

Shaker Life

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Shine



Summer 2014
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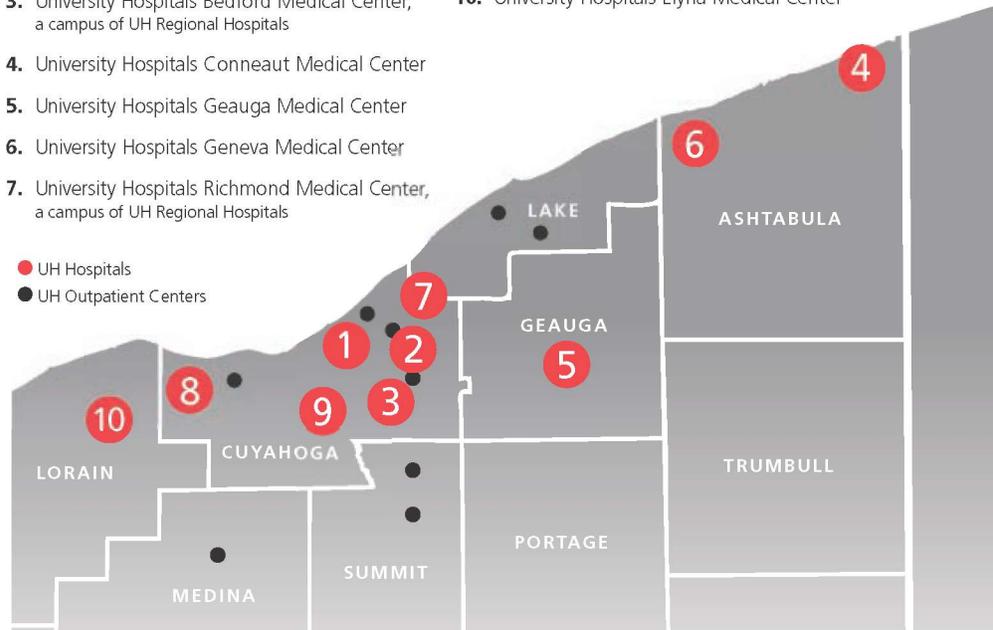


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7. University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center, a campus of UH Regional Hospitals
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French Cuisine with Social Change?

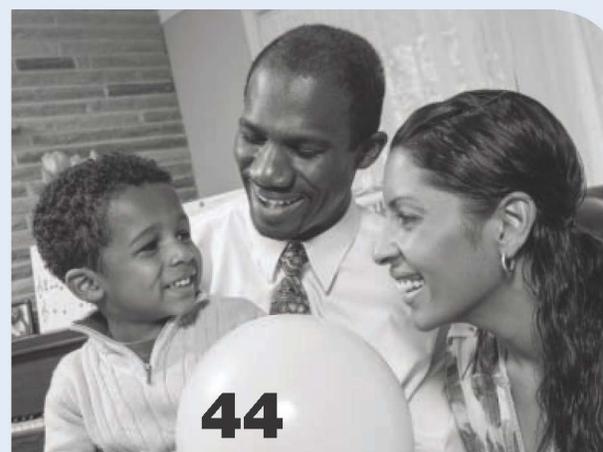
EDWINS is more than a place to enjoy a stunning meal – it offers a shot at a second chance in life



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Ready for its Closeup

See the winning entries from the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission's Preservation Month Photo Contest



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Work. Live. Shaker

Promoting a love of learning and having fun together in the process



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Creating Change

When Woodbury students combine arts and activism, their cups and hearts run over.

A Think Tank with a Shaker Edge

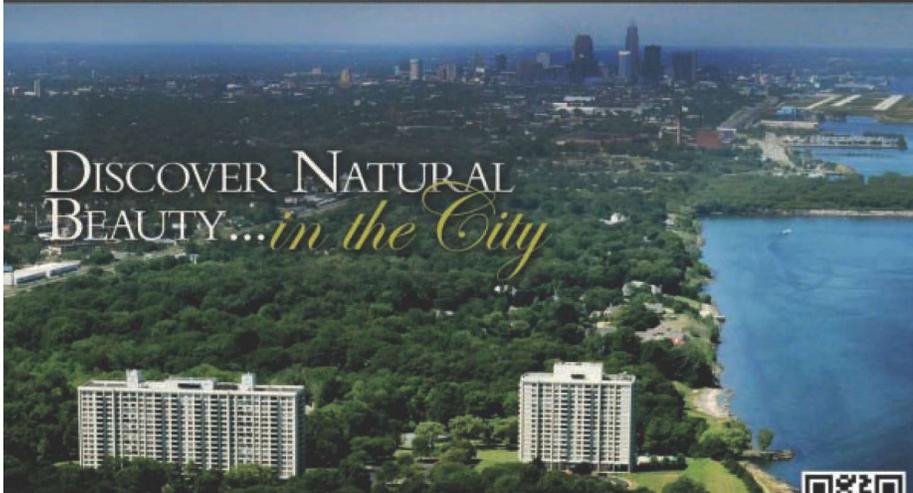
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If its executive director has her way, all of Ohio will one day be like Shaker Heights

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Shaker Life

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Letters may be edited for publication.

STORY SUBMISSIONS

Shaker Life does not accept unsolicited
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are welcome. Send suggestions by email or letter.
Please do not call. We cannot respond to every
suggestion but each will be given consideration.
Freelancers: Please email the editor for guidelines.

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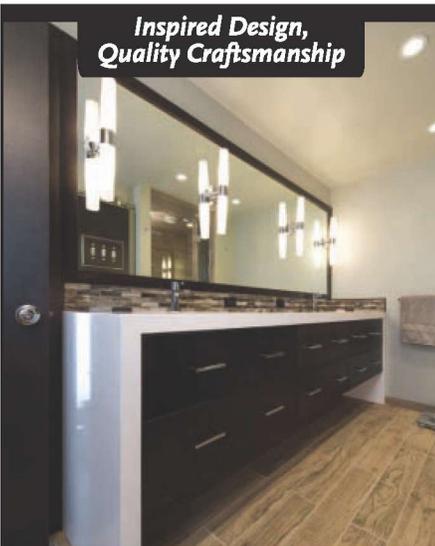
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Ignition *and* Vision Funds

Small-business loan programs are streamlined and hassle-free.

p8



Office Space to Let

Company lease expiring soon? Become part of Shaker's new Van Aken district.

p10



Picture Perfect

The Landmark Commission's Preservation Month Photo Contest received more than 80 images of Shaker from 30 photographers. Take a look. p30

1,100
25
800
15 \$8,500

Woodbury Creates Change

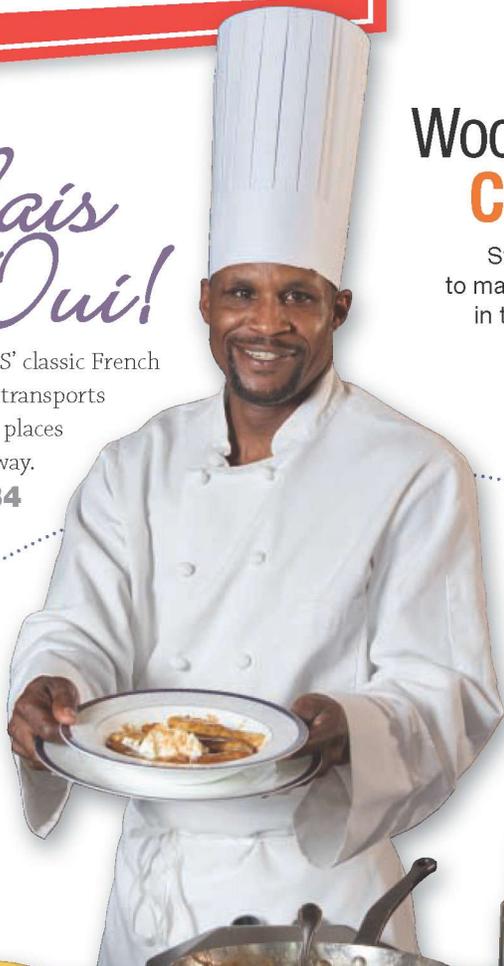
Students use art to make a difference in the community.

p46

Mais Qui!

EDWINS' classic French cuisine transports diners to places far away.

p34



THESE TALENTED BOYS FROM SHAKER HEIGHTS TRIED OUT FOR KIDS JEOPARDY!

Scene in Shaker

What are the odds that two boys from Shaker would be sitting at the same table at the same Kids Jeopardy try out session? p63



**LEARN
LIFE**
for



Congratulations to the Hathaway Brown Class of 2014,

100% of whom will now be off to continue their studies at some of the best colleges and universities in the world. HB graduates are equally at home at historic Ivy League schools, top public and private universities, specialized conservatories, and small liberal arts colleges in the U.S. and abroad, where they live out the motto of their alma mater: “We Learn Not For School, But For Life.”

Class of 2014 College Destinations

American University	Miami University (4)	University of Missouri, Columbia
Ashland University	New York University	University of Mount Union
Boston College	Newcastle Univ. Medical School (England)	University of Notre Dame
Bowling Green State University	Northeast Ohio Medical University	University of Pennsylvania (2)
Bryant University	Northeastern University (1)	University of Richmond
Carnegie Mellon University	Northwestern University (3)	University of Southern California
Case Western Reserve University (5)	Pennsylvania State University (2)	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
Colgate University	Pitzer College	Vanderbilt University
College of Saint Rose	Princeton University	Villanova University
Columbia University (2)	Purdue University	Wake Forest University
Cornell University (2)	Rice University	Washington University in St. Louis (3)
Dartmouth College	San Diego State University	Wellesley College
Dickinson College	Saint Louis University (2)	Yale University (2)
Elon University (4)	Southern Methodist University	
Emory University (3)	Swarthmore College	
Georgetown University	The Ohio State University (4)	
John Carroll University	Tufts University	
Johns Hopkins University	Tulane University	
Kenyon College	University of California at Berkeley (2)	
Lehigh University	University of California at Los Angeles	
Loyola Marymount University	University of Chicago	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)	University of Cincinnati	

Among the 84 members of the HB Class of 2014, one student earned a perfect score on the SAT, two had perfect ACTs, nine were named National Merit Finalists, one is a National Achievement Finalist, and nine are National Merit Commended Students. Many were awarded merit scholarships from their schools of choice, and several have committed to play collegiate-level sports.



Shaker
Online

Living in the Urban Forest



Trees in the Urban Forest: They've Gotta Be Tough

Imagine the life of a tree in an urban forest. Roots that yearn to push out nearly twice the width of the branches are confined due to sidewalks and roads; soil is compacted by pedestrians and machines; pesticides diminish soil quality; nutrients and oxygen are limited; and root and trunk damage is common from mowers, cars, and people. An urban tree's life expectancy is only ten years. Given the multiple challenges it faces, it is a wonder it survives at all.



What can you do
to help these
urban trees
survive and
thrive?

✿ **Plant new trees in spring and fall**, not in stressful hot, dry summer. Shaker's Forestry Division planted more than 450 trees this spring replacing many that had died.

✿ **Protect roots by applying mulch correctly** (think "donut," not "volcano"), in as large an area under the tree as possible. This keeps machinery away from roots and the trunk, helps catch and hold water, maintains soil moisture, and keeps competing grass and weeds away.

✿ **Water your trees.** A new tree needs approximately 10-15 gallons per week, which is best applied in a deep slow soak. New trees planted by the City come with gator bags which residents are asked to fill once or twice a week.

✿ **Consider pests.** Most insects are crucial to pollination, eat harmful pests, and feed birds and small animals. However, some can destroy healthy trees. Inspect your trees for holes in the bark, beetles, and browning, dying leaves. These problems could indicate the presence of Emerald Ash Borers or Dutch Elm disease and soon, perhaps an Asian Longhorn Beetle infestation.

Currently, these are found in southern Ohio. If your ash or elm appears ill, contact Forester Pat Neville at 216-491-1490 or call a certified arborist.

To learn more about Shaker's urban forest, sign up for the TREENews at <http://bit.ly/ShakerHtsENews>. Also, check out the newly enhanced tree information in the Forestry and Tree Advisory Board sections at shakeronline.com/departments/public-works.

2014 Heritage Tree Award Winners

The Tree Advisory Board has announced two winners of this year's award. One is an American elm at the home of Julio Cortez at 3311 Lee Road. The tree was nominated by a neighbor for its size, beautiful canopy, and for surviving Dutch Elm Disease. It measures 48 inches in diameter, has a 90-foot crown spread and is over 80 feet tall.

The second is a pair of twin oaks at 3290 Elsmere Road, nominated by the owner, Sarah Humm, for their unusual size, form, and age. The trees measure 35 inches and 42 inches in diameter, have crown spreads of more than 80 feet, and stand over 80 feet tall. The nomination form included a photo of a 1928 Certificate of Survey showing the two recently planted trees.



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Tweets

ShakerHeights @ShakerOnline
Why some buyers are purchasing land trust homes through @LandTrustCLE: bit.ly/PLu7Kh Shaker has one for sale at 3554 Pennington Rd!

Sharon Holbrook @216Sharon
@ShakerOnline @LandTrustCLE heard about this program @soundofideas this AM – innovative and promising! Today’s show: bit.ly/QQy41k

Onaway Community Organization Page

Neighbor #1
I just have to say how much I love this neighborhood...from the kids playing around outside who include other kids in their play, to the neighbor who brought cupcakes when she came to pick up an item that WE borrowed from HER, to the numerous people who generously purchased cucumber-mint “spa” water from my kids this morning, to the neighbor who spontaneously stopped by and picked up my kids to have fun at the Art Museum (and bought them snacks while they were there, I hear)...I really, really love this wonderful group of neighbors!

Onaway Community Organization Page

Neighbor #10
My son is going to Kindergarten in the fall at Onaway. I was hoping those with recent experience using the before and aftercare program could let me know their thoughts/recommendations. Thanks!

Neighbor #9
Aftercare is great! Something for everyone (from chess to Legos to arts and crafts to just playing on the playground/gym). Staff is very nice. My daughter hates it when we pick her up early! (Have never used before care so can’t share about that).

