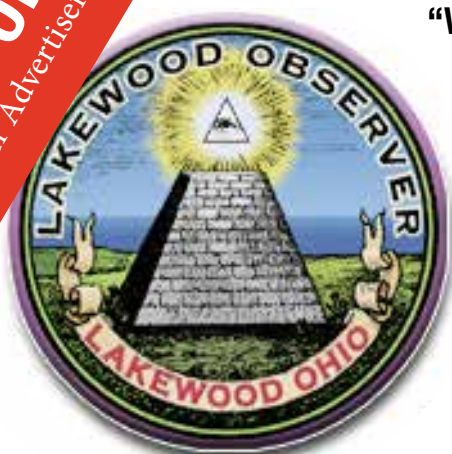


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"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

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Volume 12, Issue 25, December 6, 2016

LCAC Does It Again At Thanksgiving!

Food & Volunteers Needed For Christmas Food Drive

by Celia Dorsch

Despite the weather and a malfunctioning truck lift, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation's (LCAC) Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution was an amazing success! In the face of plummeting temperatures and freezing rain, a record number of volunteers showed up to help the LCAC to sort and bag non-perishable food items as well as deliver turkeys, potatoes, pies and all the fixings to 300 of our Lakewood neighbors in need so that they could enjoy a full Thanksgiving meal with their families.

Over 14,700 pounds of food were assembled through school non-perishable drives and monetary contributions - from individual donors, businesses, schools and organizations in our community. That's over 7 tons of food (or the equivalent of 2

grown elephants)! Way to go Lakewood!

But we need your help for Christmas! Right now, LCAC is gearing up to deliver its second round of holiday food baskets to another 300 residents for the Christmas Holiday. Between now and December 15th, LCAC encourages Lakewood residents to drop off gifts of non-perishable food items at Lakewood Hardware, or any one of the following schools: Emerson, Garfield, Grant, Harding, Harrison, Lakewood City Academy, Lincoln or Roosevelt.

Beginning Friday, December 16th, LCAC calls on the community to volunteer. Many hands are needed to sort the canned food donations prior to home deliveries on Saturday, December 17th. Bring your family and friends. This service opportunity is open to all ages. Specific times,

dates and volunteer needs are listed below:

Where?

Lakewood Masonic Temple - 15300 Detroit Ave.

Enter through NE door near rear parking lot

When?

Friday, December 16th

10 a.m.-2 p.m. - food donations are sorted and prepped for bagging

6-7 p.m. - non-perishable food bags are filled

Saturday, December 17th

9-10:30 a.m. - perishable

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Volunteers of all ages help at LCAC's annual events!

Local Food, Handcrafts At LEAF Holiday Market On December 20

by Lisa Hofmann

Buy local for the holidays! At LEAF's Holiday Market on Tuesday, December 20, you can find fresh, seasonal produce in addition to a variety of locally made food items and handmade crafts. The market is from 5:30-8 p.m. at Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Ave in Lakewood.

Enjoy local foods for your holiday meals: Order a CSA

share of seasonal produce to pick up that evening. (Order in advance by December 13 at cityfresh.org.)

Fuel up for shopping with hot, homemade soups and cookies, available to eat on site.

Local vendors will be selling a variety of handmade items, including soaps, ceramics, yarns, pasta, sauces & salsas, upcycled bags, birch wood dec-

continued on page 2



Get your last minute shopping done at LEAF's Holiday Market on December 20 at Garfield Middle School.

Indoor Track Gets Final Go-Ahead

by Christine Gordillo

The Board of Education at its Nov. 21 meeting approved a change order for construction at Lakewood High to include an indoor elevated track. This was the final piece of the puzzle that needed to be completed in order for construction of the track to move ahead.

The track, which will cost approximately \$1 million, will be paid for mostly with a generous dona-

tion made by First Federal Lakewood. It will be built atop the current gym under construction in the new athletic wing of the high school at the corner of Bunts and Franklin. The track should be open to the community in November 2017.

Other aspects of the high school construction are moving along according to schedule. The new academic wing, which is being com-

pleted on Robinwood Avenue behind the west wing of the school, will be open on Jan. 3 when students and staff return from Winter Break. There will be an Open House on January 24 from 6-8 p.m. to tour the new wing. The cafeteria is slated to be open for students in April 2017 and the performing arts and athletic wing, minus the gym, is scheduled to open in August 2017.

Bike Repair Stand Installed At Lakewood Public Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Lakewood Public Library recently installed a stainless steel bicycle repair stand. Located in front of the Main Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue, the stand includes an air pump and other tools necessary to perform bicycle repairs and maintenance from inflating or changing flat tires to adjusting brakes and derailleurs.

The stand's purchase was made possible by a generous gift from The Friends of Lakewood Public Library. Its installation was welcomed by members of Bike Cleveland and Bike Lakewood, local non-profit advocacy groups for bicyclists. Ryan Sheldon, owner of Beat Cycles, stated: "It's amazing to see other organizations embracing bike culture."



Pictured above, standing behind the new bike repair stand are Keith Pishnery and Ryan Sheldon (Bike Lakewood); Rob Thompson (Spin Bike Shop); Eileen Wilbourn (President of the Friends of Lakewood Public Library); Debby Gorencic,

Theresa Quint, Terry Pederson, Kelly Kirkbride, and Maureen Slivka (Friends Volunteers); and Gregory Christian and Kevin King, (Library Maintenance). Not pictured are Amanda Harland (Bike Lakewood) and Jacob VanSickle (Bike Cleveland).

Lakewood Observer

Local Food, Handcrafts At LEAF Holiday Market On December 20

continued from page 1

orations, jams, baked goods, handmade toys & pillows, pierogis, crochet crafts, local honey, knit accessories, cookbooks and more. Vendors include:

- Breadheads Breadery
- Sugar Arts Bakehouse
- Cleveland Soap Co
- Gina DeSantis Ceramics
- Belt Publishing
- Community Greenhouse Partners
- CLE Hugs and Cookies
- Cleveland Postcard Club
- Little Lakewood Pasta
- Blaze Gourmet
- Crochet Til Death/ The CuddleCult
- Sugar Arts Bakehouse

- Cleveland Recycles
- Knit Happens
- Laughing Cat Fibers
- Jenci: Upcycled bags
- Pillows Full of Joy
- Blue Moon Art
- 8th Street Studio
- St. Croix Farms
- Doten Apiaries
- Tupperware & Fight Like aGirl Foundation
- Thee Faerie Ring Arts and Crafts
- Crafty Mom: handcrafted items
- Poppy Kitchen: Pierogis
- Find up-to-date information at www.facebook.com/leafcommunity.org/ or email leafcommunity@gmail.com.



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City

Analysis Shows Ohio Workers Will Suffer From GOP Unemployment Compensation Plan

by Michael Skindell

State Senator Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) recently spoke out against proposed changes to Ohio's unemployment compensation fund because the legislation unfairly punishes workers. A fiscal analysis of SB 374, conducted by the non-partisan Legislative Service Commission (LSC), found that the financial burden for getting the unemployment fund to solvency would fall 83% on workers and only 17% on business owners.

"In the past, business and labor leaders got together to work out a fair deal to

keep Ohio's unemployment system fully funded. But there's nothing fair about this plan," said Senator Skindell. "Unemployed workers are being hit with massive benefit cuts while businesses will still be paying less than they did in the 1990s when you take inflation into consideration."

The LSC analysis determined that employees would lose \$3.5 billion in benefits if SB 374 is enacted while businesses would be expected to pay only \$715 million in additional taxes. The modest increase in the wage base for employment taxes from \$9,000 to

\$11,000 is the first adjustment since 1995—a change that still leaves it below the national average of \$13,500.

