces were selected to represent the Lakewood PTA Council at the Ohio PTA level in Columbus, Ohio. The state entries arrived in Columbus by January 16 for judging at the state level, in hopes of

finally advancing to the National PTA.

In last year's 2011-12 PTA Reflections Program themed "Diversity Means," the Lakewood PTA Council submitted 24 pieces to the Ohio PTA. Of those 24, five were awarded an Honorable Mention at the state level. In the Intermediate category (Grades 3-5), Maya George of Horace Mann Elementary was recognized for Visual Arts. Middle Grade (Grades 6-8) students Paula Atfield and Alex Grunder were noted for their literature pieces, while Matthew Dailey's photograph was recognized. These students attended Harding Middle last year. Lastly,

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Lakewood Early Childhood

Celia Bentrrott Visual Arts
Imre Knaak. Visual Arts
Anna Maurer Visual Arts

Grant Elementary

Quinn Costanzo Visual Arts
MacKenzie Davis Photography (3)
Farah El-Ashram. Photography(2)
Casey Funk. Visual Arts
Emily McIntire. Photography
Emma Pagsuyoin . . . Photography
Anna Rigdon. Literature
Annabelle Sorge . . Visual Arts(2)
Madalynne Sorge . . . Visual Arts
Turner Sorge Visual Arts
Samuel Stallbaum . Visual Arts

Horace Mann Elementary

Grace Bratko Visual Arts(2)
Reagan Bratko Visual Arts(2)
Sophie Craciun. Visual Arts
Isaac Craciun. Visual Arts(2)
Ava Gabriel Visual Arts(2)
Lukas George Visual Arts
Grace Hopple Visual Arts
Alexandra Horton . . . Visual Arts
Edward Horton. Visual Arts
Ellie Humphrey Visual Arts
Simon Miller. Visual Arts
Helen Miller Visual Arts
Iris Wright Visual Arts
Lila Wright. Visual Arts(2)

Garfield Middle School

Timira Armstrong . . Literature
Serena Bellino Literature
Alexander Bransteter Literature
Brailey Capretta Literature
Isane-Lee Caraballo . Literature
Delaney Caskey Literature
Gabrielle Dever Literature
D'Anthony Hanible . . Literature
Behaaldin Hmeidani . Literature
Evelyn Jenkins Literature
Summer Joles Literature
Jack Manner Literature
Kira Marjanovic Literature
Sara McMillan Literature
Nicole Mikhail Literature
Gabby Murray Visual Arts
Caitlyn O'Boyle Visual Arts
Justin Pagsuyoin Photography
Ian Plumley Literature
Monica Ramos Literature
Wilson Reynolds Literature
Maleize Richards Literature
Andrew Robison Literature
Kelsey Saxton Literature

Harding Middle School

George Badran Literature
Emma Bressler. Literature
Caitlin Cimino Film(2)
Ramilla Foorouhari . . Visual Arts
Nava Ramazanali Photography
Maya Sutliff Visual Art
Maya Sutliff. Photography(3)
Eva Wynn Literature

Lakewood High School

Khalil Cormier Photography
Claire Corridoni Photography
Heather DeJesus Literature
Ramina Foorouhari . . . Photography
Selena Kelley Photography
Sameena Khan Photography
Hannah Kiraly Photography
Nabelh Manaa Visual Arts
Sarah Smith Literature, Visual Arts
Andrea Tsiros Photography
Kathryn Urban Photography
Shi Warner Visual Arts
Gregory Watson Music Composition

Harrison Elementary

Muhammad Alkhatib . . Visual Arts
William Bailey Visual Arts
Cheyenne Beatty Visual Arts
Charlotte Beno Visual Arts
Isabelle Cooper Photography, Visual Arts
Jacob Dupay Visual Arts
Dominic Dupay Visual Arts
Rania Elkhatab Visual Arts
Hayley Faix Visual Arts
Jessica Haklaj Visual Arts(2)
Emily Jones Visual Arts
Dominic Peck Visual Arts
Ana Scarpucci Visual Arts
Nathan Seeley Visual Arts
Devendra Sookhdeo .Photography
Chloe Tigges Visual Arts
Pete Wille Visual Arts

Roosevelt Elementary

Lexa Bunivich Visual Arts
Sofie Dent Visual Arts
Sadie Dohar Visual Arts
Erin Dineen Visual Arts
Monet Gee Visual Arts
Collin Hunt. Visual Arts
Brian Greg McGuinness Visual Arts
Jim Mills Visual Arts
Mariah Scott Visual Arts
Megan Walcheck. Visual Arts
Timmy Walcheck Visual Arts
Julia Westlake Visual Arts
Christina Westlake . . . Visual Arts

Lincoln Elementary

Cassidy Baldrige Dance
Jonathan Reighard . . . Visual Arts
Kitty Crino Photography
Bodhi Filipek Visual Arts
Maya George. Visual Arts
Beckham Haney Visual Arts
Grace Kraidich Visual Arts
Fia Masek Visual Arts
Nik Masek Visual Arts
Sophia Miranda Visual Arts
Jaxon Riley. Photography
Audrey Stahl Photography
Mariana Stockman . Visual Arts, Music (2)
Parker Toms Visual Arts
Cameron Werab Visual Arts
Jack Wynn Literature



Power Of The Pen

Middle Schoolers Sweep First Place In Power Of Pen

by Christine Gordillo

It was a one-two punch for Harding and Garfield middle schools at the Power of the Pen district competition on January 26 as Harding 8th grader Kent Adams and Garfield 7th grader Elizabeth Shuga each captured first place in their respective grade levels. Led by Adams, Harding's 8th grade team also won second place overall.

More than 300 writers from 26 schools were part of the creative writing contest at North Royalton Middle School. The competition is made up of three rounds where the writers are given prompts to jump-start a story. A sample of the prompts for this year's competition were: "If you can laugh at yourself, no one else will beat you to it" and "Leftovers - Describe some you are left with." The writers only have 40 minutes to complete their essay or short story.

At the end of the rounds, awards are given for the top 15 individuals as well of "Best of Round" awards for the top story in each round. Garfield 8th grader Grace Werner and Harding 7th graders Saige Rook (Round 1) and Claire Walkosak (Round 2) all earned "Best of Round" awards for their stories.

In addition to first-place winners

Adams and Shuga, the following writers earned a medal or trophy by placing in the top 15:

4th place: Caleigh Sheehan (8th, Harding)

4th place: Isabel Ostrowski (7th, Garfield)

8th place: Claire Walkosak (7th, Harding)

10th place: Saige Rook (7th, Harding)

14th place: Elena Mulready (8th, Harding)

17th place: Sarah Bene (7th, Garfield)

The next step for the statewide competition is the Regional Tournament at St. Joseph Academy on March 16. The top 50% of writers at the District level advance to Regionals.