Onaway Community Organization Page

Neighbor #2
Best places to buy running shoes? I need somewhere where they can help identify best shoes for someone whose gait is a bit off.

Neighbor #11
My son loves before care at Onaway. He wishes he could get there earlier so he had more time to play in the gym.

Neighbor #12
We’ve had a great experience too. The staff is engaging and our son loves it – both before and after.

Neighbor #13
It’s great!

Neighbor #14
It’s the best it’s ever been. My daughter is in 1st grade and loves it. The staff is really caring!

Neighbor #2
We love it!!! We have used both and the teachers are caring, energetic, and just plain wonderful. My kids usually get mad if I pick them up early and they don’t get to go! Happy to answer any questions.

Neighbor #15
My daughter does aftercare. She loves it.

Neighbor #16
We had a great experience with Morning Care.

The Lomond Association Page

Neighbor #17
Does anybody else get excited and a little bit happy when Shaker Life arrives in their mailbox? Or is it just me? (Mine came Friday, but I kept forgetting to post this...)

Neighbor #18
Me too! I hate it when I hear people talk about it as a waste of resource. I find it very valuable.

Vicki Blank
Well, we publish it specifically for the two of you! So happy to hear this.

Posts

City of Shaker Heights Government Page

Donald Day
Proud Shaker Heights, Ohio resident. Called yesterday to see if there was any progress on repairing the hole left from the install of a new fire hydrant in January. They politely told me that Cleveland Water had replaced this and that they would look into getting them out to repair. Received a call this morning from Shaker letting me know that they were going to take care of the issue since Cleveland Water sure didn’t have any plans to do any repair work in the near future. Came home to find that Shaker had already begun the work. Thumbs up to City of Shaker Heights Government.



Neighbor #3
Talk to Jeff at Cleveland Running Company on Van Aken! <http://www.clevelandrunning.com>

Neighbor #4
Second that

Neighbor #5
Third that!

Neighbor #6
Cleveland Running Company is great!

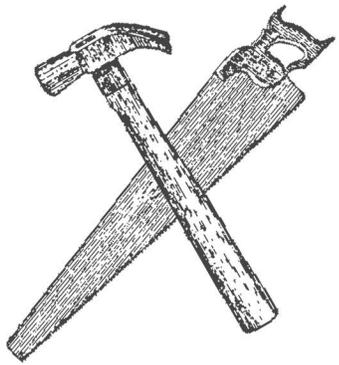
Neighbor #7
Cleveland Running Company!

Neighbor #8
Cleveland Running Company, for sure.

Julie McGovern Voyzey
Cleveland Running Company! They know their stuff.

Neighbor #9
Another vote for Cleveland Running Company – they are fantastic; knowledgeable but not pushy.

Neighbor #2
Wow! Thank you for the unanimous vote! I will be heading there tomorrow.



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TO SELL
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Loan Programs that Fit Your Business Needs

The City of Shaker Heights has enhanced two existing business loan programs, the Vision Fund and the Ignition Fund, and is now offering a third loan program in partnership with Cuyahoga County and the Small Business Administration (SBA). The City has made these incentive programs as streamlined and hassle-free as possible in order to accomplish a central goal: make it easier to do business in Shaker Heights.

Shaker Vision Fund

- Forgivable loan program targeted to established, growing businesses ready to move into office space in Shaker Heights;
- For tenant improvements and equipment purchases based on the income and payroll taxes the City will collect over a three- to five-year period.



Shaker Ignition Fund

- A microfinance revolving loan program offered in partnership with the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) in Cleveland;
- Helps individuals start and expand small businesses in Shaker Heights;
- Loans of up to \$15,000 for capital purchases and tenant improvements;
- Additional loans may be available through ECDI for working capital and marketing;
- Special rate for Shaker businesses of 7.25 percent is currently offered;
- Ongoing support from ECDI to ensure success and ability to qualify for traditional financing.

A new loan program created in partnership with Cuyahoga County and the Small Business Administration (SBA) is now available to Shaker Heights businesses that qualify for an SBA loan.

- Businesses will contribute 10 percent equity for the loan;
- City of Shaker Heights and the County will contribute the other 15 percent of equity as a forgivable loan;
- Small business owner will then be able to qualify for an SBA loan for the other 75 percent of project proceeds.

Shaker City Council

Two new faces and one veteran have begun their four-year terms, expiring December 31, 2017.

New: Tres Roeder. Chair, Fair Housing Review Board; member, Economic Development Task Force, Finance Committee, Shaker Heights Development Corporation.

Roeder is the founder and president of Roeder Consulting, a Weatherhead 100 upstart company. He has extensive experience helping major organizations implement strategic projects. Prior to his election to City Council he served on the Mayor's Economic Development Task Force. He also led research studies on the achievement gap in Shaker Schools and served on the Vestry of St. Paul's Church.

He holds a BA in Economics from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, and lives in the Malvern neighborhood with his wife and two children.

New: Anne Williams. Chair, Communications and Marketing Committee; member, Recreation and Health Committee, Safety and Public Works Committee.

Williams earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a master's in Library Science from Rosary College in Chicago, and a law degree from Loyola University of Chicago.

She has worked as a litigator with an emphasis in employment law. A Chicago area native, Williams has lived in Shaker Heights and been active in the community for 20 years. She has volunteered in numerous local organizations including the PTO, Meals on Wheels, and the League of Women Voters Shaker Heights, for which she twice served as President. She was employed as the Coordinator of Shaker's 2012 Centennial Celebration and recently graduated from the Citizens Police Academy. She and her husband have three daughters and live in the Malvern neighborhood.

Reelected: Rob Zimmerman.
Vice-Mayor; member, City Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, City Income Tax Board of Review, Finance Committee.

Zimmerman was first elected to Council in 2005. He previously served as chair of the Finance Committee and Safety and Public Works Committee, and as a citizen member of the Safety and Public Works Committee and the Human Relations Commission.

He is a partner at Benesch Friedlander, where he specializes in litigation and government relations law. He has a BA in Political Science and a law degree from Ohio State University. He has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and the Cleveland Jewish News, and is currently on the Menorah Park board. He and his wife Lisa and daughters Talia and Lilli live in the Mercer neighborhood.

Good for What Ails You

Beachwood medical facility meets your family's needs



Tom Abelson, MD

Isn't it nice to know you have a helpful neighbor? That's what you have with Cleveland Clinic Beachwood Family Health and Surgery Center. The leading-edge healthcare facility offers numerous services for you and your family.

"We strive to be as patient-centered as possible," says Tom Abelson, MD, medical director of Cleveland Clinic Beachwood. "We have an excellent group of primary care doctors — including pediatricians, family practitioners and internists — to meet patients' basic needs.

"In addition, we cover almost every specialty — from medical specialists like dermatologists and rheumatologists to surgical specialists like orthopaedic and urologic surgeons and more. In fact, the Cleveland Clinic surgeons at Beachwood perform roughly 9,000 surgeries a year. As far as diagnostic equipment, we have two MRIs, a CT scanner, X-ray technology, nuclear medicine, fluoroscopy and a laboratory that has an outstanding reputation."

Express Care plays a key role at the Center for patients 6 months and older with minor problems like sprained ankles and strep throat. "The walk-in convenience of the care is great," says Dr. Abelson. "Express Care is overseen by nurse practitioners and physician assistants who are phenomenal. Please check clevelandclinic.org/expresscare for the hours.

"As part of a new Team Care model, our primary care physicians work with nurse practitioners and medical assistants who take responsibility for the overall health and well-being of our patients," he says. "They make sure patients come in for follow-up appointments and get the tests and results they need."

Located on Cedar Road near I-271, Cleveland Clinic Beachwood also offers pharmacy services, free surface parking, valet and handicapped parking.

Same-day appointments

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clevelandclinic.org/beachwood



Cleveland Clinic

Every life deserves world class care.



Shaker Heights City Council

Front l to r: Earl Williams, Jr., Mayor Earl M. Leiken, Nancy Moore.

Back l to r: Tres Roeder, Julianna Johnston Senturia, James Brady, Anne Williams, Rob Zimmerman.

Van Aken On Track

Last up: The City purchased the former Qua Buick property on Warrensville Center Road for use in future district development. Roadway construction began in the district with demolition of the former Starbucks building and the former Shaker Office Building on Warrensville Center Road. The Starbucks site will be part of a stretch of Van Aken Boulevard, between Farnsleigh and the Chagrin intersection, which will be vacated in 2015.

Demolition of the Shaker Office Building makes room for roadwork to direct through-traffic west to Warrensville. Roadwork was begun at Farnsleigh and Chagrin. A traffic light at that new intersection will help move traffic along Chagrin at a steady clip.

Next up: Leasing, leasing, leasing! RMS Investment Corporation is actively seeking office tenants, local restaurateurs, and retailers for the planned development, which will create a vibrant downtown that brings the character and quality of Shaker's neighborhoods into this commercial district.

Phase 1 will create a gathering place for residents and office workers with unique shops and restaurants, high quality rental apartments, and second floor office space, all situated at the terminus of the RTA Blue Line.

To receive emails with updated information, sign up for Van Aken on Track ENews at bit.ly/VanAken.

FOR LEASE

New Office & Retail Space!

Meanwhile: Think about your business needs. Is your firm's current lease expiring soon? Wouldn't you like to be able to work and live in Shaker Heights? Talk to your friends, colleagues, partners, and business owners and then make a call to learn more about becoming part of Shaker's new Van Aken District. Call Luke Palmisano, with RMS at 216-372-0080 or lpalmisano@rmscorporations.com or Tania Menesse, Shaker Heights economic development director at 216-491-1334 or tania.menesse@shakeronline.com. SL

WANTED: Interesting neighbors.

What will define the new Van Aken District?
That's still up to you.

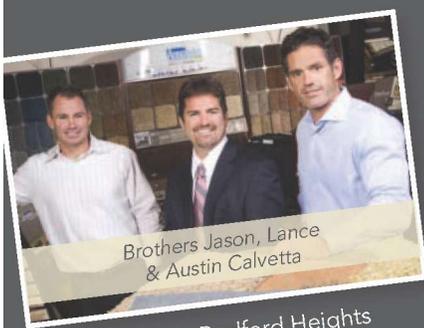
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We're creating a new, walkable neighborhood in one of Cleveland's most historic cities where you can work, live and play. To join us, contact economic.development@shakeronline.com or call us at 216.491.1334.





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News REAL



Housing Assistance Programs for Exterior Maintenance: Does Your Home Qualify?

Single- and two-family, owner-occupied homes in the Ludlow, Moreland, Lomond, and Sussex neighborhoods are eligible for two grant programs to correct exterior code violations cited by the Housing Inspection Department.

- The Exterior Maintenance Grant program provides up to \$2,500 in grant funds (with a required 10 percent homeowner match) based on total cost of repairs.
- The Free Paint program provides a voucher to cover the cost of paint necessary to correct exterior paint violations.

Both programs are also available Citywide to owner-occupants who are disabled and/or seniors age 62 years and older.

Income qualifications apply to all programs. The Housing Programs Specialist can also provide information on additional financial resources for those who may not qualify for City grant programs, as well as technical assistance to help plan and execute home improvement projects. See shakeronline.com and search “exterior maintenance grant” for more information, or contact Sharra Thomas at 216-491-1434 or sharra.thomas@shakeronline.com.

Sign up now for Landlord Training Seminars

The Shaker Heights Landlord Training program will be held Saturday, July 19 from 9 am - 1 pm, and in two parts on Wednesday, October 15 and 22 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building, 3450 Lee Road. It covers topics such as Ohio landlord/tenant law, the eviction process, property

management, marketing strategies, and the importance of tenant screening. Registration is required; free for Shaker Heights property owners and \$30 for non-Shaker property owners. To sign up online, go to bit.ly/landlordtraining. Contact Sharra Thomas at 216-491-1434 or sharra.thomas@shakeronline.com for more information.

Shaker Renovators Upgrade Houses, Grow the Tax Base

The Shaker Renovator program encourages the purchase and high-quality renovation of properties that are then put back on the market at an increased value, thereby growing the tax base.

In order to become a Shaker Renovator, interested rehabbers must have completed two qualified renovation projects in the City in the previous 18 months. Once designated, Shaker Renovators are exempt from having to provide interior drawings (except those required by the state), and are allowed to put into escrow 100 percent of repair costs, rather than 150 percent.

These are just some of the homes currently on the market after rehabbing:

21900 Shaker Boulevard

Contact: eastside_suites@windstream.net

16300 South Park Boulevard

Contact: jablerino@hotmail.com

17600 Scottsdale Boulevard

Contact: sfrey26@gmail.com

For an updated property list, or for contractors interested in becoming part of the program, go to shakeronline.com/for-residents/housing-incentives/renovation-program or call 216-491-1370.

**NOTE: “Real Numbers”
(housing transfer information)
is now listed online at
shakeronline.com.**

A Reader Writes

Dear Shaker Life Editor,

I enjoyed reading the article “A Fernway Duplex Gets a 10-Month DIY Make-Over.” One of the many wonderful aspects of living in Shaker is the effort our neighbors make to improve the quality of their homes. However, I want to remind residents to be aware of the risk of lead exposure when we renovate.

Lead poisoning remains an important public health issue, particularly in communities with older housing stock. The Environmental Protection Agency’s Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) regulations require that all contractors be certified in lead safe work practices, including these three simple procedures: contain the work area, minimize dust, and clean up thoroughly.

While lead safe certification is not required of home owners, these procedures should be taken seriously for DIY or contracting out. Home remodeling, including sanding or scraping of old paint, can release lead into the air and create lead dust and lead chips that increase the danger of lead poisoning. Even low levels of lead in childhood can affect IQ, the ability to pay attention, and academic achievement.