"This plan amounts to another gift to the business community which has already benefited from billions of dollars in tax cuts and reductions in worker's compensation premiums," Senator Skindell said. "The General Assembly should take a fair approach through true negotiation and recognition that the fund is insolvent because businesses have been given a pass for 20 years."

Only 24% of the state's unemployed workers currently receive any benefits because Ohio has very high eligibility requirements. SB 374 does nothing to correct this injustice and cuts benefits even further.



State Senator Michael J. Skindell

Food & Volunteers Needed For Christmas Food Drive

continued from page 1

foods are bagged, and all items are prepped to deliver

10:30 a.m.-noon – drivers deliver food baskets to 300 Lakewood households

Saturday activities are held outdoors, regardless of the weather! Please dress accordingly.

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit us at www.LCAC.info or check out our Facebook page at Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.

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Lakewood Public Library

Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, December 7

Art to Go: Artists of Our Region

Cleveland Museum of Art staff and trained volunteers will visit the Library with genuine art objects from the museum’s collection. Patrons will be introduced to 20th-century artists who studied and worked at local cultural institutions, schools, and production workshops such as the Cleveland Institute of Art, Karamu House, Huntington Polytechnic, and Cowan Pottery Studio. These interactive sessions offer a unique hands-on experience, engaging learners of all ages. Registration is required. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Thursday, December 8

Math Success - A Series for Parents with Struggling Students

Get advice, tips and tricks from teachers from Lakewood’s Elementary, Middle, and High Schools that will help your student succeed at math, school and beyond. Tonight we will discuss “Family Fun That Will Also Develop and Strengthen Math Intuition.”

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 10

Film - “He Got Game” (1998)

Spike Lee presents a biting take on basketball recruitment and the pressures on young athletes. Jesus Shuttlesworth (Ray Allen) is a senior at a New York City high school and the top-ranked basketball player in the country. His father Jake (Denzel Washington) is released from jail at the same time that recruiters come around to offer Jesus a scholarship. In order to stay out of jail, it’s up to Jake to convince his son to go to the governor’s alma mater.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 11

Concert - Sommerfugl

Sommerfugl, pronounced “summer fool” is Danish for “butterfly.” With Holly Overton on violin and William Drake on guitar, their instrumentation is a journey. They share a fondness for love songs and torch songs, and their harmonies are rich and delicate. Their most recent album, Somewhere on the Wind, is a twelve song breezy ride influenced by Peter, Paul and Mary and Sam and Dave. Their warmth will remind you of when your grass was green and not covered in snow.

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, December 13

Poetry Workshop

The evening will start by getting inspired by writing free verse poetry and leafing through some of the Library’s poetry collection. Once things get moving, attendees will tackle the Sestina, a challenging yet entertaining form of poetry that consists of six six-line stanzas and a three-line envoi. Any poetry created at the workshop that writers would like to share will be displayed within the library after the workshop. This workshop will be facilitated by the nominee of the Cleveland Arts prize, Kisha Nicole Foster, a poet, educator, coach and mentor from Cleveland, Ohio.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, December 14

Distance Learning: America Enduring

The Cleveland Museum of Art’s award-winning distance learning program connects Library patrons with the museum to enrich their study of history, languages, science, math and the visual arts. Through live videoconferencing, described as an interactive PBS show, students view art and artifacts from around the world while sharing in two-way conversations with museum educators. In “America Enduring,” patrons will explore the period from 1913, three years before the Library’s founding, to 1945, an era that includes unprecedented prosperity, the Great Depression, social and political change during the interwar period, and the artistic reaction to European influence: regionalism.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 17

Film - “Wild at Heart” (1990)

In this road movie, nothing is normal. After being released from prison for brutally beating a man, Sailor Ripley (Nicholas Cage) and his lover, Lula Fortune (Laura Dern), ride off in a convertible. Lula’s mother, Marietta (played by Dern’s real-life mother, Diane Ladd) is incensed at the relationship and will do anything in her power to stop it.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 18

Concert - Mike and Mary

Jazz and pop duo Mike Elkins and Mary Osburn have been performing the music of the Great American Songbook for over seven years. Although they were children of the 60s, Elkins and Osburn were influenced by the musical tastes of their parents. Mike’s father was a high school band and choral director, and Mike has been playing piano While Mike and Mary share a love for composers like Cy Coleman and Rogers and Hart, they also take great delight in rediscovering wonderful standards that originated in long forgotten Broadway shows and introducing them to new audiences.

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2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, December 20

Open Mic Night Hosted by Eric Odum

Open mic nights are a great place to hear amazing artists showcase their work, or a perfect stepping stone to introducing your own writing. Whether you are an experienced performer, or a curious novice, our enigmatic host Eric Odum will make you feel right at home. This event is intergenerational and strongly encourages creative spirits of all ages to share their poetry and prose! The open mic will be followed by a performance by Lakewood Public Library’s own Zena Smith, who will be reading from her most recent book, Fracture.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Wednesday, December 21

Talk - R. Guy Cowan in Lakewood and Beyond

Cowan Pottery is a distinctive form of American art pottery that was produced in Lakewood from 1912 to 1917 and then in Rocky River from 1920 to 1931. It was the only art pottery in Northeast Ohio and, during its heyday, was recognized as one of the leading potteries of the nation. Lauren Hansgen, curator of the Cowan Pottery Museum at Rocky River Public Library, will speak on the history of Cowan, including its Lakewood beginnings.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Children & Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Thursday, December 8 through December 29

Comic Crash Course

For students in fifth through eighth grade

Join us for a four-week crash course in writing, illustrating, and publishing comic books. Registration required.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Saturday, December 10

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.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Tuesday, December 20

Explore the World of Mining and Crafting

For students in kindergarten through fourth grade

Combine your two favorite things in a fun building program for kids: Lego and Mine-craft! Registration required.

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Madison Branch Auditorium.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

Poetry Comes Alive At The Lakewood Public Library

by Patrick Connolly

What was born in France, has thirty-nine lines and repeats itself? A sestina, silly! This poetic form, which dates back to the twelfth century, has been used over the years by poets old and new, including Dante and Petrarch, as well as Ezra Pound, Elizabeth Bishop and John Ashbery.

On Tuesday, December 13 at 6 p.m., the Library will host a poetry

workshop in the Main Library Multipurpose Room where patrons are encouraged to attempt this beautiful and challenging form. The workshop will be facilitated by Kisha Nicole Foster, a Cleveland Arts Prize nominated poet from Cleveland.

The following Tuesday, December 20 at 7 p.m., patrons can put their workshop experience to use as the

continued on page 14



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Roman Fountain is one of the most well-known and loved pizzeria in Lakewood, Ohio. Roman Fountain has been serving up pizza since the mid 1950's with award winning pizza, calzone, stromboli, subs, pasta, wings, and salads.

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Lakewood Public Library

Cowen Pottery At The Lakewood Public Library

by Hiam Jawhari

A piece of history originated and resides here in Lakewood. Cowan Pottery Studio was one of the leading potteries in the 1920s. Reginald Guy Cowan was born to a family of potters. His great fondness of pottery led him to establish a studio in a barn on Euclid and E. 107th Street. In 1913, he discontinued teaching to move his pottery to Nicholson Avenue in Lakewood. He closed his pottery studio to serve in the United States Armed Forces between 1917-19.

After his return - and with the help of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce - he established a workshop at 19633 Lake Road in Rocky River. Cowan was successful and employed a number of people to produce around 175,000 pieces a year. A number of department stores were also selling his pottery. However, the company did not survive the Great

Depression in 1931 and was forced to close its doors. Today, the Cowan Pottery Museum holds over 1300 pieces of art.