The following are the schools' Power of the Pen team members:

GARFIELD TEAMS:

8th Grade: Ian Bell, Abigail Iler, Muayad Shahin, Evan Suttell, Grace Werner, Rhianna Zuby

7th Grade: Sarah Bene, Grace Cooper, Elizabeth Shuga, Isabel Ostrowski

Garfield Co-Coaches: Haley McDonough & Maggie Eiben

HARDING TEAMS:

8th Grade: Kent Adams, Lauren Klann, Elena Mulready, Julia Neff, Caleigh Sheehan, Abbey Stone. Alternate: Sophie Mack

8th Grade Coach: Ruth Pangrace

7th Grade: Max Evans, John Kom-pier, Veronica Lee, Sophia Parker, Saige Rook, Claire Walkosak

7th Grade Coach: Pam Sheils

Former McKinley Elementary To Be Put Up For Sale

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education was expected at its Feb. 4 meeting to approve a resolution to begin the sale process for the mothballed McKinley Elementary School, located at 1381 West Clifton Blvd.

The school, which has been shuttered since 2007, has an estimated market value of \$1.1 million. The cost of renovating it if the Board wanted to use it for transition space for students during Phase III construction of the Facilities Master Plan would be a minimum of \$400,000. With the real estate market showing signs of a slow rebound combined with the high

potential renovation costs, the Board deemed it the right time to begin the lengthy 6-8 month process required by state law to sell the school building.

By law, the district must first offer the building at fair market value to community charter or boarding schools within the city of Lakewood and groups that may be looking to start a charter or boarding school within Lakewood. If there are no takers, then the building must be put up at auction. If there is no satisfactory offer to the Board at auction, it may then go to private sale. Once a sale is made,

any proceeds by law are required to go into a capital improvements fund. The money cannot be used for day-to-day operational expenses.

The district also owns two other school buildings that are not currently in full use by the district. The Lakewood City Academy is located on the property of the former Franklin Elementary School and Taft Elementary on Lake Avenue has modular units on its property that house the ABLE/ GED adult literacy program. With

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Reflections: A Mirror Into Students' Ideas

continued from page 8

Lakewood High School student Renee Klann was recognized with an Honorable Mention for her literature piece. Congratulations, students!

To celebrate the creativity of its participants, the Lakewood Council of PTAs hosts an annual Awards Ceremony, Art Opening, and Ice Cream Social. Council Reflections Chairwoman Heidi Murray organized this years event. The 133 unit level winners were recognized at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium on Thursday, January 24th from 7-9 pm. Liz Maugans, 1985 graduate of Lakewood High School, co-director of Zygote Press in Cleveland, and winner of multiple awards

and fellowships in recognition of her art and work on behalf of the arts, spoke about the role of art in her life both as a student and working artist. Liz also revealed which entries had been chosen to represent Lakewood at the State PTA Level of competition. On the previous page is a list of this year's unit PTA winners. The names in bold represent the 24 students whose pieces advanced to the Ohio PTA competition. We wish them luck!

In its 44 year history, the PTA Reflections Program has encouraged hundreds of thousands of students to explore and celebrate their artistic talents. The Lakewood PTA Council would like to thank Ultimate Party and Bar Supply, 15649 Madison Avenue, for donating balloons; Giant Eagle at Bunts and Detroit for contributing treats to the party; and the Lakewood Observer for its continued support with printing the programs and documenting the evening photographically. Thanks also go the numerous judges who assisted at the school level, and to Julie Strunk, Manager of Children's Services and Kate McGregor, Librarian, from Lakewood Public Library for overseeing the literature evaluation. Finally, parents must be recognized for your encouragement of your children and commitment to the arts being an essential part your children's development.

Keep a look out for Reflections 2013-14, when students can express their thoughts about the theme, "Believe, Dream, Inspire."

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Lakewood Is Art

Fabulous Free MUSIC + ART At Beck Center In February

by Fran Storch

February may be the shortest month according to the calendar, but with Northeast Ohio's wet, wintery weather it sometimes seems like the month may never end. Add a little color and excitement to the dreary days ahead, stop by Beck Center for the Arts and enjoy a music recital or a variety of art exhibits throughout the month. The recital and exhibits are free and open to the public and complimentary on-site parking is available. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

There's still time to browse the "Color Lessons" exhibit by award-winning artist Mary Deutschman in the Jean Bulicek Galleria before it closes February 10. Deutschman's colorful oil paintings include jazz musicians, cafes, markets, and vibrant landscapes. "Painting became my obsession. Not just painting but using color, lots of it," explained Deutschman. "I saw vibrant color everywhere and where I didn't see it I imagined it." Ms. Deutschman is well known for her jazz paintings which have been featured on posters for the annual Tri-C JazzFest.

"Parts of A Whole," an interesting exhibit of collage and assemblage art by Michelle Shassberger, is currently on display through February 28 in the lobby of the Music-Armory Building at Beck Center. All are welcome to meet the artist at a reception on Saturday, February 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. "I find pieces of things or take things apart to create something new and different," remarked Shassberger. "I love mixing things together that really don't belong to create a unified piece of art." Ms. Shassberger is generously donating 50% of all art sales to the Theater Alliance of Beck Center, a nonprofit volunteer organization for which she serves as vice president.

A unique art exhibition, "The Left-Handed Line of Mike Guyot," featuring the distinctive work of local artist Mike Guyot opens Friday, February 15 in the Jean Bulicek Galleria at Beck Center. Guests are invited to meet the artist at an opening night reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Guyot describes himself as an "architectural



Cleveland's West Side Market is celebrated in one of Mike Guyot's pen and ink drawings.

impressionist" who does his work freehand with a rapidograph ink pen. "Every brick and shingle is drawn one at a time, either from a photograph or in real life," commented Guyot. "The drawings are finished with several layers of acrylic wash." This technique has earned Mr. Guyot several awards including the Cain Park Judge's Award (2010-2012), first place at the Hudson Art on the Green and Berea Arts Festival (2012), and Best in Show at the

Lakewood Arts Festival, Crocker Park Arts Festival (2012), among many others. Guyot's exhibit will be on display at Beck Center through March 10.

Young families are invited to join in the fun, creativity and excitement at Super Saturdays @ Beck Center, a free monthly arts experience for children, ages 8 and under, and their parents, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 16. This month's partnering organization is VSA Ohio/Cleveland

Area Service Division which will offer a variety of arts experiences including a make-it, take-it craft and other hands-on activities. Young aspiring musicians and their families will enjoy Hear & Touch the Music from 10 to 10:30 a.m. with Brittany Lesch, MT-BC and guest musicians playing woodwind instruments. Admission is free but Hear & Touch the Music guests must reserve tickets online at beckcenter.org or by calling Beck Center Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10.

Also on February 16, Beck Center is proud to host a Music Faculty Showcase at 7 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Music-Armory Building. This recital features the talents of accomplished faculty members from Beck Center's Music Education department. "Recitals are a great way to showcase our talented faculty, who have studied and performed locally and internationally," said Kristopher Morron, associate director of Music Education at Beck Center. "It is also an opportunity for our students, their parents and the community to hear excellent performers sing and play great music literature."