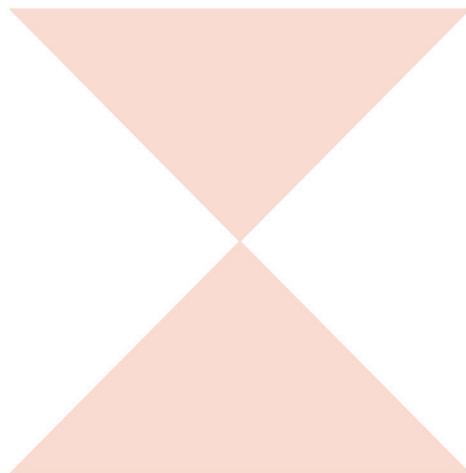
I am pleased to say that as a community, Shaker has made great strides in reducing lead poisoning. Shaker has gone from 16.3% of our children with elevated lead levels in 2004 to 3.2% in 2012. Our goal is zero! These percentages are below the 2012 Cuyahoga County (11.1%) and first ring suburb (6.9%) averages. The City’s Building Department disseminates information about RRP regulations to all registered contractors, requiring that they sign a statement acknowledging their awareness of the regulations. Ultimately it’s up to all Shaker homeowners — whether working with contractors or doing it ourselves — to assure that work is being done safely. Healthy homes, healthy Shaker!

Scott Frank, MD, MS
Director, Shaker Heights Health Department

Piecing Together History

Students in Laurie Schlein's and Derek White's second-grade classes at Mercer created beautiful hand-stitched quilts as a way of learning about the history of the Underground Railroad. Abolitionists stitched symbolic patterns onto quilts which they displayed strategically in order to provide clues to escaped slaves for finding clothing, food, and shelter along the path to freedom in the North.

The students learned this tradition of storytelling by creating their own clue-laden quilts, drawing upon the expert knowledge of parent volunteer and prize-winning quilter Sonia Cipiti. Her sons, Aiden and Anson, are students in those classrooms. The two quilts are now proudly displayed in the school, with a photo of their creators tucked into a special pocket lovingly stitched by the master quilters.



Derek White (left) and Sonia Cipiti (below).



Stay Informed

For the latest news and info about the Shaker schools, visit shaker.org.

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Calendar Notes

As you begin to make plans for the coming school year, be sure to make note of these changes to the 2014-15 school calendar, which were approved by the Board of Education in April:

The first day of school will be **Tuesday, August 26** for all students in grades 1-12. Kindergarten students ease into school with an orientation by appointment on August 26 or August 27, followed by half-days on August 28 and 29. Full-day kindergarten classes begin on Tuesday, September 2. Information regarding the kindergarten orientation and phase-in process will be mailed home before the start of the school year.

Spring break has been shortened from eight days to six, and Commencement has been moved from June 11 to June 9. The calendar changes will allow teachers to engage in more professional learning days when students are not in school. The modifications also accommodate changes in the state testing schedule and changes in state law requiring a minimum number of hours of instruction during the school year, rather than a minimum number of days.

A complete listing of events is available in the District's online calendar at shaker.org, and in the printed PTO/District calendar, which will be sent home in August to all families with children enrolled in the schools.

New in Town?

Families are encouraged to register new students as early as possible. **Appointments are required!** Please call 216-295-4321 to schedule your appointment. For more information about registration requirements, visit shaker.org/registration.

The Shaker schools provide a number of activities to welcome new families and help them become familiar with their student's new school. A complete listing of new family orientation activities is available in the online calendar at shaker.org.

Summer Reading

Whether you're going out of town for vacation or hanging out at the pool this summer, head to the library or bookstore first to stock up on reading selections. Required and suggested summer reading lists are available by grade level at shaker.org. And don't forget the sunscreen!

Long Live Latin!

If "classic" means standing the test of time, the Latin program at Shaker certainly qualifies. After more than 50 years, the program is going strong – and unlike the Roman Empire, shows no sign of decline. Far from being a "dead language" (don't let the Latin teachers hear you call it that!), the program is more vibrant than ever, serving over 320 students in grades seven through 12. Beginning in 2014-15, sixth-grade students at Woodbury Elementary will also be able to opt to study Latin.

Last spring, more than 150 students from the High School and Middle School turned out an especially strong performance on the National Latin Exam, with 14 students earning perfect scores – a new record for the District. Ben Robertson, then a junior, earned his fourth perfect score in a row – a feat accomplished by only six other students in the world this year. Two other Shaker students, Sameer Apte and Anav Sood, each accomplished their third perfect score.

Students from the Shaker Latin Club took first place overall at the Ohio Junior Classical League Convention, and Shaker students took first and second place in Case Western Reserve University's Vergil Week Latin Recitation Contest. Shaker tied with one other school district for having the most award winners in this year's Classical Association of the Midwest and South Translation Contest. And Shaker students frequently hold positions in both the state and national cabinets of the Junior Classical League.

Why the passion for Latin? According to Latin teacher Nora Murphy, who sponsors the Latin Club at the High School, "The secret [to its popularity] is that it's really a student-led, student-energized organization. It's a rare day when I don't have a group of students in my room after school. The truth is that these students participate because they enjoy the experience. They push each other to succeed, and they succeed because they push each other."

Alumni Profiles

Caroline Minter Hoxby, '84, is a recipient of the Smithsonian Magazine's 2013 American Ingenuity Award in the field of education. A leading scholar in the economics of education, Hoxby developed an innovative, data-driven process that helps highly selective colleges and universities recruit talented students who otherwise might not apply due to financial barriers.

Hoxby is a professor of economics at Stanford University, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution where she is a member of the Koret Task Force on K-12 Education, and director of the Economics of Education Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is also a presidential appointee to the National Board of Education Sciences. She holds a Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard University.

Aaron David Miller, '67, vice president for new initiatives and a distinguished scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, is the author of a new book, *The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President*.

For two decades, Miller served at the Department of State as an advisor to Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State, where he helped formulate U.S. policy on the Middle East. He has served as senior advisor for Arab-Israeli negotiations, as a senior member of the State Department's policy planning staff, in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and in the Office of the Historian.

He served on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and is a past president of Seeds for Peace, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict. Miller holds a Ph.D. in American Diplomatic and Middle East History from the University of Michigan. He has authored four other books and numerous articles, which have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times* among others. **SL**

The Bookshelf: Recent Books About the Great War

This year we observe the 100th anniversary of World War I, which saw an estimated 10 million military deaths and another 20 million wounded. Many hoped it would be “the war to end all wars.” However, its peace treaty actually set the stage for World War II.

Nonfiction

***The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Romance that Changed the World* by Greg King and Sue Woolmans.** St. Martin's Press, 2013. The author draws on unpublished letters and other rare primary sources to trace the story of the tragic romance and brutal assassination that led to World War I, exploring rumors of Serbian complicity, conspiracy, and official negligence that doomed the Archduke and his family.

***The Great War: A Combat History of the First World War* by Peter Hart.** Oxford University Press, 2013. Focusing on the decisive engagements of World War I, the author explores the immense challenges faced by the commanders and offers his own assessment on what brought about the war's outcome.

***Hundred Days: The Campaign that Ended World War I* by Nick Lloyd.** Basic Books, 2014. The difficult and bloody four-month Hundred Days Campaign tipped the stalemate on the Western Front in favor of the Allies in 1918 and drove back the Germans, bringing the war to an end.

***The Making of the First World War* by I. F. W. Beckett.** Yale University Press, 2012. From the flooding of Belgium's fields to the picture palaces of Britain's cinema, from the idealism

of Wilson's Washington to the German Lys offensive of 1918, the author examines events from World War I that continue to shape the world.

***The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* by Christopher M. Clark.** Harper, 2013. This authoritative chronicle draws on new research about World War I and traces the path to war in a minute-by-minute narrative that examines the decades of history that informed the events of 1914.

***Verdun: The Lost History of the Most Important Battle of World War I 1914-1918* by John Mosier.** Penguin Group, 2013. Drawing on the accounts of military analysts, examination of battle

plans, and recollections of serving officers and eyewitnesses, a revisionist historian presents a new view of one of the greatest battles in history.

Fiction

***The Cartographer of No Man's Land* by P. S. Duffy.** Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2013. When his beloved brother-in-law goes missing at the front in 1916, Angus defies his pacifist upbringing to join the war to find him. Assured a position as a cartographer in London, he is instead sent into battle. Meanwhile, at home, his son Simon Peter must navigate escalating hostility in a fishing village torn apart by grief.



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Dream. Dare. Do.

Cavendon Hall by Barbara Taylor Bradford. St. Martin's Press, 2014. For centuries two families have lived side-by-side beneath the backdrop of the imposing Yorkshire Manor. However, with World War I looming, they find themselves tested in ways they never thought possible and betrayals are set in motion.

Daughters of Mars by Thomas Keneally. Atria Books, 2013. Joining the war effort as nurses in 1915, two spirited Australian sisters, carrying a secret, become the friends they never were at home, and find courage in the face of danger as they serve alongside other remarkable women.

The First of July by Elizabeth Speller. Pegasus Books, 2013. This is the sweeping chronicle of World War I as seen through the eyes of four different men: a London carpenter and bicycle messenger, a homosexual musician, a Manhattan-based industrialist, and a French blacksmith apprentice, who experience the worst of war in this gritty, moody novel that culminates in the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916.

A Question of Honor: A Bess Crawford Mystery by Charles Todd. HarperCollins, 2013. When a dying soldier professes to have seen a disgraced officer long thought to be dead, World War I nurse Bess Crawford tries to find him and bring him to justice. The truth, however, is much more complicated than it seems.

Stella Bain by Anita Shreve. Little, Brown and Company, 2013. Suffering from shell shock and memory loss while serving as a nurse's aide on a French battlefield, American Stella Bain is taken in by London surgeon August Bridge and his wife.

To the Last Man by Jeff Shaara. Ballantine Books, 2004. In the spring of 1918, when America enters World War I, the world waits to see if the tide of war can be turned with the renewed spirit and strength of the untested American Expeditionary Force under General John "Blackjack" Pershing.

What's the Buzz about Books?

Shaker librarian Lynda Thomas leads a morning book discussion from 10 to 11:30 am on the second Tuesday of the month. Thomas reads and reviews many books, taking into consideration national events and current trends, before she chooses her annual Book Buzz list. She chooses books that are both relevant and will incite discussion among participants. (Spoiler alert! Next season all the books will relate to American history and culture.)

Thomas encourages everyone to express his or her opinions. She tactfully reminds the group that "everyone reads a different book." At the end of each discussion, the group rates the book on a scale of one to 10 as another way to engage everyone in the conversation. Readers are always welcome for the entire series or to come for a single book that interests them.

On July 8, the group will discuss *The Art Forger* by B. A. Shapiro, a story about an artist who agrees to forge a painting, until she realizes the painting may itself be a forgery.

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On August 12, the group will read *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, the story of a man who embarks on a 600-mile walk to visit a dying friend and muses about his life along the way.

Copies of the books are available at the Main Library's Reference desk one month before the discussion.

Get Creative: READ!

This summer the Library offers a summer reading program for everyone through August 6. Preschoolers and school-age children can sign up in the Children's Rooms and log the hours they read to earn prizes.



Besides offering encouragement to young readers, the Library also sponsors a variety of "creative" classes for children and teens. School-age children can make mixed-media self-portraits and have fun making edible artwork and scratch-and-sniff paints.

Children and families are invited to put the "Finishing Touches" on an End-of-Summer-Reading Interactive Art Show from 7-8 pm on Tuesday, August 6 at either library.



Teens can join a low key program that allows them to log-on, enter their hours, and take a chance on winning weekly iTunes or Barnes & Noble gift cards. Plus, for every 10 hours logged, their names are entered into a drawing for a Kindle HMX. Summer programs for teens include an Art Sampler, where they can try their hands at three different art-making experiences and a Mural Project, where they can help create a mural in the Teen Center out of CDs they decorate.

Adults can join the reading fun by signing up online or at the Reference desk at either Shaker Library and logging their summer reading activities (read or listen to a book, take a computer class, join a library book discussion, attend a library program or complete one of the Library's weekly

puzzles) to be eligible for weekly prize drawings and the grand prize drawing for a Kindle Fire.

Reading is for everyone. Visit the library and get creative this summer. For a complete listing of children, teen, and adult summer programs, pick up a flyer at either library or download one at shakerlibrary.org. The summer reading program is generously funded by the Friends of the Shaker Library.

Life Writing Class

Everyone has a story and the Life Writing Class encourages you to write it. You don't have to be a published author, just someone who wants to explore his or her life through writing. The class meets each month from 2-3 pm beginning Saturday, September 27 at Main Library.

Librarian and writer Rachel Woods will facilitate the group. The Library will provide the materials and the writers will provide the words and write as little or as much as they like. The Writing Class is designed to help writers begin to write their life stories in a noncritical, supportive environment.

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Updates

Board Moves Forward with Facilities Assessment, Maintenance Master Plan, and Feasibility Study

Last March, the Library, City Council, and the School Board met to review their accomplishments and to discuss strategic visions and the obstacles - mostly financial - to realizing them. The Library's situation remains dire. With no new millage since 1997, Shaker Library is receiving property tax collections comparable to 2003 and reduced state funding equivalent to what was received in 1994, a cumulative loss of more than \$800,000 annually, or one-seventh of its total income.

Following this successful work session,

the Library Board started moving forward with the work of examining the condition of Library facilities and developing options for the future. At the beginning of 2014, the Library Board addressed operational costs, mainly through cuts in staffing and hours of operation at Bertram Woods Branch and Main Library. Ongoing maintenance costs and building needs are of major concern as Main Library is located in an 88-year old building leased from the City and the Library-owned Woods Branch is in a 54-year-old building.

"Quite simply, the Library is both indispensable and, as it turns out, in need of a drastic overhaul. Our facilities are beginning to exceed their useful lives," according to Library Director Luren Dickinson.

The Board commissioned the well-known library design group HBM Architects to complete a Facilities Assessment and to rate every component of both library buildings, inside and out, on a scale of poor to excellent. They also created a Maintenance Master Plan to help the Library prioritize necessary work through the year 2025.

It is projected that over the next decade

more than \$1 million in maintenance funding will be needed for Woods Branch and more than \$4 million for Main Library.

Following further examination of the assessment and capital needs, the Board approved a continuation of the facilities assessment process with HBM at its June meeting. The architects are now completing a Feasibility Study to determine if there are ways to incorporate or eliminate the need for maintenance upgrades as part of renovation, expansion, and/or new construction.

The Board's goal is not just to bring the Library's buildings up to a satisfactory level, but to provide dynamic facilities based on 21st century best practices, which will serve the community well for decades to come. This will be a transparent and inclusive process and the Board will seek input from the public.