Lakewood Public Library Main Branch is welcoming Lauren Hansgen, curator of Cowan Pottery Museum at the Rocky River Library, to speak on the history of the Cowan. Mark your calendars: Wednesday, December 21st at 7 p.m, in the Main Library Auditorium.



A figurine from the famed Cowan Pottery crafted here in Northeast Ohio.

Make Something Old, New Again!

by Fran Storch

Are you wondering what to do to keep the kids busy during winter break? Bring them to Lakewood Public Library for some upcycling fun! Students in third through eighth grade are invited to join us for Upcycling: from Rags to Riches on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

What's upcycling? It's taking an item that is no longer wanted or needed and giving it new life as something useful or creative. Children will learn how to transform old clothing into new treasures. Turn an old t-shirt into a strand necklace, infinity scarf or tote bag.

Get ready for the cold weather and rework an old sweater into a slouch beanie with matching mittens. Alter a men's dress shirt into an apron to wear while cooking or crafting at home. Learn to sew a softie, a small stuffed toy, using fabrics and findings with the help of an experienced seamstress

No experience is necessary to participate in this program. Some materials are provided but participants must bring an old t-shirt, sweater, or oversized men's button-down dress shirt which will be cut up for their upcycling projects.

Space is limited for this creative program and registration is required so sign up your children today. To



Transform a moth-eaten sweater into a cool slouch beanie.



Turn an old t-shirt into an infinity scarf.

register, stop by the Children's & Youth Services desk at the Main Library, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth and click on the yellow Register for Programs box.



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Schools

Support Class Of 2019's Easter Seals Drive

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood High's Class of 2019 is hosting a fundraiser with Easter Seals for the sophomore class. An Easter Seals truck will be in the North Lot on Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations of clothing as well as housewares, personal accessories, shoes, purses, books, and toys will be collected. Furniture, stuffed animals, pillows, construction material, or food are not permitted.

For every pound of clothing donated, Easter Seals will donate 20

cents to the sophomore class. For every pound of everything else like housewares, Easter Seals will donate 5 cents to the sophomore class.

The clothing and all items need to be bagged or boxed. Clothing should not be packaged with the other items since a different amount of money is

given for the weight of the clothing. The students will also be collecting donations in boxes outside of the LHS lunchroom as well from December 5-9.

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Lakewood Music Boosters:

Holiday Concerts, Light Up Lakewood And LMB Local Discount Cards

by Tiffany Fox

Ring in the holiday season with the Lakewood Music Boosters!!

Join the LMB at the Civic Auditorium for the following Winter Concerts:

- December 6th Camerata orchestra and Symphonic Band 7:30 p.m.
- December 7th LHS Winter Choral Concert 7:30 p.m.
- December 8th 6th Grade Winter Concert 7:30 p.m.
- December 14th Sounds of the Season Concert 7:30 p.m.
- December 15th Sounds of the Season Concert 7:30 p.m.

Many of Lakewood's talented musical groups were also featured at Light Up Lakewood this past Saturday, December 3rd.

And if you're looking for a wonderful gift idea, look no further!!

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Sports

Crosstown Hoops Rivalry Returns To A Packed House

by Mike Deneen

After a ten year hiatus, Lakewood and St. Edward renewed their basketball rivalry Friday night at the Eagles' Nest. They played their first regular season game since 2006, and the opening night event attracted a packed house. The Rangers and Eagles split the freshman and Junior Varsity games, but the Eagles dominated the varsity contest 106-51.

The crosstown matchup delivered intense energy for an early season game. Ranger fans packed the west side of the gym, and their student section was very loud throughout the evening. Eagle supporters packed the east side, while St. Edward students looked on from the stage at the north side of the building. The crowd was entertained

by a pair of close early contests. In the freshman game, the Rangers drained a three-pointer at the final buzzer to force overtime. They then went on to win the game 56-52, delighting the fans in purple. The JV game was another close contest, tied after three quarters. The Eagles escaped with a win, setting up the main event of the evening.

The Rangers entered the varsity game with their largest lineup in decades, including 6'9" senior Jacob Sala and 6' 5" juniors Andy Garcia and Raekwon Whitfield. The Eagles returned 6' 7" 275 pound Senior Kelvin Calhoun, a formidable inside presence. They also featured strong guard play from senior Thomas Schmock, who recently signed a letter

of intent to play college basketball at Findlay.

Ranger guard Chris Golden hit a three pointer to make the game 9-6 St. Edward with 5:22 left in the first period. The Eagles then used strong three point shooting and free throws to open the lead to 30-11 after the first quarter. The Rangers played much better in the second quarter, outscoring the Eagles 15-14. Whitfield and Sala each hit a pair of important buckets, and senior Blake Setta made a three pointer to make the game 38-24 with 2:15 left in the half. That shot capped a 13-6 Ranger run that energized the large contingent of purple in the stands.

The second half was all Eagles, as Schmock and sophomore Demetrius Terry helped build a 30 point lead by the end of the third quarter, and the lead continued to grow with substitutes in the game during the fourth quarter. Schmock, Calhoun, and junior guard PJ Flannery

each had 10 points for the Eagles. Reserves Michael Dowell and Elliott Tirbaso had 9 and 13 points, respectively. Freshman Grant Huffman was impressive in his first high school game, scoring 13 off the bench. The Eagles, now 1-0, will host three more home games before traveling to San Diego on December 26 for a holiday tournament. They host Cornerstone Christian on December 9, and Glenville on December 17.

Golden and Whitfield led the Ranger scoring, each with 10 points on the night. Sala scored 9 points in the post, and guard Omar Ibrahim had 8 points on the night. Setta finished the game with a total of 6 points. The Rangers next game will be Friday December 9 at home against SWC foe Berea-Midpark. They will also host SWC opponents on December 16 (Avon Lake) and 20 (North Olmsted). The Rangers are playing this year's home games at Harding Middle School.

Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department Youth & Adult Athletic Commission Volunteer Openings

by Rick Wallenhorst

The Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department is in the process of filling two (2) vacancies on the Youth Athletic Commission (YAC) and one (1) vacancy on the Adult Athletic Commission (AAC). The ideal candidate(s) should have expertise and/or experience in the areas of recreation, education, or general program participation. All interested candidates must reside in Lakewood. Monthly meetings, subcommittee work, as well as participation in community events, are among the time requirements.

YAC meetings take place on the 2nd Monday of each month, in the Board of Education building beginning

at 6:30 p.m. AAC meetings take place on the 4th Monday of each month in the Board of Education building, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Youth and Adult Athletic Commissions members are interviewed and selected by the Community Recreation and Education Commission (CREC), which is an advisory commission appointed by the Lakewood City Schools Board of Education.

All interested candidates should send a letter of interest to: The Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department, c/o Leslie Favre Krogman, 1456 Warren Road, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 or an email correspondence to leslie.krogman@lakewoodcityschools.org.

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Lakewood Cares

Can't It Be December 26 Already? Exploring Hope In Hardship

Advent: A Season Of Hope

by Nicole Shedden on behalf of Lakewood Anglican

For some of us, the statement “It’s the most wonderful time of the year” couldn’t be further from the truth. With all the decorations and merriment December brings, the day we’re most anxious for is the 26th. Grief, apathy and hardship can make the Christmas season anything from annoying to unbearable. So this year, instead of focusing on Christmas day, concentrate on Advent. Advent isn’t about presents, trees, dinners and decorations. It invites you to a place of quiet and reflection. And it challenges you to both look into and past your circumstances.

“Hope is the power of being cheerful in circumstances that we know to be desperate,” writes G.K. Chesterton in an essay discussing virtues. (1) The difficulty of this statement is obvious. Desperate circumstances seem to call for despair, not hope.