All of the February events are free and open to the public. For gallery hours and more information about Beck Center events, please visit beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10.

Local Arts Center Shares The Spotlight With Other Prestigious U.S. Dance Schools

by Fran Storch

A group of eight talented dancers from Beck Center for the Art's Dance Education program traveled to Chicago January 18 through 20 to participate in the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), the world's largest student ballet competition, and proudly came home with top honors.

Beck Center is pleased to announce that the dancers' ensemble performance entitled "Phantom of the Opera" ranked in the Top 12 for ensembles. The group included Ali Cassidy, Bethany Comiensi, Taylor Gerrash, Julia Horner, Ciara McGlynn, Julia

Parrish, Abby Schneider, and Becky Steffen. Beck Center dancers competed against students from such acclaimed ballet schools as The Joffrey Academy of Dance (the official school of the Joffrey Ballet), Interlochen Arts Academy, and Milwaukee Ballet School.

In addition, Julia Horner, 17, who has studied dance at Beck Center since age seven, placed in the Top 12 in the women's solo category for both her contemporary performance entitled "Revel in the Moment" and her classical piece, a variation from "The Talisman". This is the first time a Beck Center solo dancer has been awarded

this prestigious prize. Ms. Horner has attended the American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive in Detroit and received a scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet Intensive in New York City last summer. She plans to continue her dance studies in college next year, and has been offered a dance scholarship to Mercyhurst University, which offers one of the nation's top ballet programs.

"The YAGP offers our advanced ballet students the opportunity to compete alongside top Midwest dance training institutions, receive feedback from noted adjudicators, and take classes with highly sought after master teachers from companies around the world," said Melanie Szucs, Beck Center's associate director of Dance Education. "The results were the 'icing on the cake' for our students and confirm the excellent training they are receiving from Beck Center faculty."

During this exciting weekend of competition, Beck Center students also had the amazing opportunity to attend master classes with several esteemed dance instructors including Keith Roberts, a former principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre; Claire Baulieu, Paris Opera Ballet; Ethan Brown, American Ballet Theatre; and Anna Liceica, New York City Ballet. All eight dancers, accompanied by their proud parents, came home tired, but very happy.

continued on page 11

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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Teen Theater Presents

PG-13 Rated "Avenue Q: School Edition"

by Fran Storch

All of the laughs and life lessons of the Broadway hit musical, but a little less lewdness.

Beck Center Teen Theater presents the regional premiere of "Avenue Q: School Edition," Feb. 8-10 and 14-17, on the Mackey Main Stage. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, with a special student matinee performance 10 a.m. Thursday, February 14. Tickets are now on sale.

Based on Avenue Q, the 2004 Tony Award "Triple Crown" winner for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, this laugh-out-loud musical adaptation tells the story of Princeton, a recent college grad who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. Princeton and his not-so-ordinary neighbors struggle to find jobs, dates and their ever-elusive purpose in life. Just like your life, only funnier! This slightly censored version of the Broadway hit musical comedy is rated PG-13 and not recommended for children 12 and under. All of the laughs and life lessons but a little less lewdness – and, of course, the puppets!

"Avenue Q: School Edition fits with our commitment to offer an eclectic mix of theater productions and new challenges for our students," remarked Director of Education Ed Gallagher, MT-BC. "Our teen actors are enthusiastic about this opportunity to perform contemporary material



Teen actors bring the puppets to life in "Avenue Q: School Edition" at Beck Center.

like Avenue Q, along with other classic titles like "Our Town," which we produced earlier this season."

With music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx and book by Jeff Whitty, "Avenue Q: School Edition" is performed entirely by students. Directed by Jonathan Kronenberger, Beck Center's associate director of Theater Education, "Avenue Q: School Edition" features a

cast of 23 talented actors ages 13 to 19 and more than a dozen puppet characters. The teens have been working since early January to master the arts of acting, singing, dancing, and puppetry – a challenge even for seasoned adult actors.

"Since "Avenue Q" is known by many simply as the 'show where the

puppets do bad things,' some may wonder why do it at all. Because some of those aspects are softened in the school edition, the audience gets to focus on the heartfelt story of this quirky group of characters as they seek their place in our world," commented Kronenberger. "At any age, we can find ourselves asking the question again, 'What is my purpose?' We may find that dreams don't often lead to reality and the best laid plans don't always work out; but that doesn't mean we should stop dreaming. Sometimes we find a better plan along the way."

Tickets are \$12 for adults/seniors and \$10 for children (18 and under) and may be purchased online at beck-center.org or by calling (216) 521-2540, ext. 10. Discounted group rates are available for the student matinee. Call Customer Service Manager Rennie Tisdale at ext. 28 for more information and to schedule your student matinee.

Located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Beck Center offers free onsite parking. This production of "Avenue Q: School Edition" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and is made possible by the generous support of Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Local Arts Center Shares The Spotlight With Other Prestigious U.S. Dance Schools

continued from page 10

Youth America Grand Prix is the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition and awards over \$250,000 annually in scholarships to leading dance schools worldwide. The competition is held annually around the world and is open to dance students of all nationalities ages 9 to 19. Launched in 1999 by two former dancers of the world-renowned Bolshoi Ballet, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev, YAGP is also a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, created with a mission to

provide extraordinary educational and professional opportunities to young dancers, acting as a stepping stone to a professional dance career. For more information, visit yagp.org.

Located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and free gallery exhibits featuring local, regional, and international artists.



67th Student Independent Exhibition

Feb 15–Mar 16, 2013
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Lakewood Cares

Help To Others (H2O)

Drops Of Kindness Create Ripples Of Change

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

This is the second story in a three-part series featuring special people and organizations that have a unique relationship with Help to Others (H2O), a Lakewood institution that is celebrating its 20th year of teaching and inspiring middle- and high-school students to volunteer and do what they can to make the world a better place.

Thousands of people have been touched by H2O's service learning program during the past two decades. Here is just one of those stories.

Up the elevators and down the maze of hallways, a small army of H2O students descend upon the three towers of the Westerly every month, pulling wagons and making door-to-door deliveries of food bags containing emergency nourishment for close to 200 apartment-bound seniors.

H2O's well-organized mission is a critical piece of Lakewood Community Service Center's (LCSC) food delivery program to four senior-living complexes in Lakewood funded through a grant from the United Way of Greater Cleveland, says Trish Rooney, LCSC's executive director.

In fact, Rooney says the first call she made upon learning the news of the grant in 2011 was to H2O's then director, Celia Dorsch.



Students with H2O volunteers in collaboration with Lakewood Community Service Center (LCSC).

"We hoped that they would be able to make the deliveries for us. She didn't hesitate for one second when I made the call. She said yes immediately," says Rooney, whose organization currently provides emergency food to 18 percent of the city of Lakewood. "This is the real definition of a partnership. We count on them every single month to make this happen so it's hugely significant. There is absolutely no way we'd be able to do this service without them."