The intent is that a number of facility options will be made available for discussion. The Library Board hopes to gain consensus, approve a plan, and set a course of direction for the schematic design phase at its September Board meeting.

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MyCOM Funding to Shaker Community Reaches \$1.25 Million

Shaker Library is completing its seventh successful year of association with the Youth Development Initiative of the Cleveland Foundation, now known as MyCOM, or My Commitment, My Community.

Working with the Shaker Heights Youth Center and other core members of the Shaker Prevention Coalition, the Library began receiving grants in 2008, and group planning efforts resulted in the South Shaker community being designated a MyCOM neighborhood.

This summer, MyCOM will once again provide dozens of jobs for teens, including some at Shaker Library. With the funding for these positions, our community will have received almost \$1,250,000 in grants to provide out-of-school activities over the past seven years, with one-third of the amount designated to summer jobs for youth.

Shaker Library Board Meets with Westlake Library

For the past few years, the Library Board has met with other library boards in the region to share mutual concerns and to develop new operational approaches. Informal joint meetings were held with Cleveland Heights-University Heights in 2012, Euclid in 2013, and this year with Westlake.

Though Westlake is less diverse both racially and economically than Shaker Heights, the two library districts have virtually identical population sizes and median home values. Both systems provide exceptional service and boast some of the highest per capita usage levels in the nation.

Westlake's single facility, about the size of Shaker's two buildings combined, was the site of the first collaborative meeting of the two Boards last May. Westlake touted many of its innovative programs and noted that it recently joined the SearchOhio consortium, whereas Shaker Library has been a member of the CLEVNET consortium for 30 years.

Shaker Library shared the successes of its 2013 main floor reorganization at Main Library and the implementation of self-checkout and self-pickup of holds. Even though Westlake's building is only 12 years old, they had burst pipes and flooding during the winter and have building and maintenance concerns similar to Shaker's.

Plans call for the Library Board to host the Westlake Board in November.

Meet the Library's Newest Board Member: Brian Gleisser

Brian S. Gleisser has been appointed to a seven-year term on the Library Board, replacing Dr. David Hutt, whose term expired in March.

"I believe the Library is a crucial element in Shaker's future success," Gleisser says. "An excellent library, high quality schools, and superb city services are keys to what makes Shaker Heights a highly desirable community that is recognized nationally. I hope that my experience in community development and management and planning will benefit the Library Board as we consider the future."

Gleisser served as an elected member of Shaker Heights City Council for 14 years from 1999 through 2013, serving as Vice Mayor in 2004 and 2005. He is currently senior vice president at the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland, the \$45-million community action agency providing Head Start, Home Energy Assistance, and other community service programs to eligible children, families, and adults in Cuyahoga County.

A native Clevelander, Gleisser earned a BA from Northwestern University, a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University, and a law degree from Cleveland State University. He currently serves as a member of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board, the Emergency Food and Shelter Board, and the Shaker Heights Recreation and Health Committee.

Gleisser's visions for the Library are "to continue to improve and enhance Library services to the community; to assure that financial resources are available to support them; and to develop and implement a facilities plan that will enable the Library to provide welcoming, efficient, accessible, and sustainable spaces for the community."

He and his wife, Pamela, a psychotherapist in private practice with Hearth Consultants, have lived in Shaker Heights



Brian S. Gleisser

for 25 years. Each of their three children graduated from Shaker Heights High School.

Gleisser enjoys reading historical biographies, science fiction, and newspapers. His favorite books include *Dune* by Frank Herbert, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *The Best and the Brightest* by David Halberstam, and *Truman* by David McCullough.

Best of Show

Shaker Library received two Best of Show awards from the American Library Association for its Dig Into Reading summer reading flyer, and its Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards booklet. The awards were presented at the ALA annual conference in Las Vegas in June.

Events & Popular Programs

Get Your Knit On

"The only difference between an experienced knitter and a new knitter is that the experienced knitter makes bigger mistakes faster. Be bold; there are no terrible consequences in knitting."

— Stephanie Pearl-McPhee

Feeling bold? Perhaps now is the time to pick up the needles and yarn you have in the closet and head over to the Library to get help. Experienced knitters and novices are welcome to share tips and techniques and to get help from experienced knitters who moderate each class. The groups are collegial, welcoming, and encouraging.

Knit Mornings are held from 10-11:30 am the first Wednesday of each month at Main Library and are moderated by Elfriede Heaney; Knit Nights are held from 7-8:45 pm July 16, August 20, September 17 at Woods Branch and are moderated by Fern Braverman.

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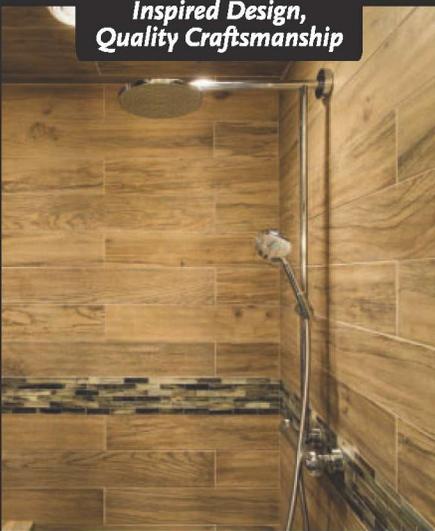
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Genealogy Classes at Main Library

In collaboration with the African-American Genealogical Society (AAGS), the Library has offered a series of genealogy research programs throughout the year. Classes are not limited to the African-American culture. They can help people of all ethnicities discover their past.

At 10:15 am on Saturday, July 26 at Main Library, author and AAGS member Barbara Flewellyn presents "Steps to Writing a Living History." She and Helen Turner-Thompson will discuss the collaboration required between the writer and oral historian for a successful product, using their recently published book, *In His Presence: A Memoir in Traditional Gospel Music*.

At 9:30 am on Saturday, September 27 at Main Library, the Education Committee of the African-American Genealogical Society AAGS will present a Hands-on Genealogy Workshop. Participants can use library computers to research a variety of records found in various databases.

Both workshops will be preceded by

the regular monthly meeting of the AAGS to which all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

ACT Boot Camp Keeps Minds Fit

Looking for a "camping" experience for your teens? College Now Greater Cleveland will present an ACT Test Preparation Boot Camp August 18 – 21 at Main Library. Students will learn about and practice for each section of this high-stakes college admissions test. Snacks will be served daily and every student will receive his or her own ACT prep book at the conclusion of the "camp." The class is free. Register online at shakerlibrary.org or by phone at 216-991-2030.

The Library Provides Lifelong Education for All

The Library offers a variety of ongoing classes to help adults meet their educational goals. Working with Cuyahoga Community College ABLE program, the Library offers two different class sessions to help people

prepare for the General Equivalence Diploma (GED). One class meets Monday and Wednesday mornings; the other on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Prospective students can call the ABLE office at 216-371-7138 to register.

Every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm, dedicated volunteers offer an English As a Second Language class at the Main Library. Students can join the group any Tuesday evening.

The Library provides Project Learn tutors and their adult basic literacy students use of its study rooms for their bi-weekly sessions. Prospective students and tutors can get started by calling 216-621-9483. More information can be found at projectlearn.org.

In addition, the Library offers a range of computer classes, from the most basic introduction to computers to more sophisticated productivity software and special-topic classes. Find class descriptions online and register for classes at bit.ly/Qm1mnZ or call 216-991-2030 and choose Option 8.

The Library also offers opportunities for jobseekers through its partnership with the Career Transition Center, which provides job

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search workshops, a jobs club, and individual job coaching (216-367-3011, or careertc.org). Through the Library's affiliation with SCORE, a volunteer organization of experienced business executives and managers, residents with or without jobs can receive one-on-one consultations with entrepreneurs. Residents can register for a free session at shakerlibrary.org/services/score-business-counseling/ or by calling 216-991-2030, and choosing Option 6.



Family. George and Rebecca Dent gave to the Bertram Woods Fund; Marilyn Gardner contributed to the Frances Belman Fund and William Leahy donated to the Ruth Levenson Fund for Children.

Randy Kammer donated to the Marilyn Kammer Memorial Fund in honor of Dr. Ron Elinoff and in memory of Mariette Benevento, Bryce Burgess, George Danson, and Watson Healy.

Shaker Heights Middle School donated several Honor Day and other program brochures dating from 1957 to 1999.



Shaker Heights Cooperative Preschool students with their 1st Place Arbor Day poster presentation of "The Four Seasons."

afternoon. A very special thanks to Gali's Florist and Garden Center for the donation of flowering trees, which were lovingly planted by the winners.

The winners in the various poster and poetry divisions were:

1st Place Preschool Division for Poster: Shaker Heights Cooperative Preschool, "The Four Seasons."

Giving

Donations to the Library

Donations to the Library during the first quarter of the year included unrestricted contributions from Patricia and Joseph Sweeting in memory of Ken McGovern, and from Joan Steinberg in honor of the Burleigh

Contests

Arbor Day Featured the Gift of Trees

Shaker Library and the City's Tree Advisory Board celebrated the winners of its 2014 Arbor Day Poster and PoeTREE contest last April. Thanks to Mayor Earl Leiken, City Councilwoman Nancy Moore, and City Forester Pat Neville for making it a special

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City Councilwoman Nancy Moore and 3rd Grade poster winner Morgan Leeson.



Mayor Earl Leiken, City Councilwoman Nancy Moore and 3rd Grade poetry winner Umer Chaudhry.



Proud 6th Grade poster winner Andrew France.

1st Place Kindergarten Division for Poster: Ali Chaudhry, Mercer School.

1st Place 3rd Grade Division for Poster: Morgan Leeson, Onaway School.

1st Place 6th Grade Division for Poster: Andrew France, home school, "Trees Are For Giving: a Tribute to Shel Silverstein's The Giving Tree."

1st Place 3rd Grade Division for Poetry: Umer S. Chaudhry, Mercer School, "We All Like Trees."

1st Place 4th Grade Division for Poetry: Jakayla Douglas, St. Stanislaus School, Cleveland, "What a Beautiful Day."

Keep Up with What's Happening at Shaker Library

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/ShakerHeightsPublicLibrary and Twitter @ShakerLibrary.

Closings

Both libraries will be closed on July 4 (Independence Day), September 1 (Labor Day), and October 13 for an in-service staff day. **SL**

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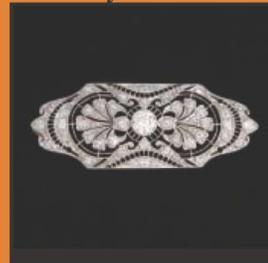
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Shaker Heights: Ready for its Close Up

The Shaker Heights Landmark Commission has chosen the winners of the second annual Preservation Month Photo Contest. The contest was created in honor of National Preservation Month, which is celebrated each May by preservation organizations across the country. Eighty-one entries were received, nearly double the entries received in 2013. Thirty different photographers submitted photos.

Ann Klavora, Principal Planner for the City, says, “The Landmark Commission is thrilled with the great response to this year’s Preservation Month photo contest. The photographers captured many of the different Shaker scenes and places that people love.”

The Commission noted that the winning Street Scene photo – Make Room for Trees, by Karoline Pimplikar – was “so Shaker” and especially representative of the community.

The Landmark Commission selected a first place winner and runner-up in each of five categories.

New this year was a People’s Choice winner, selected from a field of 20 options in an online survey garnering 500 responses.

■ People’s Choice

Leaves on the Driveway / Julia Felderman | 1

■ Homes and Buildings

First Place: Lomond Entrance / Rich Minkowetz | 2
Runner-Up: Lynnfield Rapid Station / Austin McGuan | 11

■ Architectural Elements

First Place: Alaska Niece Window / Donna Mayer | 5
Runner-Up: Plymouth Church / Ken Goldberg | 10

■ Landscape and Nature

First Place: Shaker Dawn at Southerly Park / Daniel Medalie | 3
Runner-Up: Canoe Lake and Bridge / Marc Swartzbaugh | 9

■ Street Scenes

First Place: Make Room for Trees / Karoline Pimplikar | 6
Runner-Up: Helping Clean Up / Bob Fox | 8

■ Sundry

First Place: On Top of the World / Madeline Hertz | 4
Runner-Up: Raider Nation / Billy Seguin | 7

All contest entries can be viewed by joining the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission Flickr group at flickr.com/groups/shlc.