What are you hoping for, or what did you once hope for before you hardened your heart against believing it could happen? Reunion with an estranged family member? Recovery from an illness? An adequate job? Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing if these desires will ever be fulfilled. The hope Advent calls us to

contemplate is different. It lies not in an uncertain future event but in a fulfilled past one. While Christmas emphasizes the joy of new birth, Advent offers the whole story – a story that wouldn’t be complete without hardship.

When humankind was in a position that seemed hopeless, God sent a rescuer. Born in humble conditions, Jesus wasn’t familiar with luxury. As an adult, he spent his time with the unlovable. His hometown drove him out. His dear friend died. People in power plotted to kill him, and they eventually succeeded. Even God’s own son wasn’t immune to suffering.

God’s rescuer came as one who could empathize, as one who cared deeply for people – all people. “I came so that you might have life and have it abundantly,” he proclaimed. (2) He “came to seek and to save the lost.”³ How does Jesus the rescuer offer hope? “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”⁴

Later in the essay, Chesterton wrote “Exactly at the instant when hope ceases to be reasonable it begins to be useful.” This Advent season, I challenge you to reflect on this statement in light of the story of Jesus Christ.

If you’re looking for a place where your grief, apathy or hardship fit in this joyous season, join us at Lakewood Anglican. We are like you: people with sorrows but also with hope.

Lakewood Anglican Church meets Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. at the corner of Madison and Saint Charles. Find us at www.lakewoodanglican.com. We look forward to celebrating this season of hope with you!

(1) Chesterton’s essay “Paganism and Mr. Lowes Dickinson” published in his book *Heretics*.

(2) John 10:10. 3. Luke 19:10. 4. John 3:17

Advent: A Season Of Love

by Anna Sutton on behalf of Lakewood Anglican

In the year and a half since having my son, I have received a wide range of parenting advice (some solicited and some not), but the most helpful advice was also the simplest: “Just love him lots.” It sounds easy but has proved to be unexpectedly challenging. From sleep training to tantrums, I find myself regularly wondering how best to “love him lots.” Is it through discipline and firm boundaries? Is it through tenderness and letting go of my plans for the day? Most often I have found the

truest love to be somewhere within a difficult balance of many extremes.

As a Christian and a member of the Anglican church, seeking this balance between extremes has brought clarity to life in ways I couldn’t have expected. The Anglican church famously seeks balance. They are the compromise between catholic and evangelical; the church that appreciated Luther’s complaints, but hesitated to throw out centuries of tradition and thought that shaped the Church to that point. Anglicanism seeks to give people a clear boundary of truth and then set

them free to live within those boundaries as they see fit.

The struggle for balance can be seen in a variety of areas in the Christian walk. It’s challenging to read the Old Testament filled with judgement and law and understand it in light of the New Testament filled with love and grace. However, as I seek to love my son I have learned to appreciate in incredible complexity of God’s love for humankind. God is love, He has struck the perfect balance. He has done the impossible and loved every last member of the human race perfectly. This love story-the gospel of Christ’s life,

continued on page 15



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Lakewood Cares

Dead Flowers:

A Small Consideration On The Heroin Pandemic

by Matthew K. Weiland
“Well when you’re sitting back
in your rose-pink Cadillac
Making bets on Kentucky Derby Day
I’ll be in my basement room
with a needle and a spoon
And another girl to take my pain away.”
- Mick Jagger/Keith Richards – Dead Flowers

[In the following personal stories, names have been changed for the sake of discretion.]

STEVEN WAS IN THE BACK SEAT when he noticed Amir, riding shotgun, opening his backpack and beginning to assemble his gear. Andy was driving. The three, all around 22, were heading out toward Nelson’s Ledges, getting high on sour diesel, with no destination in mind. “Pull up over here,” Amir told Andy.

“Dude,” said Andy. “You’re not doing that right now.”

“Duuuuude,” mimicked Amir. “Pull up over here.”

Andy finally did so as Amir proceeded with an air of ritual, one which Steven had never seen in person. Amir did his thing—the alcohol swab, the cook, the vein reconnaissance, the tie-off, the spike, the injection—Steven and Andy watching from their respective spots, mesmerized by the flow of motion, the concentration of purpose.

When Amir finished up, he lit a cigarette and Andy continued driving. “He didn’t look any more high than we did,” says Steven. “There was no nodding out. He was alert. He was funny.”

Steven says Amir was a smart kid, a mechanic, genuine and generous. He says Amir insisted on burying his used needle a few feet deep in the ground of the Ledges so no kids would happen upon it. “It was the first time I ever saw anyone do heroin,” says Steven. “It didn’t seem like any big deal.”

Four days later, Amir’s mom found her son dead on his bed in his room, a casualty of the Fentanyl-laced batches that have made the rounds throughout the region this year.

THERE ARE NO FRESH TAKES on the ‘heroin thing.’ The clinical forensics, the cryptic obituaries of young folks, the Facebook elegies of death and loss, the sad stories told of snuffed-out promise and broken lives - They are all well-documented. Google “Cuyahoga County heroin overdoses” and the headlines tell the tale:

“Seven dead from heroin, fentanyl overdoses in one day in Cuyahoga County”

“Cuyahoga County sees 47 heroin overdose deaths in July”

“August is the deadliest month for heroin, fentanyl overdoses in Cuyahoga County”

It all becomes another sort of white noise abstraction, the daily dose of everything that processes and filters and is expelled without much connection. Oh, another someone passed? God, that’s sad—What time’s the game?

But then one day, you see a Face-

book post from a bartender you know, 27 turning 28, who has seen some 15 cohorts disappear from her Harding Middle School and Lakewood High School class pictures. Young people in their prime, all relatively healthy and happening. These aren’t Iggy Pop protégés. These are kids with game and stride. Her post laments the loss of so many in a small community in so short a time. And the post is met with dozens of comments echoing the cry while listing further names of neighborhood friends who’ve OD’d, a Jim Carroll-esque litany of the people who’ve died. And it becomes clear that nearly everyone in this metropolitan inner-suburb knows someone who has lost someone to heroin or fentanyl or opioid use and addiction. Everyone has a sadness.

LAKESWOOD HAS LONG BEEN A THIRSTY TOWN with a college campus Friday night atmosphere. With the miracle miles of taverns stretching along Madison and Detroit Avenues, there are plenty of places to convene and always a fellow quenching traveler to hoist one with. Add to that the ancillaries of cannabis and cocaine, maybe the occasional mushrooms or ecstasy—Often all it’s taken is a phone call to create a party.

But heroin, while not new, has taken a different form, far from the shooting gallery skid row film it had in previous decades. You can snort it? Like blow? No needles, no track marks? Hmm.

Think “Pulp Fiction,” with Eric Stoltz in his bathrobe explaining his wares to Vincent Vega, maybe John Travolta’s coolest role. Eric Stoltz produces three phat baggies of boutique, high-grade heroin, describing them with the same salesmanship as a Porsche dealer. Number three grade from Mexico, very good, \$200 per gram. - Number two grade from the same region, excellent, \$300 per gram. - And number one grade - “Panda” - ultra pure and powerful, cultivated and culled from the mountains of Germany, \$500 per gram. It’s smart. It’s funny. It looks and sounds pretty cool.

Eventually, we see the choreography of Vincent’s ritual—the blood floating up the syringe synthesizing with the cook then flowing back into his veins—ultimately dissolving into the image of Vincent driving in his convertible, magical as the music swells with pulsation and his Euro hair extensions flow in the Los Angeles night. Hardly an aversion therapy for the heroin.

JACKIE HASN’T SPOKEN TO HER OLDER SISTER JENNY since around 2012, the last time Jenny OD’d and the people she was hanging with left her at the MetroHealth Medical Center ER and took off.

“It’s been so awful for so long,” says Jackie. “I haven’t seen my niece in four years, and my nephew is a mess.” He was delayed as a child, she says, speculating that it’s likely due to his mother Jenny’s methadone addiction at his birth.