When the RTA circulator stopped operating in Lakewood, LCSC saw a significant drop off in the number of seniors able to come to its center to pick

up food. The delivery service has been a lifeline for them.

"The residents love it and especially seeing the kids. A lot of them are really isolated so for them to get a delivery like that is fantastic," says Rooney, whose son was in H2O when he was in middle school and at Lakewood High School. "One of the residents just loves these kids so much that she knits hats for them."

H2O has been involved with LCSC since the organization was founded in 1993. Back then H2O members would collect and donate non-perishables for LCSC's emergency food distributions. They also helped them transport and

store canned donations collected by postal workers. Most recently LCSC has been one of the beneficiaries of H2O's Pumpkin Palooza, an annual Halloween event for the community held at Lakewood High School.

"H2O's involvement (in our mission) has just gotten deeper and deeper over the years," Rooney says. "They turn out month after month after month with the same high level of enthusiasm and the same work ethic. They are simply wonderful and they are making a huge difference for our seniors."

Join the celebration as H2O kicks off its 20 years of service to the Northeast Ohio community with a night of fun, festivities, and philanthropy at the H2O Tributary Bash, Saturday, February 23, 2013, from 7 to 11 p.m., at the Lake Erie Screw Factory, 13000 Athens Avenue in Lakewood. A special VIP event will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in a smaller, more intimate setting of the Screw Factory.

Tickets for the main event are \$50. A very limited number of \$100 VIP tickets are available. Sponsorship opportunities, starting at the \$100 level, are also available. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to sponsor the event, visit www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/H2O/ or call 216.529.6870.

Saving Paradise

The Rev. Rita Nakashima Brock

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New Board Officers At Lakewood Alumni Foundation

by Missy Toms

The Lakewood Alumni Foundation is pleased to announce the election of the following board members to officers for 2013:

Kyle Baker '02, Associate at Thompson Hine, was elected to president.

Vicki Morford Smigelski '78, Manager, Self-Insurance at KKSG and Associates, was elected to vice president/president-elect.

Frederick W. Leick '61, was elected to treasurer.

Margaret Brinich '04, Manager, Surveys & Research, ERC (Employer's Resource Council), was elected to secretary.

Dr. Chuck Greanoff '77 Social Studies teacher at Lakewood High School, was elected to past president.

The following have been elected to the board of trustees for a 2013-16 term: **Kate A. Asbeck '75**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Cleveland Foundation, **Ash Khatib, CPA '01**, Vice President, Corporate Controller at Lorain National Bank, **Ryan Krivosh '02**, Manager/Owner of Around the Corner, **Ryan Rustad '96**, Senior Operations Manager at KeyBanc Capital Markets, and **Alysia Wright '90**, Officer of the Company at First Federal Lakewood.

The following directors have been re-elected for terms ending in 2016: Frederick W. Leick '61 and Scott A.



New Lakewood Alumni Foundation President Kyle Baker, Class of 2002.

Lawson '61.

Since 1984, the Lakewood Alumni Foundation has aimed to support the Lakewood City Schools' tradition of providing an opportunity-rich environment for its students through advocacy and financial support. Through the generosity of its donors, the foundation has provided significant funds for student scholarships, teacher grants, and school programs. Become a donor today! Help every Lakewood student reach his or her potential by making a tax-deductible gift online at www.lakewoodrangers.com, or by mail at Lakewood Alumni Foundation, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107.

Lakewood Cares

Grace Lutheran Church To Celebrate 10th Anniversary

by George Hansell

Grace Lutheran Church, located across from Madison Park at the corner of Madison & Grace Avenues in Lakewood, is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2013 under the theme “More Grace to Come.” “The congregation is planning a number of special worship services, servant events, and other activities during the course of the year,” says the Rev. George R. Hansell, Jr., who has served the congregation for eight years of its ten-year history.

The congregation came into existence on January 1, 2003 when the congregants of Pentecost Lutheran Church and Saints Peter & Paul Lutheran Church, both of Lakewood, decided to come together as one congregation to

more effectively carry out mission and ministry in Lakewood. The congregation adopted as its mission statement, “Grace Lutheran Church shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people.” To help advance that mission, in 2008 the congregation organized Grace Preschool under the auspices of the Lutheran Development Ministry of Lakewood, a separately incorporated entity of the congregation. The congregation will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the preschool ministry in a special service on April 28.

During its ten years of ministry, the congregation has attempted to serve and proclaim its message to the community in a variety of ways. In 2005, the congregation started a

Kid’s Church Ministry for children ages 4 through 12. Kid’s Church happens on the first three Saturdays of every month from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Lunch is served to the children after the sessions. Also in 2005, Pastor Hansell began “The Grace Crusade.” A big tent would be set up for a week on the church’s property, and a 3-day evangelistic crusade would be held each June. The Sunday School ministry has put on plays and cantatas at Christmas and Easter, organized lock-ins, Sunday School retreats off-campus, and even gone to the Creation Museum near Cincinnati and to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The members of Grace kicked off the year with a Servant Event on Sunday, Jan. 20. From October through March, the members of Grace enjoy fellowship with one another at an After-Worship Luncheon on the third Sunday of each month. On the Jan. 20 occasion, between 50 and 60 members gathered together to make over 100 box lunches for the homeless and others served by the St. Herman’s House of Hospitality.

On Feb. 10, the congregation will have its first special anniversary service of the year at 10:30 a.m. Preaching at the service will be the Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, President of the SELC

District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. A dynamic preacher, Dr. Krueger will preach on the anniversary theme, “More Grace to Come,” based on the Scripture recorded in James 4:6. The community is invited to this special service and to a free chili luncheon immediately following the service.

For more information concerning the Feb. 10 service and luncheon, or for information on any of the other activities and services planned by the congregation, people may contact Pastor Hansell at the Church Office: (216) 221-4959.

George Hansell, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church since October 31, 2004.

Lakewood Congregational Church To Host Public Lenten Event On Forgiveness On February 27

by Robin Suttell

In nearly 14 years since her son’s death, Rachel Muha of Westerville, Ohio, has learned much about walking the path of forgiveness, even in the face of tragedy and adversity.

On May 31, 1999, her son Brian, 18, a freshman at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and his friend Aaron Land, 20, were killed when intruders randomly broke into their off-campus house. The intruders assaulted them and ultimately killed them, leaving their bodies off an abandoned stretch of Route 22 in Washington County, Pa., nearly 20 miles from Steubenville. The killers were caught soon after and convicted.

While many in the community expected the families to rally for the death penalty, Rachel Muha--a devout Catholic-- stepped forward in the courtroom during the sentencing of one of the convicted killers in 2000 to speak only of forgiveness, asking him to redeem the rest of the years in his life and that she would pray for his soul.

Muha has since turned “grief into love” and has established a foundation in her son’s honor: www.brianmuha-foundation.com.