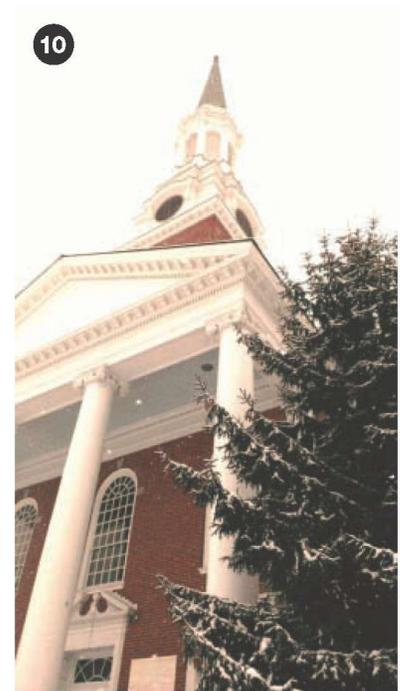


1 Leaves on the Driveway / Julia Felderman **2** Lomond Entrance / Rich Minkowetz **3** Shaker Dawn at Southerly Park / Daniel Medalie
4 On Top of the World / Madeline Hertz **5** Alaska Niece Window / Donna Mayer **6** Make Room for Trees / Karoline Pimplikar
7 Raider Nation / Billy Seguin





8 Helping Clean Up / Bob Fox 9 Canoe Lake and Bridge /
Marc Swartzbaugh 10 Plymouth Church / Ken Goldberg
11 Lynnfield Rapid Station / Austin McGuan



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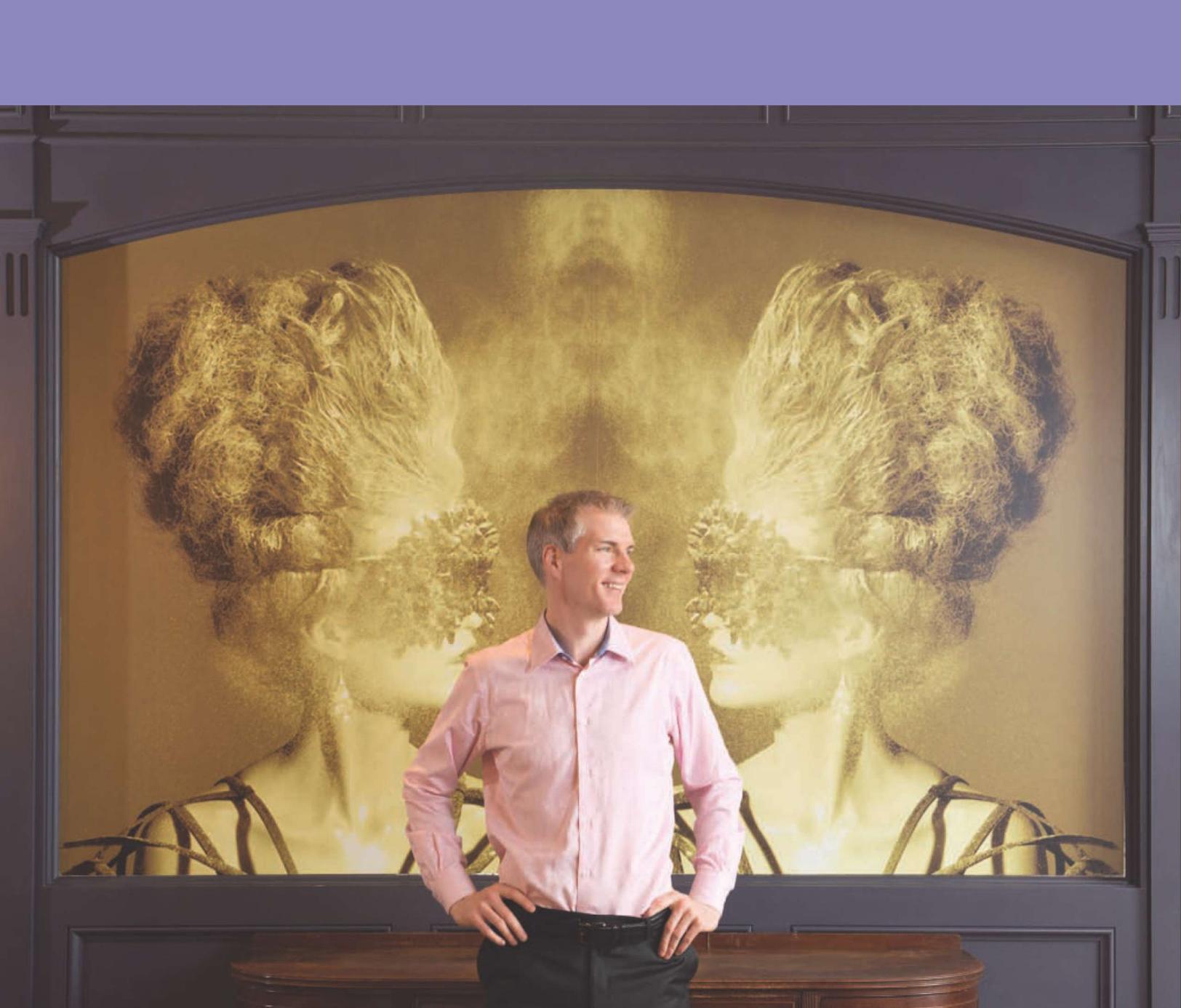
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French Cuisine *with* Social Change?

Mais Oui

BY JENNIFER KUHEL
Photography by Kevin G. Reeves
except where noted

Above: Brandon Chrostowski, EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute founder and advocate for social change. The photo mural is by Chris Kascsak of In Design, Cleveland, based on an image he found on the Internet. "It's a modern woman dressed in powdered wig, with a decided edge," he says. "To make the image even more impactful, we decided to give her a mirrored twin."



While Brandon Chrostowski's **VISION** at Shaker Square is a noble one, its **SUCCESS** depends on maintaining the **top-quality** food he serves at **EDWINS**.



COURTESY OF EDWINS

The richly painted blue-gray walls, floor-to-ceiling windows, and white tablecloths topped with classic French cuisine transport diners at EDWINS to a place far away from Shaker Square. Paris, perhaps, or Bordeaux. The food, all exquisitely presented, is exotic and alluring, from simply seasoned and sautéed frog legs to a sublime braised rabbit served with a Dijon mustard cream sauce.



But equally impressive

is the concept behind EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute. It's more than a place for Shaker residents to enjoy a stunning meal: It's also a place where formerly incarcerated men and women spend 26 weeks learning the ins and outs of the restaurant business. The reward for their hard work? A shot at a second chance in life with an education in a field with a high workforce demand.

EDWINS is the nonprofit brainchild of Brandon Chrostowski, a 34-year-old restaurateur and advocate for social change who has carefully crafted the concept for the restaurant and its institute ever since he was given a second chance after his own troubled youth and run-ins with the law in Detroit.

Chrostowski, the former general manager, sommelier, and fromager at L'Albatros – one of several area restaurants owned by Shaker Square resident Zack Bruell – went on to graduate from The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York and work at some of the world's leading restaurants, including the Michelin three-star Lucas Carton in Paris, as well as Le Cirque, Picholene, and Chanterelle in New York City.

EDWINS – a play on “Education Wins” and Chrostowski’s middle name – is an homage to all of Chrostowski’s life experiences and his passion for French food, and is his way of paying it forward for some of society’s overlooked and rejected citizens.

EDWINS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, so there's a donation line instead of a tip line on your dinner receipt, and donations are fully tax-deductible.

“Our mission is guided by what’s best for our students,” Chrostowski explains. “We have a concise message. From the board of directors, to the funding we take. That way, we can keep the message very clean and clear. It takes more work and it’s taken twice as long, but it’s better this way.”

Now seven months into its operation, Chrostowski says EDWINS represents the beginning of what he hopes evolves into a model for reducing recidivism not just in Ohio, but across the country.





DES PLATS

Poilet mijoté en grand moulin
Steak au poivre et ses pommes frites
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Cailles au gras de canard avec tomates
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Confit de canard aux oranges et champignons
Sablons au chocolat
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Pâtes fraîches et ris de veau
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CABERNET MERLOT
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SAUVIGNON BLANC
KIB 17
TITOS MARTINI 4.7
DITALINI PASTA 1.5
PORK TENDERLOIN 2
ARTICHAUTS
BARBQUE 17
TOFU PAYSANVILLE 19
4-0
Etc.





The Food

While Chrostowski's plan is a noble one, he is well aware that without serving top-quality food, EDWINS wouldn't succeed. He is a man with high expectations, which is why he chose French cuisine for the restaurant's menu.

"It's classic. It's what I know, and it involves the fundamentals of cooking," he says. "Throughout the world, you can learn the classic French sauces, the cooking techniques, the approach, the philosophy. You can use your own touch to preserve its integrity – and also enhance the flavors."

That's where chef Gilbert Brenot and sous chef Gerry Grim come in. Brenot is the former owner of Maxi's in Little Italy, and Grim worked just across the Square at fire food and drink.

The Brenot-Grim team offers diners a fine selection of sublimely prepared classic French dishes. For the newbie, the frog legs, or *Cuisses de grenouilles en persillade*, are a must-try first course (this author's seven-year-old gave them high praise and has requested them for dinner). French food lovers will swoon at the flaky and rich *Bouchee a la rein* (sweetbreads with mushroom cream sauce topped with puff pastry). The *Paupiettes de poisson du jour* (market fish wrapped in crispy potatoes) are a favorite of Chrostowski and diners alike and a dish he mastered at Le Cirque.

The braised rabbit, *Lapin a la moutarde*, smacks of comfort food and begs to top a home cook's Sunday dinner list. *Canard a l'orange*, roasted duck served with ramps and turnips, is so flavorful and tender that it barely needs a knife for cutting. *Steak au poivre* was evenly spiced and served perfectly medium, topped with *pommes frites*.

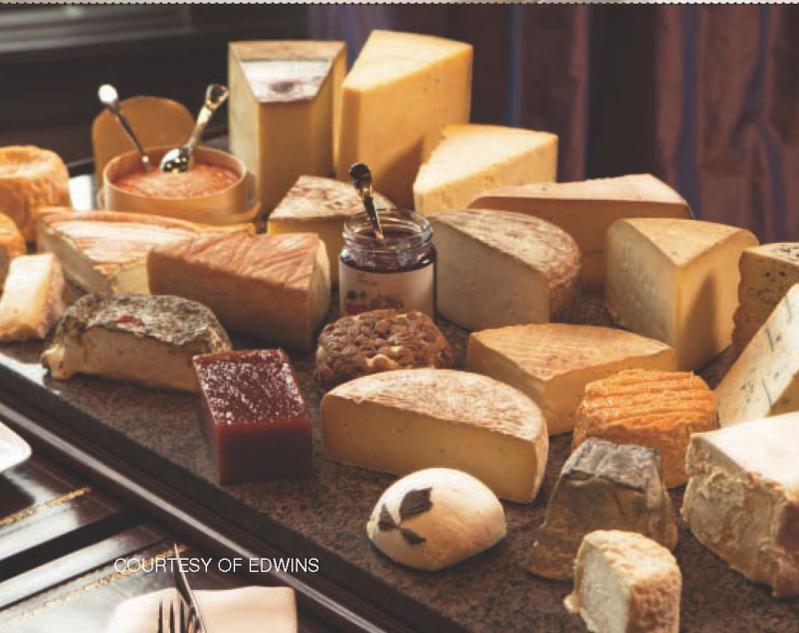
The menu also has several vegan options, including a beautifully stacked Portobello napoleon of squash, zucchini, and red pepper coulis.

To drink, the restaurant has no small selection of wines and signature cocktails, including the delightful Spring in Champagne, a mix of sparkling wine, Chambord, St. Germaine elderflower liqueur, and sugar, as well as the Sazerac, a New Orleans riff on the Old Fashioned that combines Old Overholt rye whiskey, Peychaud's bitters, and an absinthe rinse ("The best I've had," according to my rye-loving spouse).

The Bananas Foster, set aflame tableside by a student, provides a not-too-sweet/not-too-heavy ending to dinner. Finally, for those who are familiar with Chrostowski's work from his four years at L'Albatros, it's important to note that the restaurant's sprawling cheese selection is enough to make a diner justify a separate visit devoted entirely to *fromage*.



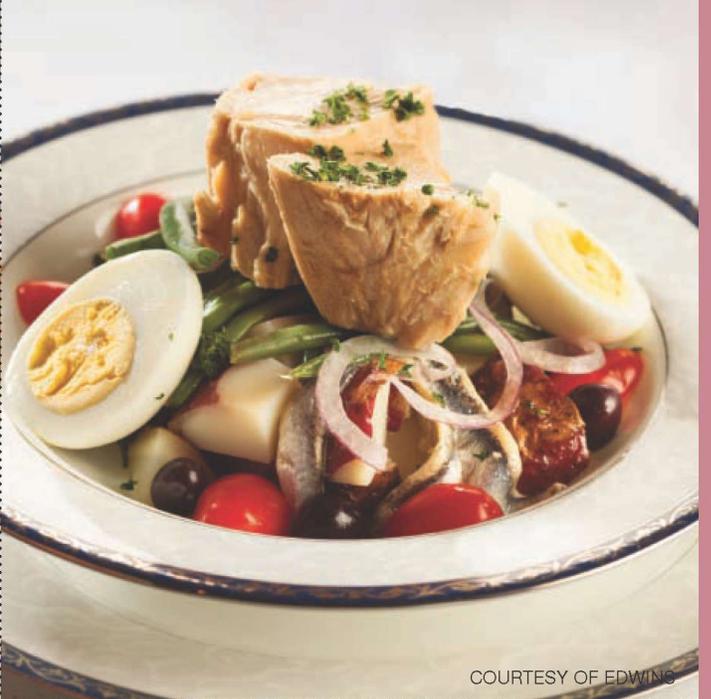
COURTESY OF EDWINS



COURTESY OF EDWINS

This page, from top: Sous chef Gerry Grim and chef Gilbert Brenot; Bisque de homard (lobster bisque); tasting selection of artisanal cheeses.

Opposite, clockwise from upper left: Steak au poivre; Salade Niçoise; Portobello napoleon; Cuisses de grenouilles en persillade (frog legs); Tarte de lapin (rabbit pie); Paupiettes de poisson du jour (market fish wrapped in crispy potatoes).



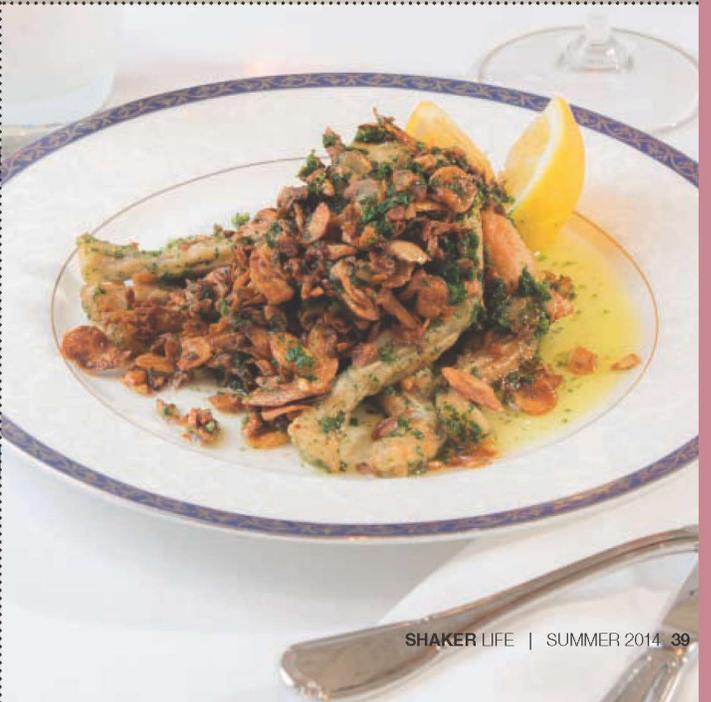
COURTESY OF EDWINS



COURTESY OF EDWINS



COURTESY OF EDWINS





COURTESY OF EDWINS

The Students and the Volunteers

In August, EDWINS will graduate its second class of students, following on the heels of the first class of 23 who graduated this past April. During their education, students come to the restaurant three times a week and learn everything about the restaurant business. Whether it's on the floor or in EDWINS' tiny basement classroom, they are taken through the rigors of food safety, culinary math, serving, bartending, cooking, hosting, and more.