Jackie says her sister has been using opiates for about 14 years, seesawing

between heroin addiction and methadone treatment, though she qualifies that Jenny was blowing lines and popping pills to augment her alcohol use long before that. “She’s been in trouble since she was eleven,” says Jackie. When the Lakewood Police Department’s Drug Task Force busted Jenny for possession with intent to distribute and child endangerment a couple years back, she ended up doing six months in county.

Jackie’s family formally learned of Jenny’s latest phase of use when Jenny was living next door to the sisters’ grandmother. One day, Jenny’s boyfriend, a heroin user himself, called to say Jenny needed help. He’d found bloody blankets strewn about the upstairs of their Clifton double, the result of Jenny missing veins and bleeding everywhere. Jenny’s son had just been born. That was in 2010, when Jackie called social services on her sister. The relationship has been pretty much asunder since.

“She hit my grandma and stole five hundred dollars,” says Jackie. “My grandmother had dropped her off at a gas station and my sister walked around to the driver’s side as though she was going to hug her goodbye. Instead, she punched my grandma and stole her purse, knowing that her Social Security check had come.

“It sucks. And she blames us. It’s all our fault. She uses because of my parents’ divorce. She uses because of my step-dad. She uses because we don’t understand. She uses because we got her in trouble.” Jackie shrugs with resignation, any sign of sadness long subsided. “Do I think that it is a disease? Yes. Do I think that it is a choice? Yes. It’s a choice to start using drugs. And whether or not you get addicted, it’s hit or miss.”

THIS APPETITE FOR THE POPPY DRUG is hardly new. A recent New Yorker review on a biography of Thomas DeQuincy, author of “Confessions of an English Opium Eater,” published in 1821, notes the tenor of the times when it came to pain abatement, palliative comfort, and recreational bliss. “England was ‘marinated in opium,’ which was taken for everything from upset stomachs to sore heads. It was swallowed in the form of pills or dissolved in alcohol to make laudanum...English doctors prescribed it with abandon. The drug was given to women for menstrual discomfort and to children for the hiccups. All the while, its glamour was growing: it was ancient, shamanic, a supernatural tether to otherworldly visions. You could find reference to it in Homer and Virgil, Chaucer and Shakespeare.”

The beat writer William S. Burroughs wrote about his own first-hand experience in his book, “Junky”: “The question is frequently asked: Why does a man become a drug addict?

“The answer is that he usually does not intend to become an addict. You don’t wake up one morning and decide to be a drug addict. It takes at least three months’ shooting twice a day

to get any habit at all. And you don’t really know what junk sickness is until you have had several habits. It took me almost six months to get my first habit, and then the withdrawal symptoms were mild. I think it no exaggeration to say it takes about a year and several hundred injections to make an addict.

“The questions, of course, could be asked: Why did you ever try narcotics? Why did you continue using it long enough to become an addict? You become a narcotics addict because you do not have strong motivations in the other direction. Junk wins by default. I tried it as a matter of curiosity. I drifted along taking shots when I could score. I ended up hooked. Most addicts I have talked to report a similar experience. They did not start using drugs for any reason they can remember. They just drifted along until they got hooked. If you have never been addicted, you can have no clear idea what it means to need junk with the addict’s special need. You don’t decide to be an addict. One morning you wake up sick and you’re an addict.”

In the Bob Weir documentary, “The Other One,” the Grateful Dead guitarist recalls Jerry Garcia’s heroin use and addiction and the allure it had on the iconic musician. “Jerry once told me that heroin takes all your troubles, all your concerns, all your worries and ties them all neatly together in one little package. – Where’s my next hit?”

STEPHANIE AND LUKE WERE IN LOVE. At ages 38 and 34 respectively, they moved in together after three months, inking matching tattoos and finishing each other’s sentences. They partied a little bit together, smoking pot, some blow now and then, some X. But no opioids.

Then, right after they moved in, Luke injured himself at work as a roofer, and started taking percocets for the back pain.

“Then one day,” says Stephanie, “a week after moving in together, Luke went MIA and his mom and I went looking for him in our usual haunts. When we got back home, we found him lying in the dining room, unconscious. He was sweating so bad, he left sweat stains on the hardwood floor.”

When they revived him, he was pissed off, lashing out, saying they were blowing things out of proportion.

For about a month thereafter and up through the holidays, everything was cool. Then, following the first of the year, Stephanie noticed Luke’s moods start to pendulum considerably. “He always seemed to be itching for a battle over trivial things,” she says.

Luke then had another accident at work, trying to catch a table ZawSaw as it fumbled out of his hand, slicing off his little finger. “His mood after that just plummeted.”

A week or two later, they decided to have a date night together, an effort to rekindle their initial rapport. “Then, out of nowhere, he needed to use my car,” says Stephanie. “He said he had to

continued on page 14

Lakewood Is Art

'Tis the Season At Beck Center For The Arts

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts is fully prepared for the rapidly approaching holidays this season. With plenty of opportunities to enjoy the most wonderful time of the year, Beck Center is here to help. Ranging from handmade artwork, gift cards, theater tickets, and more...there are numerous options to suit all styles and age groups!

Beck Center's celebration of local art and artists returns with the **Limelight Holiday Gallery Exhibition**. This show is perfect for shoppers looking for one-of-a-kind gifts this holiday season. You won't want to miss the free and open to the pub-


lic Artists' Reception on Friday, December 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. Designed specifically for holiday gift giving, these works will be on display in the Jean Bulicek Galleria through Sunday, January 8.

We are thrilled to continue one of the community's favorite traditions with our holiday production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* running December 2-31, 2016 in the Mackey Theater. Evening performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday (12/28), Thursdays (12/15, 12/22, 12/29), Fridays, and Saturdays (12/10, 12/17). Matinee performances at 2:30 p.m. are Saturdays and Sundays. There are no

performances on Saturday, December 24 and Sunday, December 25. Buy early and save with promo code: ARIEL to receive \$5 off each adult/senior ticket purchased by December 1.

The performances continue with Beck Center Youth Theater's world premiere production of *AARGH!*, December 9-18 in the Studio Theater. Written and directed by local playwright Rachel Spence, this original comedy promises heaps of excitement on the high seas and a pirate's ransom of silliness. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. A student matinee will take place at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 15.


Finally, our third annual **Holiday Homecoming** will take place from 5-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. Hosted by Beck Center's Associate Board, this special event is open to anyone who has participated in an arts education program or professional theater production. The evening will include light appetizers,



cash bar, and an opportunity to connect with Beck Center alumni. This event is free to Beck Center alumni, but registration is required by emailing events@beckcenter.org with subject Holiday Homecoming.