She will share her story of forgiveness at Lakewood Congregational Church (LCC), 1375 West Clifton Blvd, on Wednesday, February 27, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. The event, part of the church’s Lenten season programming, is free and open to the community.

For more information about the Rachel Muha event on Feb. 27 or information about Lakewood Congregational Church www.lcc-church.org, contact the church office at (216)221-9555.



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Sports

LRST Swimmers Compete In 4-State Championship Meet

by Leigh Owen

Swimmers Colin MacMillan and Maja Miedza, members of the Lakewood Rangers Swim Team (LRST), have recently returned from Indianapolis, IN where they represented Team Ohio at the 2013 Mid States Championships Meet held at IUPUI Natatorium. Colin, age 12, and Maja, age 10, were part of a select group of swimmers participating in this age 14 and under elite meet.

“Being named to represent Team Ohio at the Mid States Championships is indeed an extremely high honor. Colin and Maja’s performance at this meet bodes well for their future in competition at national meets,” said LRST Head Coach Jim Stacy.

Colin and Maja each competed in three individual events -- the 50-yd Butterfly, 100-yd Butterfly, and 50-yd Freestyle, plus two relays. Colin swam in the Boys 11-12 age group, Maja in the Girls 10 and under group. Both swimmers finished within the top 10 in each event, including their respective 200 Freestyle and 200 Medley relays.

Team Ohio scored 3494.5 points and placed second behind Team Indiana’s 3897.50 points. Team Kentucky finished third, Team Michigan was fourth.

Team Ohio is comprised of swimmers from Lake Erie League and the Ohio League, the two USA Swimming

leagues in Ohio. Team Ohio selects the top four swimmers in each event to travel to the Mid States Championships.

For more information on these swimmers or Lakewood Rangers Swim Team, please contact: Leigh Owen, LRST Parent Board Communications

LEOwen@LRST.info or Matt Demaline, Aquatics Director – City of Lakewood
Matt.Demaline@lakewood.k12.oh.us

For complete meet results: http://www.inswimming.org/MEETINFO/MidStates/final_results.pdf

For information on LRST: <http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com/lrst>

For information on Lake Erie League/Team Ohio application and selection process: http://www.lakeerieswimming.com/Public%20Documents/2012-2013/quad_info_for_swimmers_2013.doc

Calling All Ninth Through Twelfth Graders: Give Rowing A Try!

by Andrea Landow

Spring thaw is just around the corner and soon boats will be on the water. If you’re a high school student who has ever wanted to give rowing a try, come check us out. Walk right on. No experience necessary.

Cleveland Scholastic Rowing Association (CSRA) is for local high school kids from as far west as Vermillion, as far east as Hudson and as far south as Brecksville. All sizes and abilities welcome.

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To find out more, go to www.csrarowing.org.

Two Volunteer Openings: Youth Athletic Commission Members

by Mitchell Robida

The Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Commission (CREC)

is an advisory volunteer commission providing leadership and direction to the Lakewood City Schools Recreation & Education Department. CREC has a Youth Athletic Commission, and an Adult Athletic Commission made up of 7 members each, that meet once a month. CREC is looking to fill two vacancies on the Youth Athletic Commission. Candidates must reside in Lakewood, and have a genuine interest in Lakewood recreation and education.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest to: The Lakewood City Schools Recreation and Education Department, c/o Jim Reitenbach, Director; 1456 Warren Road, Lakewood, OH 44107. Or email at jim.reitenbach@lakewood.k12.oh.us. Deadline for accepting applications is February 20, 2013.

Mitchell Robida is the Program Coordinator for the Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department.

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Wellness Watch

Enzymes: The Key To Healthy Digestion

If a tree falls in the woods and there is no one around to hear it, does it make a sound? That question I can't answer, but what I can tell you is that if an apple falls from a tree in those woods, it will most definitely bruise. The remaining question is: Why?

When an apple hits the ground, the impact damages cell walls within the fruit, releasing active enzymes

that begin to digest the cellular material, resulting in what we call a bruise. This is a necessary process in nature, as the apple must break down in order for the seeds inside to be released into the earth in hopes of becoming another tree. The actions of enzymes are also necessary within our bodies for us to properly digest

by Rachel Anzalone

our foods and utilize the nutrients inside.

Enzymes are the catalysts for all biochemical processes within our bodies. Our saliva contains enzymes that begin to dissolve foods as soon as they enter our mouths. The act of chewing breaks down cell walls, releasing enzymes within the foods

themselves that are a key component of the digestive process that occurs in our stomachs. And as our food passes out of the stomach, enzymes from the pancreas step in to continue the process. Enzymes are necessary for our bodies to break down food and assimilate the nutrients within it.

The challenge we face today is that the majority of our foods are enzyme-deficient. Foods that have been processed, over-cooked, pasteurized or irradiated are lacking in the enzymes necessary for digestion. Most of the foods we eat fit this description. The result is that many of us struggle with poor digestion and its residual effects, including any number of nutrient deficiencies and the ailments caused by those deficiencies.

To improve your digestion and increase your nutrient absorption, eat a diet high in raw, organic, locally grown vegetables and fruits and whole and sprouted grains, avoid processed foods, and chew thoroughly. You can also supplement your diet with plant-derived enzymes that can be found at health food stores.

Rachel Anzalone is a Certified Natural Health Professional and Traditional Naturopath at Holistic Lakewood.

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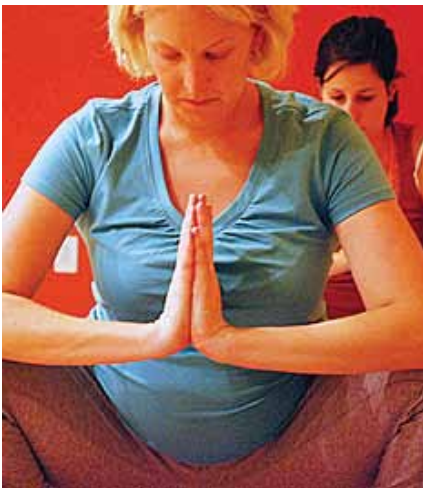
by Maria Reyes

Yoga as exercise is unique in its commitment to every stage of life. The ancient discipline of uniting mind, body and spirit is particularly suited to supporting the rapid changes in a woman's body and emotions that occur during pregnancy and the months postpartum. Although many forms of exercise increase blood circulation and strengthen muscles, prenatal yoga's focus on balance, alignment and intentional breathing provides more comprehensive benefits to the mom-to-be.

Prenatal yoga can prevent and relieve many common discomforts of pregnancy, including backache, water retention, digestive discomfort, fatigue, and sciatic pain. In addition, the practice builds strength in all parts of the body, which is increasingly important as

a woman's weight shifts, putting added pressure on the lower back. Prenatal yoga also improves flexibility, stretches sore muscles and helps improve alignment and balance as the baby weight changes a woman's center of gravity.