It's not an easy task for Chrostowski, for his paid staff, or for his students, but it doesn't make it not worth doing. A reminder is painted on the kitchen staircase that leads to the basement classroom. It reads: Today, we will win. We'll study our mistakes and become stronger. We will win, each day, we will win.

If that sounds like the stuff of motivational speeches, it's not. "Someone believed in me and said, 'Hey, you can do this'," Chrostowski says of his own path. "Having that support took me in a whole new direction in life. At some point, I felt like I was on borrowed time, that I should be dead or in prison. No one does this work without being blessed. It needs to be given back."



COURTESY OF EDWINS

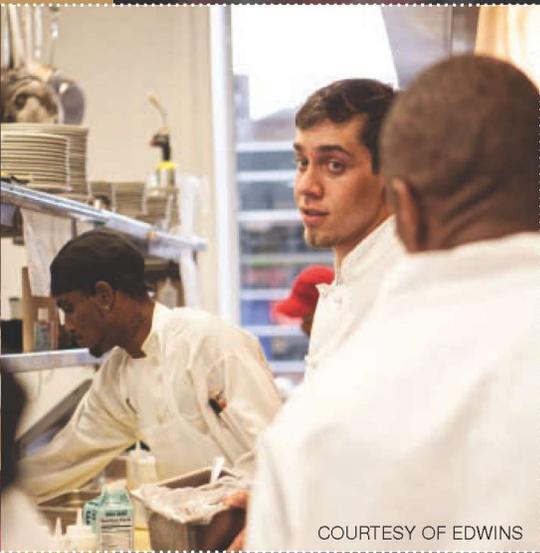
Josh Skoutelas, a 31-year-old Pittsburgh native who will graduate from EDWINS in August, recently told a group of Onaway Elementary School fourth graders who visited the restaurant on a field trip that he was "just like all of you," growing up in a middle class home and playing hockey, until he got mixed up with the wrong crowd and ended up in prison.

"Before this program, I was struggling with finding myself," he told the Onaway kids. "Now I have a second chance. I can wake up every day now and know that I have something to do. I have learned so much," he told the students.

EDWINS has also caught the eye of Shaker residents who have lined up to help Chrostowski and his students. Chris Cole, a consultant and development manager at Deloitte, learned of Chrostowski's mission

in 2013 while attending the TEDxCLE conference. Chrostowski spoke about EDWINS at the conference and Cole offered to help him organize his volunteer human resources.

Cole's wife, Anne, and their two children also got involved with EDWINS, providing much needed time and elbow grease painting and cleaning the restaurant before it opened. Today, Chris sits on EDWINS' board of directors. "We meet every two months and we help him manage the organization," Cole explains. "If he wants to try something new or if he needs another perspective on things, we give him that."



COURTESY OF EDWINS



Darelle Hill pours a Spring in Champagne, a signature cocktail at EDWINS.

The Future

Chrostowski and his team are just scratching the surface of what they hope to accomplish. (Look no further than the colorful assortment of shirts, jackets, and Chrostowski's signature bowties dangling from the pipes in his basement office for evidence of how much time Chrostowski spends at the restaurant.) Chrostowski wants to lengthen his program and increase the monthly stipend for students from its current level of \$200 a month so that students won't need part-time jobs to make ends meet.

He'd also like to purchase nearby housing to give students dorm-style living and a safe home while they train at EDWINS. Childcare, access to drug rehabilitation services, and a fitness center round out the short list of to-do's.

For now, Chrostowski is humbled by the way his concept has been embraced. "I want to thank the people who come and support us – the people in the neighborhood and in the community," Chrostowski says.

"They've spoken with their appetites, with the cards they've written – with all their support. A lot of people said this was impossible."

He also appreciates the role Shaker Square plays in EDWINS' concept. "It sets the pace in terms of racial, gender, and ethnic diversity. It's significant historically. It has public transport and it's a crossroads of neighborhoods. And there's a community here that supports the businesses and each other."

Square resident Zack Bruell became close to Chrostowski during his tenure at L'Albatros. He says that EDWINS has always been part of Chrostowski's path.

"This is what he chooses to do. And he believes in what he's doing," Bruell says. "If you're stubborn and you know what your vision is and you're relentless, you'll succeed." **SL**



When you go:

EDWINS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, so there's a donation line instead of a tip line on your dinner receipt. Donations are fully tax-deductible.

Busy reservations times for the restaurant are 6–7:30 pm. "No one wants to eat at 5:30 or 9. People think it's uncool to eat late, but it's very European. Or eat early and then catch a movie," Chrostowski suggests.

Be patient with the service. Some servers are just hitting the floor while others are more polished. "Even with its inconsistencies on the floor, my team has to stay two or three steps ahead, so there's a lot of movement in order to insulate the students from a bigger mistake that a guest might see. I still believe we can deliver a great experience because even what we may lack in perfection, we make up for in energy," Chrostowski says.

EDWINS is located at 13101 Shaker Square (northeast quadrant) and is open Mon.–Wed., 4–10 pm; Thur.–Sat., 4–11:30 pm. Call 216-921-3333 or go online at opentable.com for reservations.





Shaker Square: Cleveland or Shaker?

EDWINS is the latest high-profile addition to the ever-evolving menagerie of restaurants and stores that make up Shaker Square, which was only the second planned shopping district in the United States, after Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. The brains behind EDWINS, Brandon Chrostowski, told Shaker Life that the Square “sets the pace in terms of racial, gender, and ethnic diversity.”

It wasn't always that way. The Square was developed by Oris and Mantis Van Sweringen (who famously developed Shaker Heights) between 1927 and 1929. “The Vans saw Shaker Square as a focal point and gateway to their suburb to the east...” according to the website shakersquare.net, written and maintained by Shaker Square resident Arnold Berger.

Shaker Square is an odd duck. It is and it isn't part of Shaker Heights. While it is technically in Cleveland, it's part of the Shaker Heights School District. Arnie Berger's website has some suggestions as to how that might have happened:

“Old maps suggest that the Shaker Square neighborhood was never in Shaker Heights, but rather in Newburgh, which was annexed to Cleveland around the time Shaker Heights was carved out of Warrensville Township.

One old news account, from the September 5, 1912 Plain Dealer, tells of an exchange of land... Such a 'swap' would serve the interests of both communities. Shaker Heights wanted more students (and more taxes) to support a new school. Cleveland city officials and judges were glad to create an area where they could live in the city... yet have their children educated with those of the city's elite who were moving to Shaker Heights.”

Bruce Marshall's book, *Shaker Heights* (2006), adds more layers to the telling. It seems the Vans wanted a purely residential village, but understood that Shaker residents would appreciate having somewhere nearby to shop. “Most of [Shaker Square] was within the boundaries of Shaker Heights... the Van Sweringens returned a section of Shaker Heights to the City of Cleveland and created Shaker Square as a commercial district.”

Nor did the Vans want any apartments in town, so making the Square part of Cleveland allowed them to build the venerable and beautiful Moreland Courts.

And there's yet another reason why Shaker Heights' borders were, as Marshall writes, “fluid” in those early years. “When a portion of Shaker Heights was returned to Cleveland for [the development of] Shaker Square, the odd extension on the Northwest corner” – Larchmere Road – “was retained because Mayor William Van Aken's property was located there.”

Shaker Square was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. **SL**





WORK

LIVE



Photography by Janet Century | Interview by Jennifer Proe

Who: Addisah Sherwood-Ajiboye, with husband Dr. Bolu Ajiboye

Where: They run the business out of their home in the Boulevard neighborhood.

Business: STEMpowerkids, a monthly mail-order subscription service of activity kits for kids three years old and up, focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Professional Mission: To empower young people by promoting a love of learning in science and math with “bite-sized” lesson plans, and to help families have fun together in the process.

Personal Background: I come from a long line of teachers, but I sort of jumped ship and went to law school. I moved to Cleveland after law school to clerk for the chief judge of the U.S. District Court. Now I am a business litigation attorney with Calfee, Halter & Griswold downtown. I grew up in sunny California, but I still love Cleveland, despite the weather!

¶ My husband grew up in North Carolina, and moved here after completing his Ph.D. for a post-doc. He is a biomedical engineer. He is also a very accomplished salsa dancer, and I had just started taking lessons when we met at a dance through Baila Duro (Cleveland’s salsa social club). He literally swept me off my feet.

What I love about my work: My husband and I are both minorities; I am multiracial and he is Nigerian. We are passionate not only about STEM education, but about closing the achievement gap. We saw a significant push for early literacy, but not nearly as much for math. Research has shown that the amount of math a child knows upon entering kindergarten is a significant predictor of later academic success. ¶ When we realized how time consuming it can be to gather all of the materials to do science and math projects at home, we wanted to make this easier for other working families. I love that we have so much fun doing these projects together as a family, away from computers and TV. We test out all of the kits with our son, Elijah. His favorite is the exploding film canister lab in the chemistry kit. ¶ We recently won a local entrepreneur contest through Bad Girl Ventures, which gave us a great launching point. We were just accepted into the Flashnet business incubator to develop a mobile app.

On Working and Living in Shaker Heights: We moved to Shaker Heights in 2011, when I was pregnant with our son who is now three. We fell in love with the Shaker Lakes and decided we wanted to live near them. We also love the Shaker Historical Society’s garden tour. We just recently met the new superintendent of the Shaker Schools, Dr. Hutchings, while we were at one of the parks and enjoyed talking with him. We are definitely looking forward to enrolling our son in the Shaker Schools when he is old enough. ¶ We love that we can walk to the library, and in fact we had our son’s birthday party there! We also love the sense of community. We recently found a lost dog. The Shaker police connected us with the owners, but my son cried when it was time for the dog to go home – so the dog’s family invited us to come visit anytime.

Contact: Monthly subscriptions are \$24.99 plus \$4.99 shipping and handling. For more information about the company, visit their website at stempowerkids.com or find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/stempowerkids](https://www.facebook.com/stempowerkids). Phone: 216-394-9339. **SL**



Creating Change

When Woodbury students combine arts and activism, their cups and hearts run over.

BY DIANA SIMEON

On a recent spring evening, the crowd in Woodbury School's gym was admiring the more than 1,100 brightly colored, handmade ceramic mugs, spread out on dozens of tables. The mugs had been crafted by Woodbury students, staff, and more than 200 community members and were decorated with everything from squiggles and swirls to polka dots and Jackson Pollock-style splatters.

There were animals, suns, stars, moons, flowers, rainbows, plenty of hearts, and even quotes, ranging from the inspirational – “Books are proof that humans can do magic” – to the lighthearted, “Mmm...donuts.” One thing was certain: each mug was unique, just like the artist who had made it.

Tables in the Woodbury gym were laden with brightly colored mugs in a wide range of decorative patterns and motifs. Some had been reserved by their creators, while others were available on a first-come, first-served basis. Photo by Colleen McCreary





Photo by Caydie Heller



But this wasn't an ordinary art show. This was Woodbury Creating Change, a biennial all-school event that uses art to make a difference in the community. By evening's end, the 1,100-plus handmade mugs would help raise more than \$8,500 for four Cleveland-area not-for-profit organizations.

The atmosphere was festive, as the more than 1,000 in attendance picked a mug for a contribution of \$5 to \$10 then headed to the school's cafeteria to nosh on goodies and to pose for "mug shots" with photographers from Shaker-based MotoPhoto & Portrait Studio. Tables brimmed with treats from more than 25 area restaurants, chefs, bakeries, and markets, including Shaker-based J. Pistone's, Simply Delicious Pies, and Lucy's Sweet Surrender.

In the auditorium, a performance put on by students and Groundworks Theater, called Poetry in Motion, provided entertainment. And in the library, attendees chatted with representatives of the not-for-profits chosen to share the money raised that evening.

For Woodbury's students, it was a powerful lesson in their capacity to create change in their corner of the world. "They feel a part of something big," says Woodbury art teacher Deanna Clemente Milne, who spearheaded the event. "They see that this is what happens when a community comes together."



James, Makol, and Alexander – three of the Sudanese "Lost Boys" who helped educate Woodbury students about the plight of Sudanese refugees - were guests of honor at the event. Two of the events' four designated charities provide aid to the people of South Sudan.
Photo by Caydie Heller



Woodbury students, in partnership with Groundworks Theater, entertained audiences with a performance called Poetry in Motion. Photo by Caydie Heller



After purchasing their mugs, attendees were invited to enjoy delicious desserts and beverages donated by 25 local restaurants, bakeries, and markets. Photo by Caydie Heller

Art and Activism

The idea that art can be used to help others is at the core of Clemente Milne's teaching philosophy. "The goal in my art room, and we talk about this a lot, is to be more thoughtful, more empathetic, and more of a problem solver in the world. We can use art to do that."

In fact, Woodbury Creating Change has its roots in a unit on art and activism that Clemente Milne – affectionately known as Ms. CM – has done for years. Early projects included artworks funded by a grant from Cleveland's Young Audiences, as well as a school-wide fundraiser for the Nepal Orphan's Home, an organization with which fifth-grade teacher Carola Drosdeck is involved.

But it was while attending the National Art Education Association Conference several years ago that Clemente Milne started to think about going big when it came to arts and activism at Woodbury. She sat in on a presentation about the Empty Bowls Project, an arts-inspired fundraiser that has spread across the United States. In it, artists and educators work with community members to make soup bowls. Guests are invited to pick a bowl and enjoy a meal, in return for a charitable contribution. The proceeds are donated to local organizations.

"I thought it would be great to make bowls out of clay and get Shaker chefs to come. We have such great food talent in this town. To tap into that would be fantastic. That's basically how it started," explains Clemente Milne.