All information regarding dates, times, and tickets are available online at beckcenter.org or by calling Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

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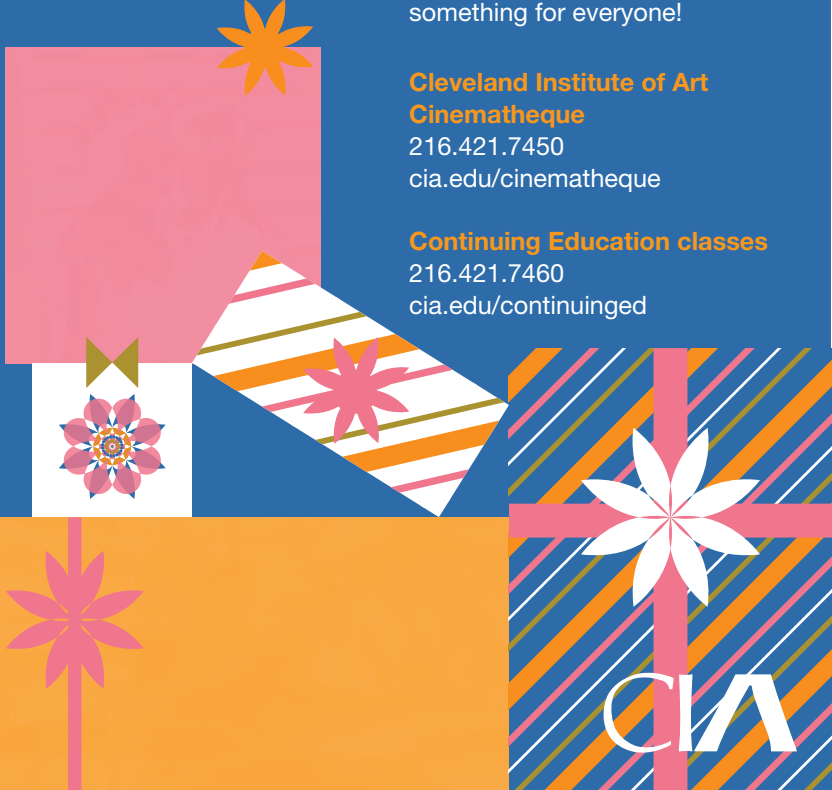
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Lakewood Is Art

They Keep Asking Me To Change The Title:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 38

by Buzz Kompier

Obligatory Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to, like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.

Bad Noids - WBNS: Bad Noids Radio With Your Host Dion Dab - self-released - ?? songs - Cassette

Here's a fun game for you: tell me how many songs you think are on this. Depending on who counts, it could be anywhere from 2 to 22, or maybe even more. So, this tape is a fake radio program that plays only Bad Noids and related music, hosted by Dion Dab, who's played marvelously by Mr. California. There's plenty of Bad Noids, as you would guess, several tunes from a band called Good Grief, who sure do sound a lot like Bad Noids but I guess must have a different drummer or something, because that's how these things work, and one-off appearances from bands like Le Paint Chips and this one real good track called "I'm A Cult Leader" by Bill E. Goat and the something something—I couldn't quite hear what Mr. Calif- or, excuse me, Dion-said here, but it was good. I kinda wanna hear more from this group if there is more. Maybe it was a one-time-only recording or something. Anyway, there's a pleasant mix of stuff here, but it's kinda more of one for the Bad Noids fans. First-time listeners should probably get their new 7" first, or their old 7", or their other old 7", or their LP. But if you're already hip to the Bad Noids thing, you'll enjoy this. 3.9/5

(the only place I know for sure has this is feelitrecordshop.com as a distro cassette, or go see the band on Christmas at Now That's Class and beg for one)

Deutschland Jerky Rave - Deutschland Jerky Rave - The Loki Label - 9 (?) songs - Cassette

This came out a while ago, but I'm just getting around to it now. Sorry. Supposedly there's 9 tracks on this, though I counted fewer (maybe it just flowed so well that I didn't notice the changing of the tracks), and then there's also allegedly a repress with a bonus track, but it's listed online as an EP. I'm not sure how much of any of this is a joke, but considering that Steve Pepper and Mr. California are both involved with this project, there's a good chance that something's screwy. Basically, this tape sounds quite a lot like Factorymen (Mr. Pepper's previous project), as you'd probably expect. You should probably listen to Factorymen before this to have some context, but I guess it's avant-garde or experimental music, and I don't know how to describe it besides like that. Electronic (?) and/or punk (?) music with a completely bizarre sense of humor (?). Skull Music, as they say. Something about some of these tracks just sounds threatening and I don't know why. Recommended for fans of Factorymen or anyone who wants to hear Mr. California sing "Money For Nothing." I'm

looking forward to hopefully hear more from this project in the future. Maybe you just gotta listen to it. Maybe you just gotta be there, man. 4/5

(thelokilabel.storenvy.com)

Exploding Lies - Ready To Die - Mercyful Tape - 10 songs - CD, download

I don't actually know what the label is for this one, but there are three logos on the back: the Exploding Lies logo, the Davenport couch (but is that really a label, or just a symbol of "look, we're a part of something?"), and Mercyful Tape, which is kinda weird, as I assume that it's intended to parody Mercyful Fate, a group that these guys bear little to no resemblance to. Anyway. I think this is the Lies' second or third album, I can't remember which. They do a mix of blues rock and garage rock that, on certain songs, if this was the 1970s, has some hit potential. My favorites on the CD were "Dead Wrong," "Cry," and "Going Home," personally. The band they actually remind me the most of is former fellow Davenport group The It*Men, just in terms of general style and genre. The blues rock stuff isn't really my cup of tea, but I liked when they were doing a more garage-type sound. 3.7/5

(explodinglies.bandcamp.com)

Goldmines - Goldmines - Quality Time Records / Wax Mage Records // Dad Stache Records - 5 songs // 8 songs - 12", download // cassette, download

I guess Goldmines have been kicking around for a while but haven't released anything on vinyl until now. I don't know why I said "I guess," as everything I just said is 100% accurate. Factcheck me, posers. There's two different versions of this, hence the confusing heading up there. A 12" from Quality Time and Wax Mage, and a cassette from Dad Stache with three extra tracks. Let's cover the main five tracks to start. "Bruised Lips" has got a 60s girl-pop mixed with indie rock feel to it. Melodically and song-structure-wise it reminds me a bit of Garbage while at the same time not sounding like Garbage. Track A2, "The Incomparable" has some psych-esque guitar work at the beginning, then moves into another good indie rock tune with lots of guitar and a catchy melody. The drumming in certain parts is sorta disco, which is pretty cool. There's lots of harmonies in these tunes, which I suppose makes sense as all four members of the group are credited as being vocalists. As for the flip side, while "New Mane" and "September" both have their moments, the tracks from Side A have them beat. But then we get to the last song, "Say Say," which might be the best one on the whole thing. The verses are kind of minimal and slow, and then it kicks into this great pop chorus. I can appreciate good pop and this song is good pop. To briefly sum up the cassette, there are three bonus tracks, which in my

opinion decrease in quality as the tape goes on. "We Real Cool" is pretty good and if I were in the band or involved in this release, I would've put it on the 12". "Shadow" is alright and kinda reminds me of Woolly Bullies' "Waiting For You," just to throw out a comparison that maybe four people reading will get. "Lion" is decent indie rock, but much like "New Mane" and "September," doesn't grab my attention as much. Overall, pretty okay stuff. I recommend the 12" over the tape (Support local record labels!), but if you think this is your kind of thing, get both just to hear "We Real Cool." Oh, and the vinyl is, as you can probably guess, a Wax Mage product, so it's very pretty. I don't feel like splitting ratings for the tape and 12", even though they would have different ratings if I did, so let's favor the 12" and call it a day at 3.9/5

(qualitytimerecords.bandcamp.com // dadstacherecords.com)

The Roobydocks - Promo Tape For 7" - self-released - 6 songs - Cassette

I was initially planning on waiting until the titular 7" was out before reviewing this set of songs, but seeing as it says promo, I have to review it. I'll review the 7" version when it comes out as well, just for comprehensibility or something, so look forward to reading this same review in a few months' time. The Roobydocks are back with 6 more punkers. I quite like the clean guitar tone they've got going on, as well as the guitar style. It sets them apart from a lot of bands. Good stuff I'm making this review short because the tape is short and because I'm going to write about this again. This is your teaser for the actual review, much like the very limited edition tape is the teaser for the 7". I'm not even giving it a rating yet, just to keep you all on the edge of your seats!

(go see them live on Christmas at Now That's Class and see if they still have any, or wait for the 7" version)

Who Hit Me - Who Hit Me - self-released - 12 songs - CD, download

I reviewed this band a year ago and, to be honest, cannot remember a thing about them. I do believe that



Album art from this issue's review.