Prenatal yoga's health benefits are not limited to the physical body. Many women find the physical transformation of pregnancy unsettling, particularly in our culture where weight is judged so critically. Yoga encourages deep breathing, calm reflection, and commitment to the present moment. This helps stabilize the emotions and relieve stress, allowing a woman to find meaningful connection with her pregnancy. By increasing confidence in the body and quieting the mind, yoga also stimulates the relaxation response.



Learning to release fear, tension and anxiety through conscious breathing can naturally support pain management during childbirth as well.

Giving birth is a huge transition in physical and spiritual awareness and is often accompanied by unpredictable emotional reactions. Postnatal yoga provides a distinct advantage to typical fitness classes in that it not only tones and strengthens muscles, but it also facilitates healing and alleviates tension in mind and body. Returning to the yoga practice after birth also reunites mom with a supportive community of women who understand her journey.

Maria "Puma" Reyes, owner of Puma Yoga located at 15602 Detroit Avenue, has been teaching prenatal yoga classes for more than eight years. She is certified in both prenatal and postnatal yoga and is a doula-in-training. Throughout her career, Reyes has helped hundreds of women get in touch with the sacredness of childbirth and channel the wise, intuitive woman that resides within each mother-to-be.



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Business News

The Movement Factory Offers Inviting Classes For Adults

by Alyssa Wilmot

The Movement Factory, a new Pilates, Dance, and Fitness studio, located in the Lake Erie Building in Lakewood, offers a variety of classes seven days a week for adults of all ages and fitness levels. Alyssa Lee Wilmot, the owner and head instructor, professional choreographer, dancer and certified instructor, brings over 16 years of experience to her clients. The Movement Factory's goal is to help individuals to lead healthy and expressive lives while becoming stronger and more connected to their bodies.

Prior to returning to Northeast Ohio, Alyssa taught dance, Pilates, and fitness in the San Francisco Bay Area for 10 years. Alyssa is realizing her dreams of creating a studio in Cleveland that promotes wellness, movement, and fun.

"I created The Movement Factory to offer a unique space for adults that reminds us that movement is natural and our bodies inherently love to move – the more we move, the better we feel about ourselves, our health, and our lives. The Movement Factory is a welcoming and friendly stu-



Pilates Springboard Classes at The Movement Factory are just one example of the types of classes that are offered at this new business in the Lake Erie Building.

dio. The key to staying fit is finding a type of exercise that you look forward to, find fun, and truly enjoy doing," Alyssa says. Alyssa holds a Master in Fine Arts

in Dance Choreography and Performance from Mills College, Oakland, CA; is a Certified ZUMBA® Fitness instructor, and is a Pilates Method Alli-

ance Certified Pilates Mat & Equipment Instructor. Alyssa is also a dance professor at Cuyahoga Community College, and has served as a visiting professor at other colleges and universities, most recently The College of Wooster.

The Movement Factory offers group classes in Pilates Mat and Springboard, ZUMBA® Fitness, Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Ladies' Booty Camp, and others, along with private sessions. The studio is equipped with new Pilates equipment, ballet barres, yoga and fitness props. It also features a sprung floor system that is safe on knees and hips. The Movement Factory plans to offer classes in PiYo™ and Booty Barre® in upcoming months. Also scheduled are basic ballroom workshops, starting Saturday, February 16, at 7 p.m.

Please contact the studio at www.themovementfactory.com or (216) 712-4622 for more information. Visit The Movement Factory during their grand opening on February 9 from 3-9 p.m. to meet the instructors, take free mini classes, and find out what moves you!

Tess' Tender Touch Keeps Lakewood Gift-Giving Special!

by Theresa Ferline-Carr

Tess' Tender Touch Gift Shop, the home of Lakewood's most appreciated unique gifts, has recently made its new home at 16008 Detroit Avenue, next to Steve Barry Buick.

This past holiday season brought many exciting new artists to the shop, expanding quality gift ideas like never before. We pride ourselves in knowing that our locally made gifts keep our community thriving and fulfill its need for beautiful yet affordable gift-giving. And our special customizing makes Tess' Tender Touch gifts even more fun to give and receive!

Recent special events have included Cleveland Mossy Moran performing

his very own blend of Irish folk tunes, balloon-twisting by The Magic of Robert E., a food tasting with Wildtree Natural Foods, a jewelry party with Mary Kay Cosmetics and our own Denise Gill, and a paper-mache demonstration by Dollyn Doyle of Mache Originals. Visit our website (<http://www.tesstendertouch.com/>) to discover exciting upcoming events, or even to discuss hosting an event of your own!

Special celebrations of love like Valentine's Day are where our adorable gift shop really shines (Gentlemen, take note!). Tess' Tender Touch is THE one-stop shop for greeting cards and original, durable hand-painted glassware. Our complimentary gift-wrapping is a beautiful way to save time, too! You'll find everything from themed CD clocks, jewelry, stress-relieving eye pillows, Blaze gourmet salsa, beautifully knitted hats, gloves and baby blankets by Trudi Saunders, and Mind Over Matter children's books by our author Kasey Kellem, to T-shirts and soaps from Live Intense and a wonderful selection of quality Root candles.

When you stop in you'll find a wide selection of perfect items that will be sure to please anyone on your Valentine's Day gift list. If not, we can create it for you!

I want to thank everyone who made the special effort to shop local this past holiday season. As the owner of a growing small business in my home community, I

cannot express what it truly means to me that you shopped with us. Visit our website for more ideas and information, or stop in today for the very best selection.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Pulse Of The City

Black History Month In Lakewood:

A Letter To Lakewood, By Way Of Birmingham

It does not seem possible that fifty years have passed since Dr. Martin Luther King and some of his associates were incarcerated in the Birmingham (Alabama) city jail for civil disobedience actions relating to the Civil Rights Movement in the spring of 1963.

While in the Birmingham jail, King composed an open letter in response to some pastors who had questioned the necessity for King’s methods of non-violent civil disobedience. In that letter, King essentially laid out a thoughtful rationale for his actions, and also provided inspirational words that have guided many of my own thoughts and actions ever since I first read them.

That letter should be required reading every year in every school in this country.

As regular readers of my column know, through an utter coincidence of fate I found myself in Birmingham, Alabama, many times as a youngster. I almost got into trouble once for trying to drink out of the “wrong” fountain when I tried to discover what color the “colored water” was. Each spring break, or summer, depending on the weather and family circumstances, Mom and Dad would pack up the car and we’d go visit Mom’s southern relatives. At that time, her parents lived in a suburb of Birmingham. Little did we know that our family would end up converging with an epicenter of historic events of monumental proportions.

From those Alabama childhood memories, I can even recall one tepid moonlit evening when a relative drove us past a place where civil rights prisoners were being held. We could clearly, but faintly, hear them singing their freedom songs.

I haven’t stopped singing ever since that day.