After returning home, Clemente Milne talked to fellow Woodbury art teacher Robert Bognar about the idea. He jumped on board and, in 2012, the duo worked with Woodbury students and teachers on what came to be known as the "Souper Bowl," which, like Creating Change, turned art – in this case, more than 1,000 handmade soup bowls – into a fundraiser for four Cleveland-area not-for-profits. That event raised more than \$6,500.

"I've been in education for 30 years and, in all seriousness, the event was one of the coolest things I've seen," recalls Woodbury principal Randall Yates, who retired this year. "We came in the next day and wondered how we could do this again."



Based on the sheer amount of work that putting on such an event entails – hundreds of hours, much of it during Clemente Milne’s and Bogнар’s spare time – the teachers decided that the fundraiser could take place every two years. That way, all Woodbury students would experience it once during their time at the school. “It makes it more special,” says Bogнар.

The event was also renamed to Woodbury Creating Change to broaden its scope. “Art is all about creativity and trying new things, so we thought maybe we could come up with a name to encompass what we want to do, which is to always use art and to always include some kind of community service,” explains Clemente Milne.

Mugs, mugs, and more mugs

By spring 2013, Clemente Milne and Bogнар were experimenting with what the art students would make for Woodbury Creating Change with their sixth-grade classes. They settled on mugs. “We were able to work out the bugs of making the mugs, and we also knew we could scale it to the level we’d need,” explains Bogнар.

There were other changes too. In the two years between Souper Bowl and Creating Change, Shaker had implemented the International Baccalaureate program at Woodbury.

Among the emphases of the IB program: the arts and community service. Creating Change offered a chance to combine those at Woodbury, while also intersecting with the curriculum in other ways. For example, Woodbury’s all-school book read – *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate – helped inspire the list of not-for-profits that benefited from this year’s Creating Change. The book’s main character, Kek, is a refugee from the Darfur region of the Sudan, sent to live in Minnesota.

“Three out of the four not-for-profits work with refugees, so the students were that much more invested,” says Clemente Milne.

Before the all-school read, three Sudanese refugees associated with one of those not-for-profits, Personal Wishes of Sudanese Lost Boys of Cleveland, visited Woodbury, a profound experience. Meanwhile, students in some sixth-grade science classes spent part of the year learning about water quality. Another of the not-for-profits, Isaac’s Wells, helps villagers in the Darfur region of Sudan dig wells for clean drinking water. The two other not-for-profits picked for Creating Change: US Together, which also works with refugees, and the Hunger Network in Shaker.

Of course, the major focus of the school year for Clemente Milne and Bogнар was working with students, staff, and community members to create the thousand-plus mugs to be sold at Woodbury Creating Change. This was no small task (see the sidebar, “Creating Change by the Numbers”) and it started with the hunt for the “perfect” plastic mold. “I went to every Walmart and other store that sells plastic-ware in this area,” jokes Bogнар. Once they found it – the mold was actually made out of two plastic items, a bowl and a cup – Bogнар poured 180 plaster molds to facilitate the mug-making process.

Next came preparing the clay, which involved rolling more than a thousand one-pound chunks into nine-inch circles that could be pressed around Bogнар’s molds. Thanks to an anonymous donation, the school was able to purchase a new slab roller to speed up the operation. Funds for Creating Change were also provided via grants from the Woodbury PTO, the Shaker Heights Teachers’ Association, and the Shaker Schools Foundation.



In addition to the 800-plus Woodbury students who made mugs, about 100 Woodbury staff members and 200 community members participated in special mug-making days, bringing the total number of mugs to over 1,100 – and raising more than \$8,500 for four selected charities. Photo by Colleen McCreary

Creating **Change** by the **Numbers**

What does it take to make

1,100-plus ceramic mugs? And raise \$8,500? Well, for starters, a whole lot of clay. Here's a breakdown of the numbers behind Woodbury Creating Change.

Start with about **1,200** pounds of clay (or 24 50-pound boxes).

Make **180** plaster molds.

Roll **1,100** or so pounds of clay into 1,100-plus flat, 9-inch round slabs. Each slab is about one pound.

Each slab gets molded into one mug. Add handle (and sometimes feet), which requires more boxes of clay. Repeat 1,100-plus times.

All **800**-plus Woodbury students, around 100 Woodbury faculty, and 200 community members made mugs.

Dry mugs for one week.

Fire dried mugs in the kiln; it takes

8-9 hours to heat the kilns up and 13-15 hours to cool them down.

The temperature tops out at more than **2,000** degrees Fahrenheit. Woodbury's two medium kilns hold between 45-50 mugs. Its large kiln holds 70-75 mugs, so at most 175 mugs can be fired at once.

That means **1,100**-plus mugs take about six days, 24 hours a day, to fire.

Next, **decorate** 1,100-plus mugs with glaze (called an under-glaze). Use upwards of **120** jars of glaze in a variety of colors.

Fire mugs again. That's another six 24-hour days of firing Woodbury's three kilns.

Next, dip 1,100-plus mugs into **15** gallons of clear glaze and fire every mug again. That makes **18** days, or more than **400** hours in total, of kiln firings. Phew.

Fill **1,100**-plus mugs with gallons upon gallons of hot chocolate, coffee, tea, or non-alcoholic ginger beer, while noshing on hundreds of sweet

treats donated by **25**-plus area restaurants, bakeries, chefs, and markets.

Tally volunteer hours by two committed art teachers, a committee of 15 parents and teachers, and more than **100** additional volunteers and you get... way too many hours to count.

Donate more than

\$8,500

to four area not-for-profit organizations. Attendees voted for the not-for-profit their donation would benefit and proceeds were divided as follows:

Isaac's Wells, 32%; Personal Wishes of Sudanese Lost Boys, 32%; US Together, 16%; and Hunger Network in Shaker, 20%.

Wait...
a year
and start
all over
again.



The mug-making process involved shaping the clay around a plaster mold, then adding personal touches such as handles, feet, and decorative details. Photos by Colleen McCreary

Rolling Up Sleeves

Mug-making began in earnest early this year. Students made and glazed mugs during art class. Many of Woodbury's staff members made mugs during a professional development program, led by Clemente Milne and Bognar, about the design cycle. In late February, the two opened their classrooms to more than 200 community members for a day of mug-making, followed by several evening glazing sessions a couple of weeks later. Shaker Schools Superintendent Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., made a mug, as did Shaker Mayor Earl Leiken. Seniors at Shaker's Campbell Court

Apartments even pitched in. "It worked out perfectly because everyone was able to be successful," says Bognar.

Still, that doesn't mean making mugs was always easy, especially for fifth- and sixth-grade students. "It was pretty tough," says fifth grader Evan Ward, who was at Creating Change with his mother, Tinnie Ward.

That doesn't surprise Clemente Milne. "They're fifth and sixth graders and the mugs are handmade," she says. "We really emphasize that this is handmade and that's the beauty of what we're creating."

Indeed, the hard work of making mugs was in many ways what made Creating Change such a powerful experience for Woodbury's students.

"Clay has its challenges for the kids. But the more they struggle, the prouder they are," says Bognar. "The students also knew that more than a thousand people would be at the event because of the beautiful mugs they were making. It was an opportunity for them to be a huge part of something meaningful."

That was plain from the smiles on the faces of Woodbury's students at Creating Change. "It was really fun," says sixth-grader Elena Landow. "And I'm glad it's going to a good cause."

These days, Clemente Milne, Bognar, and their fellow committee members are taking a much-needed break, but the wheels are turning for 2016, when the next Creating Change will take place. "Tapas plates perhaps?" muses Clemente Milne. Whatever it is, the goal for Woodbury Creating Change remains the same: use art to make a difference.

"This is how life should be," sums up Clemente Milne. "We should be stepping up as a community and helping people who are less fortunate. Why not use our creativity to advocate for change?" **SL**



Amy Hanauer: Leadership in public policy.



A Think Tank With A Shaker Edge

BY DIANA SIMEON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAYDIE HELLER

• The Nation magazine named Policy Matters Ohio the most valuable state or regional organization in America. If its executive director has her way, all of Ohio will one day be like Shaker Heights.

“What drew me to Shaker was the fact that it was unequivocal about investing in schools and paying teachers well.”

~ Amy Hanauer

When Shaker resident Amy Hanauer arrived in northeast Ohio more than 15 years ago, she was ready for the next chapter in a career she loved.

She'd graduated with a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, then gone to work as a policy analyst for then-Wisconsin state representative, now U.S. congresswoman, Gwendolynne S. Moore. Four years later, she was a senior associate at the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, a progressive policy institute based in Madison.

“So, when we moved here in 1998, I thought I would find the same kind of work,” recalls Hanauer. Hanauer's husband, Mark Cassell, had accepted a teaching position at Kent State University. The family by then included eight-month-old Max.

But the New Jersey native soon discovered that her dream job didn't exist in Northeast Ohio or, for that matter, anywhere else in the state. There just wasn't a research institute that was dedicated to evaluating Ohio's governmental policies through a progressive lens.

“Although there were lots of people doing all kinds of great work in Ohio, there was a gap,” explains Hanauer. “It was 1999 and we were in the longest, strongest economic expansion in recorded history by many people's standards, and yet huge swaths of Ohio were being left out. There really wasn't anybody looking at that and trying to fix it.”

Indeed, despite the boom, more than 10 percent of Ohioans were still living below the federally defined poverty level, while many low- and middle-income working families were also struggling to make ends meet. Yet, Ohio's wealthiest residents were better off than ever before.

So, Hanauer decided, why not set up a think tank-style organization to promote progressive policies that would work for all Ohioans? The timing was certainly right. “There was a huge appetite among a lot of leaders, including some from Shaker, to get something off the ground,” Hanauer says.

That included Shaker resident David Megenhardt, executive director of the United Labor Agency, which in late 1999 awarded Hanauer a grant to research Ohio's worker training policies, in particular how “adult displaced workers could be better reincorporated into the economy,” she explains.

That support allowed Hanauer to officially launch Policy Matters Ohio in early 2000.

Statewide Impact

Policy Matters Ohio now ranks as a leading public policy research institute, and not just in Ohio.

“It's an organization that has established itself as a voice on the progressive side of the agenda,” says Shaker resident David Bergholz, former executive director of the George Gund Foundation, which provided key early support for Policy Matters. “If there is a story in The New York Times or someplace else around those kinds of issues in this neck of the woods, Policy Matters Ohio is often right up front.”

It has also won numerous awards. In 2009, The Nation magazine named Policy Matters the most valuable state or regional organization in America and, in 2010, the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations selected it as the most innovative not-for-profit in Ohio.

Policy Matters has offices in Cleveland and Columbus and employs nine people including Hanauer, who is executive director. The others include two more Shaker residents. Well, three actually. Research director Zach Schiller, administrator Sybille Schomerus, a native of Germany and former lawyer, and Schomerus' dog, Gizmo, who accompanies her to work most days. “He loves it,” she says. “In the morning, he runs out the back door to the car.”

Shaker also is well represented on the board of directors. Members include residents David Megenhardt, David Bergholz, and Kamla Lewis, director of the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Department.

The organization's Cleveland office is located in the city's Midtown neighborhood, in a bright, open space on the fourth floor of a former factory. “We've been told that it was

previously used to make submarine parts, but we're not really sure," says Hanauer.

The focus of Policy Matters has expanded well beyond the organization's early emphasis on work and wages, to include education, economic development, the state's revenue and budget, the region's foreclosure crisis, sustainability, and much more. Yet the goal remains the same.

"Our mission is to create a more vibrant, equitable, sustainable, and inclusive Ohio," explains Hanauer. "So, the ideal way it works is that we do the research, then hand it off to a community organizer or labor leader or elected official who will go out and activate the troops and get policies changed. It's not always as clean as that, but that's the vision and it's a vision that for many things has really worked."

For example, early on, Policy Matters staffers took an up-close look at how raising the minimum wage would help Ohio's economy by putting more money in the pockets of the state's lowest-paid workers. The research helped get a proposal to raise the state's minimum wage – from \$5.15 to \$6.85, with further

increases tied to inflation – on the ballot. It passed in 2006, with more than 55 percent of Ohioans voting for the measure. Today, Ohio's minimum wage is \$7.95 an hour.

More recently, Policy Matters played a pivotal role in getting a bill passed by the Ohio General Assembly that makes way for so-called "work sharing" in the state. The legislation, which was signed by Governor John Kasich last summer, lets Ohio's employers reduce employees' hours instead of laying employees off. Those employees are then able to apply for unemployment insurance to get back some of the income for those lost hours of work.

"There are real benefits to this for both employers and employees," says Zack Schiller, who joined Policy Matters in 2000 after a 20-plus year career in journalism, which included 18 years as the Cleveland bureau chief for BusinessWeek magazine and another four years at The Plain Dealer. "We did a report three or four years ago about this, which said that if Ohio had this law in time for the last recession, and if we had the same level of participation as they have in other states, we could have had several thousand people who could have kept their jobs."

This kind of advocacy on behalf of Ohioans, in particular those who don't walk the corridors of power, is key, says Bergholz, who after retiring from the Gund Foundation joined Policy Matters' board of directors. "If there ever was a moment when you needed a voice that was speaking for the working person, this is it. It's a declining force in America, much to my regret, so it's more vital than it's been for decades."

Another major victory for Policy Matters, which also benefited the state's workers: Ohio's advanced energy standard, which says that by 2025, at least 12.5 percent of the electricity generated in the state be from renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar.

"Early on, we realized that there was a lot of opportunity for a state like Ohio if we invested in green technologies," explains Hanauer. "If the United States had more wind turbines and solar panels, a lot more Ohioans could be put to work producing those things." In 2008, Policy Matters worked with then-Governor Ted Strickland to pass the standards and today Ohio is a leader in wind-related manufacturing, with more than 60 facilities in the state. "Unfortunately, those standards are under assault right now," says Hanauer. "But we really feel the economy and the environment can grow together – that there is a smart approach that involves more use of transit, more use of renewable energy, and denser and more vibrant communities."

The focus of Policy Matters Ohio has expanded beyond its early emphasis on work and wages to include education, economic development, the state's revenue and budget, the region's foreclosure crisis, sustainability, and much more.