I said positive things, so there you go. Anyway, this is their new album. They play an interesting mix of indie/alt rock and pop punk, with some heavier elements as well. Their vocalist has a powerful voice and the musicianship is very competent indeed. I know this is like the kiss of death to a lot of people, but something about the vocal style at the very least reminded me of Fall Out Boy. Oh, wait, it's not cool for me to admit I've ever listened to Fall Out Boy, so forget I said anything. The first seven tracks, from the grandiose opener "White Noise" to the ripping punker "Terror Of The Deep" I enjoyed, but unfortunately, the following tracks didn't grab me as much. They were all decent, but just sorta unremarkable. Actually, that's not entirely accurate, as I liked the closing track "Miniscale" as well. That's their misspelling not mine, by the way. So, in summary, good indie rock/punk/whatever for the most part. Hopefully they keep at it and Who Hit Me album three will be the one that really does it for me all the way through, as they've actually got something interesting going on here. 3.7/5

(whohitme.bandcamp.com, try tracking them down and convincing them to sell you a CD if you're so inclined)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to Observer headquarters: The Lakewood Observer, c/o Buzz Kompier, 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107.



Business News

Want To Add Solar To Your Home For A Discount? Find Out More At LPL

by Kevin Huryn

Lakewood residents will have the opportunity to learn about adding solar panels to their homes at discount prices at an upcoming forum at Lakewood Public Library.

Northeast Ohio company YellowLite solar will present information about the benefits of solar and how residents can get bulk rate prices as part of the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op at the Library main branch on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30pm. The event is free and open to the public.

The Co-op, organized through OHSUN (www.ohsun.org/cuyahoga), provides significant discounts through bulk purchasing. As of this writing, more than 150 people have signed up to participate in the co-op. The co-op is open to new members through the end of the year. YellowLite is one of two solar companies selected through an open and competitive bidding process to install systems for Co-op members.

Lakewood Councilman Tom Bullock is a Co-op member and has committed to install a solar system at his home.

“Lakewood is a progressive community with a lot of buildings that are perfect for solar,” said Bullock. “My own home and garage have south-



Lakewood residents joining the Cuyahoga Solar Co-op can save up to 20 percent off the cost of solar installations via bulk purchase discounts on top of a 30 percent federal tax credit already available.

facing roofs with no over-hanging trees—ideal conditions. It’s an opportunity to lock in a predictable cost for carbon-free electricity. Electricity rates are only going to go up.”

Joining the group is not a commitment to purchase panels. The chosen installers will develop an individualized proposal for each co-op member. Co-op members can then decide if going solar makes sense for them. Co-op participants can save up

to 20 percent off the cost of their installation by going solar with the group. This is in addition to the 30 percent federal tax credit that is already offered through 2019 (with the tax credit slowing declining in following years). The Co-Op is expected to attract as many as 200 people by the end of the year.

“YellowLite has strong ties to Lakewood: three of our solar consultants live in the community,” noted Ryan Veith, Communications Man-

ager for YellowLite. “Hosting a solar informational talk is a great way to connect with residents, to answer technical questions, and help people learn the economic and environmental benefits of solar.”

Guests will learn more about the solar industry, how much solar costs, and how much money it will save homeowners versus buying conventional electricity from the utility. A solar consultant will be providing on-site solar quotes for event participants. Interested residents should bring a copy of their most recent electric bill. All participants will receive an official YellowLite gift bag upon attendance.

For more information about the event, please call (216) 452-9295, email ryan.veith@yellowlite.com or go to <http://www.yellowlite.com/>.



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Lakewood Living

Haircuts From The Heart At Reagle Beagle

by Anita Boutros

The Reagle Beagle is hosting their 5th annual “Haircuts from the Heart” charity event on Sunday December

11th from 12 pm- 2 pm. During this event we will be doing complimentary haircuts for underprivileged men and boys of all ages. Our stylists will be

dressed up as elves and we will have Santa and Mrs. Claus as well. Santa will be handing out gifts to the kids. There will be food and drinks that

local businesses have donated. During the whole month of November and until the 31st of December the Reagle Beagle is collecting canned goods for our local food bank, as well as gently used or new coats, and new unwrapped toys.

This will be a great event to remember. remember. We want to invite you to our salon on this day to help spread the joy of the holidays with us. We hope to see you there.

Queen And King Of Light Up Lakewood 2016 Crowned

by Sandra Sauder

Lakewood High School juniors Sarah Bene and Abe Dalisky have been named Light Up Lakewood Queen and King for 2016. Students chosen for this honor have demonstrated their love for Lakewood through providing outstanding service to the community. In addition to reigning over the Light Up Lakewood Holiday Parade on Saturday, Dec. 3, Sarah and Abe were both awarded \$500 scholarships sponsored by Plantation Home in Downtown Lakewood. Both winners have agreed to provide at least 24 hours of service to the community during the coming year.

This is the fifth year that David Stein, owner of Plantation Home and Cotton, and President of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance (DLBA), has sponsored the scholarship. Stein states, “It’s an honor for us to encourage the youth of our community, and to thank them for their commitment to volunteerism.”

Sarah and Abe received their checks and sashes at Plantation Home during Light Up Lakewood 2016, then were crowned by the 2015 Queen and King, Anna Kotansky and Nate Young, during the Lighting Ceremony that culminated the annual holiday event’s festivities.

About Queen Sarah Bene

Musical excellence and social justice have become the focus of most of Sarah Bene’s volunteer activities. Wanting to foster an atmosphere that is more tolerant and loving than the one she grew up in, Sarah took on leadership duties in Club Identity, the Lakewood High School chapter of Dare2Care, which is an organization that works to educate others about identity and to combat bullying of those in the LGBTQ community. Sarah is helping Dare2Care to create an educational curriculum that can be used in other schools, and to encourage other schools in the region to start their own clubs. She recently attended the Dare2Care “Spirit of Leadership” retreat to develop her skills in that area. As a cellist for the Lakewood Orchestra and Lakewood Project, Sarah has tutored budding musicians



Lakewood High School Juniors Abe Dalisky and Sarah Bene were honored as King and Queen of Light Up Lakewood, respectively, during the event.

during “Rock On” summer camp and throughout the school year, as well as encouraged her own peers in the high school orchestras. She also assists with orchestra concerts and other events at the Civic. Sarah states, “Teaching and passing down my passion for my instrument is my goal. I hope to inspire the next generation of musicians the way I was inspired by my teachers.”

About King Abe Dalisky

Abe first became excited about volunteerism while participating in Lakewood’s H2O (Help To Others) middle school program and Summer Service Camp. During his freshman year, he volunteered to tutor English language-learning immigrant children through ASIA (Asian Services in Action) for extra credit, and through that experience his passion for community service was ignited. Through Lakewood High School H2O, he has served holiday dinners, raked leaves for senior citizens and helped staff community events. Currently he’s training to become a peer mentor for the middle school program, where he seeks to promote the positive and joyous atmosphere around giving that his counselors modeled for him. Abe’s area of particular interest is helping refugee children to feel valued and empowered. He regularly assists at soccer practice for Ranger F-C Soccer, a league with the mission of including immigrant