There’s much here that I can write about those times, as well as some that I can’t, and even more that I won’t write about. I was pretty young during the time of the Birmingham demonstration, but that wasn’t the only demonstration that happened in the South during the decades of the ‘50s and ‘60s. In other northern Alabama towns where Mom’s relatives lived, there were other marches and often very dangerous violence. Around the time of the Birmingham troubles, a civil rights worker had even been shot and killed while walking along a highway. Several years before, on Mothers Day, 1961, a bus carrying “Freedom Riders” (people who were involved in the desegregation movement) had been bombed, and its occupants badly beaten not far from where our relatives lived. Tensions ran rampant in northern Alabama in those days. Adding to that tension, for my own little family, was the historic fact that invading

Ohio troops had once been heavily involved with Civil War conflicts in that area...and of course, we had an Ohio license plate on our car.

We might as well have painted a target on it.

Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time. (Or perhaps in retrospect, it was indeed the right place at the right time!) There were numerous occasions where my family was confronted by hostile looks, remarks, and potentially dangerous situations. Fortunately, we survived them all, but those experiences put an indelible mark on me regarding my empathy towards people whose rights had been denied to them because of the color of their skin. Those experiences also served me well when I went through some very similar prejudicial trauma due to my own speech and hearing so-called “disabilities.”

Speaking of which, by now, Lakewood, you must be feeling pretty smug and self-righteous. You’ve never had any race riots or other significant racial or discrimination troubles...have you? I mean, that sort of stuff just happened in the South....right?

Think again.
If I had a front row seat to what happened in Birmingham, so too have I had the displeasure of seeing and personally experiencing some of the more disguised but just-as-prevalent prejudice up here in the North. It was true that slavery never existed in Ohio, but have you ever asked yourself why some communities up North were virtually all-white, while others were not? There was a practice called “redlining” going on for years that discouraged “certain” people from moving to “white” communities. In other cases, those “certain” people who dared to move into “white” communities were often confronted with warnings, threats, arson and worse.

When cross-town school busing to achieve integration happened down South, many Northerners smiled in smug satisfaction with the thought that the South was getting what it deserved. When the same thing happened here in Cleveland and in other northern cities, there arose a hue and cry of self-righteous disbelief. Northerners simply couldn’t believe that they too were prejudiced. The truth be told, a significant part of the North was. People simply refused to come clean and admit it. Eventually, the practice of “redlining” became illegal. Interestingly, one of the only reasons that suburban communities like Lakewood escaped the desegregation order of cross-town busing was that, because they were separate governments and school districts, it

by Gary Rice

could not be proven that they had conspired to segregate people, even though it was blatantly apparent that, particularly here in Cuyahoga County, there were certainly reasons that primarily “white” cities had been quietly and unofficially kept “white” for many years.

There are many kinds of prejudice too. Racial prejudice during the 1960s was the big issue of course, but other forms of prejudice were also becoming apparent. There was also prejudice against people having physical or other so-called “disabilities.” With my own speech and hearing issues, I fit into that category, and I unfortunately suffered much in my childhood from you, Lakewood. I stand today as an eyewitness to your own inadequacies during those times.

To the best of my knowledge, I was the first person having a speech impediment to graduate from an Ohio college program for teachers. Back then, I had been informed that there were rules barring people having speech impediments from entering certain professions. I was even informed that I could probably never become a teacher because of my own speech impediment. Remembering the words of Dr. King, there was no stopping my efforts to enter the classroom as a teacher, and by 1973, I had done so. Disabled rights became a part of the civil rights picture in the mid 1970s, so whatever unfair rules there may have been were eventually found to

be unconstitutional.
These days, I have observed that things are very different in our schools, and in very positive ways. As a retired teacher and presently a Lakewood Schools volunteer, I have walked school hallways many times and have marveled at the wonderful and eclectic mix of humanity that comprises our student body. Acceptance of differences, whether racial or physical, has become the expectation for all Lakewood staff and students.
Still, are we all the way to the place, here in Lakewood, where all of this is behind us? Perhaps not yet. Our schools may be closing in on the goals of greater toleration and acceptance, but could our wider community be doing more than we have thus far to work for the social and economic justice that all people need so very much? Cities are indeed struggling with more limited resources these days, and that can adversely impact how we look at the ones who suffer in the socio-economic circumstances that presently surround us. While Lakewood has done much in the past few years to cosmetically beautify our external city, at the same time, have there not been any number of other significant civic, social, and moral issues that perhaps could have been better addressed? Are we REALLY working as hard to beautify our “internal” city as much as we are beautifying the “external” one? One thing’s for certain: The justice that Dr. King spoke of does indeed roll on, and will inevitably prevail.



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Lakewood Living

LHS Grad Bobby D Marks 35 Years As Tribe Executive

by Tom George

In February 1979 convicted bank robber and heiress Patty Hearst was pardoned by President Jimmy Carter. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power in Iran by overthrowing Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlav. The Cleveland Indians were eagerly anticipating the upcoming season with a quality lineup that included players such as Andre Thornton, Toby Harrah and Tom Veryzer, and in the front office Bobby DiBiasio began his career with the Tribe.

Thirty-five years later, DiBiasio, a 1973 Lakewood High School graduate, is Senior Vice President of the Cleveland Indians. His duties include being Team Spokesperson, Team Ambassador, head of the Indians Alumni Association and President of Cleveland Indians Charities.

Said DiBiasio, "I cannot imagine growing up in a more perfect setting than Lakewood, Ohio...I was born in 1955 and graduated from LHS in 1973..it has been said many times before, we lived in a community where everyone knew each other and everyone cared about one another. Fondest of memories was of riding our bikes from one end of town to the other - a baseball game in the morning, a softball game in the afternoon and a basketball game in the evening. My first job was as a scorekeeper at the High School Field with Bob Wonsen as the umpire. Riding bikes to Lakewood Park pool after our games. We would leave early in the morning,

play sports all day long- then head home when we got hungry."

Prior to joining the Indians in February of 1979, "Bobby D" worked for the Fremont News-Messenger. DiBiasio, like his two older brothers, completed his undergraduate studies at Ohio Wesleyan. He achieved his Masters in Journalism from Ohio State University in 1978.

"The most remarkable aspect of this job is the close friendship I have nurtured with so many players I grew up idolizing as a kid in Lakewood. To consider Sam McDowell, Larry Doby, Jr., Gary Bell, Jim (Mudcat) Grant, Davey Nelson, Max Alvis, Herb Score and Bob Feller.....to consider these gentlemen friends, guys I grew up rooting for...is special," said DiBiasio.

"There is a long list of guys who I've had the privilege of working alongside. Early in my career, Duane Kuiper, Joe Charboneau, Rick Manning, Lenny Barker, Rick Sutcliffe.. the middle of my career Joe Carter,

Pat Tabler, Tom Candiotti and that group in the mid 80s and then the 90s guys with Charles Nagy, Carlos Baerga, Sandy Alomar Jr., Kenny Lofton, Omar Vizquel..and this current group has some fun guys... but the group from the 90s, because of the winning and how we turned the town upside down, has to be the top of the list," reflected Bobby D.