A Home in Shaker

You could say that in some ways, Hanauer is talking about an Ohio that looks more like Shaker Heights, a fact that is not lost on her. "A greater embrace of diversity, public services, great schools, great parks, and mass transit would make this state a better place. Shaker residents understand that," she says.

Hanauer and Cassell made the move to Shaker Heights in 2004 after six years in Cleveland Heights. By then they had a daughter, Katrina.

Hanauer says, "What drew me to Shaker as a community was the fact that it was unequivocal about investing in schools and paying teachers well. Educating the next generation is one of the highest priorities we can have as a society, and that is certainly what made me want to raise my kids in Shaker."

She and her husband were also struck by Shaker's ethnic diversity. "At one point, Katrina did a story for the Onaway Observer where she went around the school and interviewed students about whether they spoke another language at home. There were dozens." That included Hanauer's own home; Cassell is originally from Germany and speaks his native language with the couple's children. Shaker also reminds Hanauer of the New Jersey town where she grew up, and which she partly credits with helping develop her progressive worldview.

"I was raised in an economically diverse community, much like Shaker in that respect, and I remember noticing that a number of elementary school classmates were struggling economically and how unfair that seemed," she recalls. Her mother's career, teaching severely disabled children, many of whom were economically disadvantaged, also had an impact.

"I think I realized early on that we are all interconnected," Hanauer says, "and if you want your community to work for you, you need your community to work for everyone." **SL**

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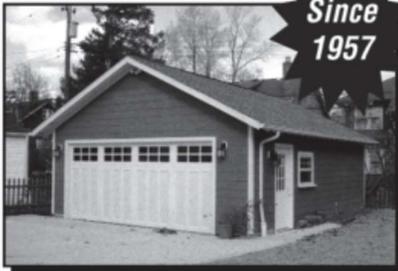
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JULY

2-6 pm Friday

4

Annual Independence Day Pool Party

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3301 Warrensville Center Road
Shakeronline.com or 216-491-3204

10 am - 5 pm Saturday

5

Larchmere Festival

Ten blocks of shopping and entertainment with dozens of independent, locally owned shops and restaurants. Browse the **Antiques Fair**, featuring quality collectibles and antiques from local vendors. Shop **Cleveland Bazaar**, an indie craft fair. Amble up **Author Alley** and meet national and local self-published authors. Enjoy entertainment, including live music, workshops, a chess tournament, paper crafts, and children's activities and food, including some of Cleveland's finest food trucks.

Larchmere Boulevard, 216-231-9400

7-9:30 pm Friday

18

Dancing through the Woods

Shaker Arts Council AhA! presents **MorrisonDance**, one of Northeast Ohio's pre-eminent contemporary dance companies, at the **Nature Center**. Wood nymphs Sarah Morrison and Bethany Nesta will perform an environmentally themed work outdoors under the trees. \$30/person.

2600 South Park Blvd., 216-916-9360

5 pm Saturday **19**

Picnic @ the Square

Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, a picnic dinner, and friends and enjoy jugglers, face painters, musicians, and the Blue Lunch concert at 6 pm. The event is sponsored by I AM Shaker Square and the Shaker Square concert series.

Shaker Square

3-5 pm Friday **25**

Antique Car Club of America Rally

The American Classic Auto Association visits the **Shaker Historical Society** to learn about its 1917 fire truck and the history of automobiles in Shaker. Great opportunity to see some amazing cars.

16740 South Park Boulevard
shakerhistory.org or 216-921-1201

AUGUST

10 am - noon Wednesday **6**

Pioneer Day

Follow the trail of the Russell Family at the **Shaker Historical Society**, to what became the Valley of God's Pleasure – home of the North Union Shakers. Churn butter and learn about hearth cooking and the Shakers' herbal medicine industry. Meet Phoebe Litzel and hear her story of becoming an orphan and living as a Shaker. Meet Alvira Daly and learn about stitching samplers. \$10/person.

16740 South Park Boulevard
shakerhistory.org or 216-921-1201

9 am - 3 pm Saturday **16**

International Geocaching Day

Kids in grades 5-8 are invited to celebrate the end of summer and International Geocaching Day by going on a real-world treasure hunt in and around Cleveland's eastern suburbs. \$50/person.

Hathaway Brown School
19600 North Park Blvd., 216-932-4214

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7-8 pm Wednesday

20

Community Band Concert

Here's the score! Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the community band at the **Community Colonnade at Lee Road and Van Aken Blvd.** Conducted by Shaker's Luiz F. Coehlo. In the event of rain the band plays on inside the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building at 3450 Lee Road.

shakeronline.com
216-321-5935

Tuesday

26

First Day of School

Shaker Schools open for the 2014-2015 school year. Watch for school buses bearing new-shoe-wearing, back-pack carrying Shaker school girls and boys. Not yet registered? Call the Registration Office at 216-295-4321 or email morris_g@shaker.org.

SEPTEMBER

10 am-noon Saturday

6

12th Annual Doggie Dip

Sit. Stay. Swim. Every dog has his day! Bring your pooch for *pawsitive* pool fun at **Thornton Park!** Owners can swim with their pooches in the unchlorinated pool while a lifeguard's on duty. All dogs are welcome, but misbehaving mutts must wear a muzzle. Treats for pets and arts and crafts for kids. \$3 per resident dog; \$5 nonresident dog.

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3301 Warrensville Center Road
shakeronline.com
216-491-1295

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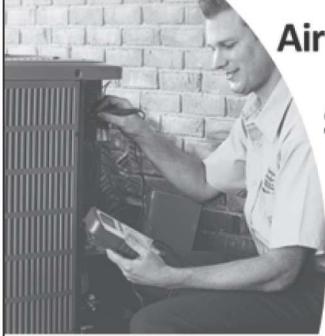
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(Sept.) **6**
1-9 pm Saturday
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Cleveland Garlic Festival
North Union Farmers Market fund-raiser features music, food, fun, and everything garlic. Follow your nose to Shaker Square for activities throughout the day and into the evening. Grill-offs, cooking demos, arts and crafts, and fun for kids at this "stinking rose" festival.

Shaker Square
Northunionfarmersmarket.org
216-751-7656

7 pm Thursday **18**

Constitution Read Aloud
Hear the powerful words of the **United States Constitution** read aloud by civic leaders. (FYI: It took 100 days to actually "frame" the Constitution and the word "democracy" does not appear once.)

Shaker Library
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030

10 am-4 pm Saturday
& 11 am-3 pm Sunday

Celebrate! 2014
Biennial antiques and collectibles sale to benefit Planned Parenthood. The largest sale of its kind in Northeast Ohio features a large selection of fine merchandise including furniture, jewelry, silver, original art, area rugs, china and crystal. Preview Sale from 9-10 am. \$10/person

Hanna Perkins Center for
Child Development
19910 Malvern Road
216-464-3850

8 am Sunday

21

Hike and Run

At the **Nature Center**. Registration begins at 8 am. Hikes begin at 9 am and include a 1-mile family hike; a 4-mile hike along Doan Brook; and a 12-mile hike to the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. The 5K race begins at 9:15 am. Sponsored by Baker Hostetler. For more information, visit shakerlakes.org; to register, visit hmapromotions.net.

The Nature Center
2600 South Park Boulevard
216-321-5935

10 am-2 pm Saturday

27

Touch a Truck

Get in gear for Shaker's **2nd Annual Touch-a-Truck** event at Thornton Park. Kids can touch, climb, and explore at this big-rig gig when fire trucks, garbage trucks, front-end loaders, scooters, and ambulances roll into the Thornton Park lot. Free.

Thornton Park
3301 Warrensville Center Road
216-491-1295

Summer Staples

Tuesdays

Stone Oven Tuesdays

The Stone Oven donates a percentage of every Tuesday's sales to the Nature Center's programs. Enjoy a good meal and support the Nature Center.

2267 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights

8 am-noon Saturdays

The North Union Farmers Market

Mingle with farmers and friends as you buy fresh and local at the Saturday market on the Square.

Shaker Square
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Scene in Shaker

Those

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Shaker KIDS

BY BETH FRIEDMAN-ROMELL

A love for trivia is a family tradition. My father used to play “Musical Money” with us kids, offering us the chance to earn cash for correct answers to increasingly difficult questions on a wide variety of subjects. I’ve long fantasized about appearing on Jeopardy – I even sang a nonsense bath time song to my children to the show’s theme song. My younger son, Harlan, has inherited the gene, playing along with me at home as we watch the show. Harlan has progressed from his earlier obsession with the *Guinness Book of World Records* to his current passion for media-related trivia, spending hours pouring over Leonard Maltin’s *Movie Guide* and the IMDb website. Throw in an intense competitive streak and “Guitar Hero” reflexes, and you’ve got the makings of a great Jeopardy contestant.

Contestants are chosen via a screening process, which begins with a timed, online test. Harlan took the kids’ version back in December, then promptly forgot about it.

At the end of March, I received an email from the Jeopardy contestant department that Harlan had been selected to audition for the show. I shared the news with him in the form of an answer: “This talented 7th grader from Shaker Heights will travel to New York in April to try out for Kids Jeopardy,” to which he responded, incredulously, “Who is...ME?”

After peeling him off the ceiling, we made plans for our exciting weekend. This would be a fun and special mother-son trip, no matter what. We spent the non-Jeopardy time doing some of his favorite things – visiting chocolate and board game shops, eating Asian food,

climbing rocks in Central Park, and seeing a Broadway show, “Matilda.”

The audition itself turned out to be a lot of fun. The contestants were only allowed to bring one parent to the tryout, which was held in the conference center of a large mid-town hotel. With a few exceptions, moms brought their daughters, and fathers accompanied sons. We all began together in an ordinary conference room, the parental holding pen where we would stay during the competition. I had some notions about what the other families would be like, stereotypes that mostly turned out to be wrong. I pictured a lot of tiger moms and show-offy kids, but most of the folks there seemed to be very down-to-earth, or even a little shy. Most of the girls were dressed up, and all of the boys wore clothing.

I was joined at my table by Nichelle, a school administrator from Washington D.C., Syracuse apple farmers Jen and Dave, and a quiet German dad whose name I didn’t catch. Over at the next table, a confident mom loudly announced that she was a former Jeopardy contestant. Not to be outdone, her table mate chimed in, “Oh, well, I was on Wheel of Fortune!” and they were off and running in a game of “celebrity geography” (“Well, I stayed on the same floor of a hotel once with Jennifer Anniston and her boyfriend...”)

As Nichelle and I bonded over a wry glance, a smiling dad and his son joined our table.

“Hi, I’m Steven and this is Max. Where are you from?” he asked me.

“Oh, we’re from Ohio,” I replied.

“Really? What part?”

“The Cleveland area,” I said.

“Hey!” exclaimed Steven. “Us, too! Which part?”

“Shaker Heights.”

“No way! So are we! Where did your son go to elementary?”

“Harlan went to Onaway, and now he’s at the Middle School.”

“Max was at Mercer, now he’s in sixth grade at Woodbury.”

And we were off and running in our version of “Shaker geography.”

About 9,000 kids took the online Jeopardy test this year; 300 were selected to advance. Our session of 20 kids was one of five they held in New York that weekend. What are the odds that two boys from Shaker would be sitting at the same table at the same session?

We spent the next two hours chatting pleasantly about schools, siblings, and family vacations. When the other parents discovered I had a college-bound senior, I became the temporary admissions/financial aid guru, as none of them had children older than 12.

Soon enough, the kids were bursting through the doors, looking very happy. They had taken another written test (to confirm that mom or dad hadn’t helped online), played a mock game complete with real categories and buzzers, and did mini-interviews with the staff, just like Alex does with contestants between rounds on the show. They all left with Jeopardy pens and mini fold-up Frisbees, which Harlan said looked like giant Jeopardy condoms. Oy, maybe he’s ready for the Teen Tournament!

The odds of him getting on the show are slim, about five percent. If he does, that will feel like hitting the Daily Double after an already great experience. **SL**

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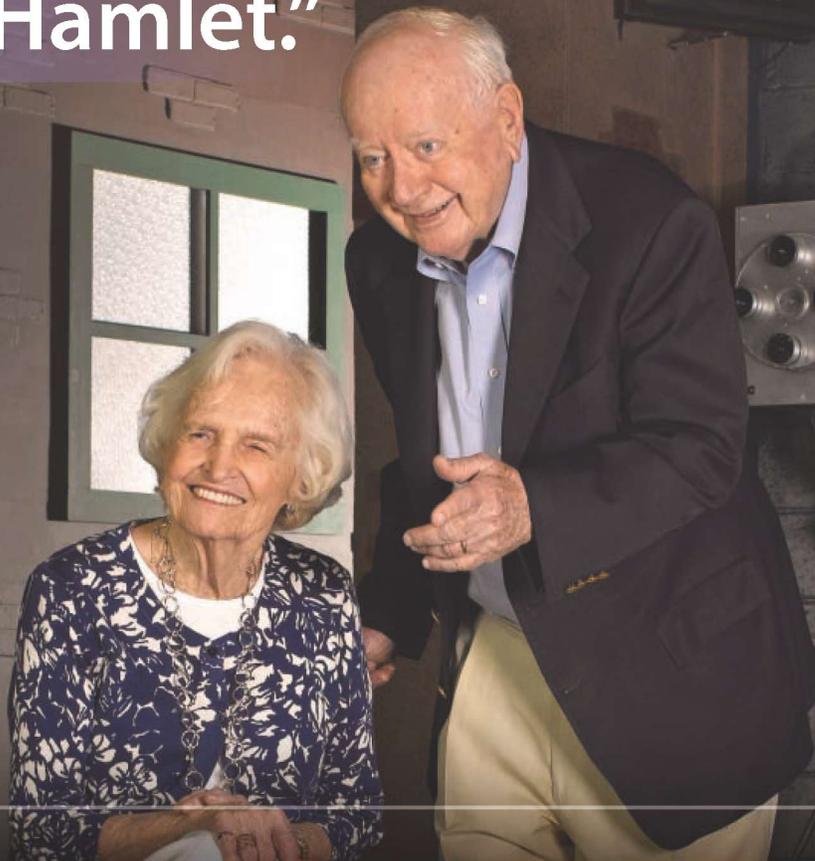
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