and refugee players. “My role as a vol-
continued on next page

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Lakewood Living

Dead Flowers: A Small Consideration On The Heroin Pandemic

continued from page 9
go down to Tremont to pick up a friend (who lived in Tremont) to take him to work—which was in Tremont.” Red flags went up for Stephanie. Nevertheless, she gave him the keys.
True to his word, Luke did return in 20 minutes. The two sat on the sofa, he rolling a joint, both still ready to go out, all dressed up for date night.
Then, he nodded off.
Stephanie video-recorded him on the nod, her yelling at him to wake up. An intervention of sorts so she could show him how he was. To no avail.
A week after that, Stephanie awoke at three in the morning and found Luke dead on the living room floor, blood and vomit seeping from his mouth.
Having had nursing training, she applied CPR while calling 911. Four cans of Narcan later, Luke was pronounced dead at Lakewood Hospital. There were no needles, no spike marks, no way to determine the specifics in Luke’s death. The autopsy eventually showed Fentanyl in his system with trace amounts of cocaine.
That was nearly two years ago, January 31, 2014. It was the day after her son’s eleventh birthday and the party they had for him at Dave and Buster’s. As a result of Luke’s overdose and death, and the trace drugs found in the home, Stephanie lost custody of her son. She also lost the house in which they were living and eventually her job. “I lost my

entire life over someone else’s bad decision,” she says. “And all I was left with were all the doubts about what could I have done to save him, to avoid all this. Should I have not have loved him? The residue ruins those left behind.”
The video of him nodding out is the last photo Stephanie has of Luke.
STILL, YOU HAVEN’T BEEN TOUCHED by the scourge. Not personally. No one you know is addicted, much less has overdosed. Some peripheral families from the old parish days, maybe. But you’ve pretty much been buffered.
Then one day, you’re sitting at the Parkview and a guy in a Carhartt jacket and knit hat is sitting a couple seats down. You start chatting about nothing over happy hour shots. You find out about his gig, a contractor and windows installer who has succeeded well in his own business. He’s made it through various tough times. He and his wife live in Lakewood now.
At some point he references working with his son. His voice quiets a bit when speaking about him. You don’t press on anything, but actively listen, bear witness. His son was his partner in the business. Was learning the trade. Was doing really well, all set to be the heir apparent. Was married. 30 years old. Was.
Died of an overdose.
The guy—this dad—looks past you as he speaks, over your shoulder and out the window behind you. He doesn’t know

you, though for some reason you are an itinerant afternoon confidant. It feels like a story he rarely tells, if ever, yet as the afternoon sun dapples in, he continues talking, his voice nearing a whisper at times, telling about what a wonderful kid, what a bond they were developing, his voice descending lower into the swamp of sadness he has been hip-deep in ever since. Not mawkish or maudlin; simple Raymond Carver sentences. He had a son. Who had a problem. His son overdosed. He died. We were just growing close.
You see this guy occasionally thereafter, and you say hi. You try to pay tribute to that hour spent, the conversation shared. But there’s a distance. He’s not looking to

relive it. Not looking for any further bonding. And you respect that. It’s his. Don’t trample on it with whatever you might be feeling, or wondering, or considering. It’s not yours to consider, not yours to feel. You are “Hi-Bye” friends. Acknowledgements. Awareness. Neighborliness. But that’s it. Good fences, after all, make good neighbors.
Yet, you still feel the loss whenever you see him down the bar.
And you realize. You do indeed know someone. And this heroin thing, it has touched you, too.
This story originally appeared in the November issue of Pressure Life magazine: <http://pressurelife.com/dead-flowers/>.

Poetry Comes Alive At The Lakewood Public Library

continued from page 4
Library will host an open mic night in the Main Library Auditorium. Whether one is an experienced performer or a curious novice, Eric Odum, the event’s welcoming emcee, will make

every participant feel right at home. All ages are welcome to share their poetry and prose, and Zena Smith, Library employee and published poet, will cap off the evening with a reading from her most recent book, *Fracture*.

Queen And King Of Light Up Lakewood 2016 Crowned

continued from previous page
unteer and leader is a major part of my vision for the future,” says Abe.
Light Up Lakewood, presented by LakewoodAlive, took place on Saturday, Dec. 3, in Downtown Lakewood. For more information, please visit LightUpLakewood.com.
Light Up Lakewood 2016 was generously supported by the following sponsors: First Federal Lakewood, City of Lakewood, Lakewood City Cen-

ter, Convey360, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, Discount Drug Mart, Lakewood Anglican Church, Plantation Home, Roundstone Insurance, The University of Akron Lakewood, Barton Senior Center, Dewey’s Pizza, IMCD US, Lakewood Hardware, Lakewood Masonic Temple, Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Beck Center for the Arts, Burgers 2 Beer Lakewood, Dollar Bank, Modelo Dental Care and NEO Realty Group LLC.

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Lakewood High Marching Band, the stars of the 2016 Football Season!



“Thank you LakewoodAlive, the City of Lakewood, the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, Plantation Home/Cotton, and all of the sponsors and volunteers that help put this event on by contributing their time, sweat, or money throughout the year.”

Advent: A Season Of Love

continued from page 8

death and resurrection-is beautiful in its simplicity and astounding in it's complexity.

In this season of Advent you may find yourself struggling to find balance. It's exhausting to seek something and continually come up empty. Lakewood Anglican invites you to join us through

the season of Advent and Christmas as we look back to the birth of Christ in a manger, forward to His second coming in glory, and appreciate the incredible love that is found within His story. Living life in the reality of the Gospel is, like many things, a life lived finding balance between extremes and seeking out truth in every situation.



“Thank you Lakewood Police, Fire, and City Services for your work on this event and for everything you do throughout the year.”



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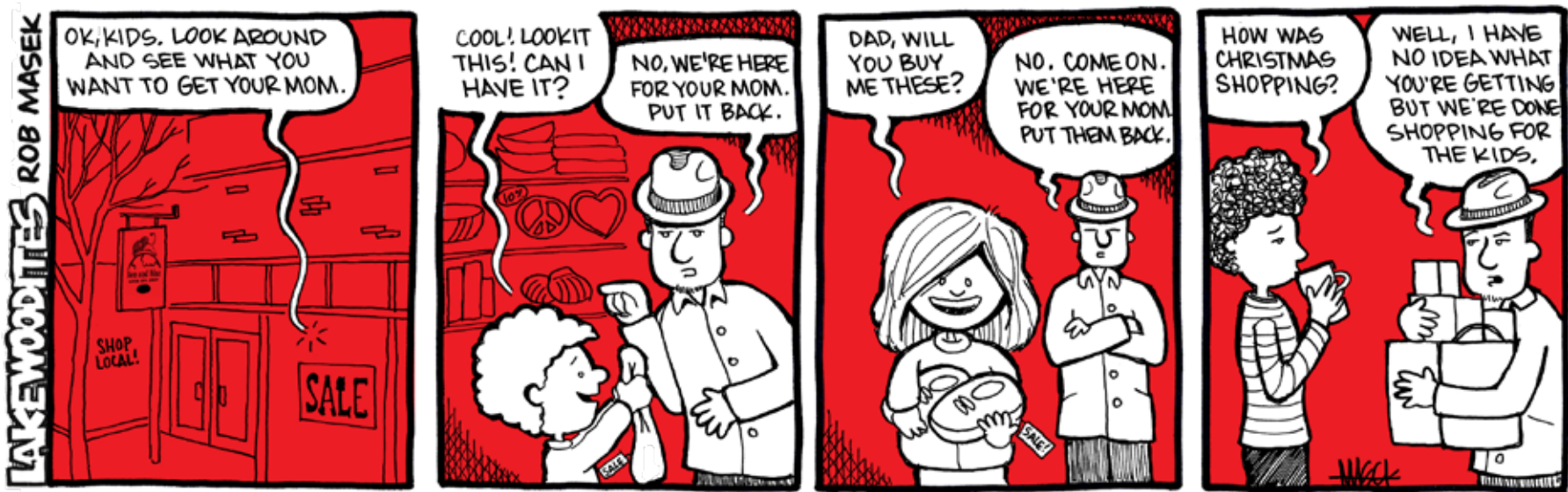
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