After 35 years DiBiasio has many, many behind-the-scenes stories.

Fan favorite shortstop Omar Vizquel was, according to Bobby D, a "renaissance man." "Artist, musician, fashion-ista...he would paint at the ballpark," said DiBiasio.

"Charles Nagy always visited the children's hospitals in town - and rarely said anything to us about it...I learned of his visits through the hospital PR people," said DiBiasio.

"Most players engaged in charity work and wanted to do so without any fanfare..which is tough for a PR guy who begged them to talk about it," lamented DiBiasio.

"Bert Blyleven was one of the funniest guys ever in the clubhouse... really took it upon himself to make sure the clubhouse was a fun place, to lessen the stress and pressure that comes with being a professional athlete. Manny Ramirez was like that as well--a fun loving guy. Vinnie Pestano may be that guy today," said DiBiasio.

DiBiasio has a special fondness for the Indians Fantasy Camp, held every winter for fans who "hold baseball in a special place." The connection of generations is one of the four guiding commitments of the Indians organization.

DiBiasio's father, of course, was a long-time teacher, coach and administrator at Lakewood High School. There is a street sign at the corner of Bunts and Franklin proclaiming the intersection as "Tony DiBiasio Square."

"And I cannot imagine growing up with two better parents...I owe everything I've achieved to my mom, dad and two older brothers. The values that we hold dear, I learned from them--respect, doing the right thing, equality, courage, community, self-expression, love, opportunity."

Like many successful individuals, DiBiasio is eager to "pass it forward." His advice for those in college considering a career in sports management? "Take advantage of all that is available on the college campus. Work with the Athletic Department--in operations and event management, marketing, communications...get a taste of all disciplines to see what fits your personality and skill set. And read about the business of sports to keep current on trends in the industry. Sports Business Journal is the best way to do that," said DiBiasio.

For outside interests to a person employed in the sports industry, DiBiasio says, "I'm a golf nut." He also likes to travel--"...we like Vegas," he added.

Bobby DiBiasio carries his family values and Lakewood values with him each and every day. 35 years and going strong...Go Tribe!

Tom George can be reached at 440-734-8177 or TJGeorge1369@msn.com.

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Lakewood Living

Coffee With The Subconscious

Handwriting Connections

by Betty Rozakis

Life is about relationships....

In my last column I mentioned that Ken Warren felt comfortable enough to give me a handwriting sample. It took Jim O'Bryan a few fidgety attempts to ease into his comfort zone. At least he didn't run out of the Blackbird Bakery door like another Lakewood dignitary when I asked him for a sample of his handwriting.

Let's talk about the relationship between Kenneth Warren, former Director of Lakewood Library and Jim O'Bryan, Publisher of Lakewood Observer. What does their handwriting reveal about their connection?

Ken is relaxed and comfortable in

his mind. His sensitive intellect is the type that inspires great ideals. Socially compassionate at heart, he's quite shy and rather timid. He prefers to avoid compromises and fears confrontation. He feels stronger with greater confidence when he's alone.

What about this influential Jim O'Bryan? The most dominant characteristic of Jim's handwriting is his persevering energy to fight for the underdog. His character can't help it!

Why did these seemingly opposite characters enter my life with SSSSoooo much powerful meaning? Are they for real?

Both Ken and Jim are disciplined in their endeavors with a natural

interest and affection for people. They both understand social, political and economic problems, but it's Jim who is more confident asserting himself with others. Ken's receptive intelligence wants to adapt and communicate with people. But his cerebral mind needs Jim's help to shift gears to his instincts.

Provocative in his approach, Jim can be quite stubborn and obstinate. Jim's active imagination sometimes has the tendency to complicate things about himself unnecessarily. This is where Ken's critical mind helps Jim sort out the unnecessary from the relevant.

I'm also a beneficiary of Ken's

sharp penetrating mind. He wrote that my book, 'Coffee with the Subconscious' is, "above all, a love story clad in graphology." I knew in my heart that my book was a love story, but couldn't express it.

Whose relationship is ready for the Coffee with the Subconscious column? Love to hear from you... coffeewithb@gmail.com.

Betty Rozakis is a Graphologist/author and resident of Lakewood. She earned her Advanced Diploma from the British Academy of Graphology and her BA in History from Baldwin-Wallace College. She enjoys walking her Golden Doodle, Ella along Clifton Beach.

Lakewood Resident Celebrates 104th Birthday

by David T. O'Neill

On January 22, 2013, long time Lakewood resident Margaret Steffen celebrated her 104th birthday with family and friends at Lakewood Senior Health Campus. Margaret, who has lived on the campus since 2004, received a proclamation from the Mayor's office, shared in coffee, songs, and birthday cake. Margaret's daughter, Joan, thanked the staff for their compassionate care that she has received over the past 8 years. Margaret has lived in Lakewood since 1960, and she

went to daily mass at St. Luke's, even walking from the Westerly when they no longer drove. Happy Birthday to Margaret!

Lakewood Senior Health Campus, an O'Neill Management facility, is Lakewood's only retirement community featuring Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing & Rehab services. We are located at 13900 Detroit Avenue on the northeast corner of Bunts and Detroit. For more information please call 216-228-7650 or visit www.jtonm.net.



LSHC resident Margaret Steffen is 104!

Former McKinley

Elementary To Be

Put Up For Sale

continued from page 9

Taft in the best shape of the two, it is feasible that it would be used as transition space during the final phase of the district construction project. Franklin will be needed for LCA until the high school is completed and Lakewood City Academy can move into LHS.

"With the market finally improving and our final phase of construction drawing nearer, this was the right time to consider a sale. In the long run, it will be less costly for the district," said Superintendent Jeff Patterson.

Earned Income Tax Credit Program- Free Tax Preparation

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga County Vita Tax Sites located at Southgate and Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Centers

Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition will be hosting free tax preparation services as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Last year in Cuyahoga County, the VITA Program served over 10,600 people and brought back more than \$12 million to the community. County VITA sites are at the County's Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC) and at the Southgate NFSC. Westshore NFSC is located at 9830 Lorain Ave, Cleve-

land Ohio 44102; the hours of service are Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Southgate NFSC is located at 5398 1/2 Northfield Rd, Maple Heights Ohio 44137; the hours of service are Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To schedule an appointment call 211/United Way First Call for Help.

Returns will be prepared and filed by IRS certified tax-preparers and completed while the tax-payer waits. All returns will be screened for eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2012 earned income less than \$50,270, and must be

filing a simple return.

Tax-payers should remember to bring: Current photo I.D., Social Security cards for each adult and child on the return, W2 and 1099 income statements, child care expense statement and provider's Tax I.D. Number, Form 1099-INT for any checking or savings accounts as well as bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit.

Community members who want to volunteer to prepare taxes can register online at www.refundohio.org. Free training available to become an IRS certified tax preparer.

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\$125 OFF any furnace or A/C installation
SALES ■ SERVICE ■ INSTALLATION