

SHAKER LIFE

City of Shaker Heights, Ohio | shakeronline.com

A Great Ride

Shaker Schools
Superintendent
Mark Freeman
Reflects on
His Career and
Considers the
Road Ahead



April | May 2013

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On the cover: Mark Freeman, retiring after 25 years as Shaker Schools superintendent, prepares for his next adventure.
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SHAKER LIFE

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Shaker Life does not accept unsolicited
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Please do not call. We cannot respond to every
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Calling All Tree Huggers!

Residents have until Arbor Day, April 26 to nominate trees for the Tree Advisory Board's 2013 Heritage Tree award. Residents are invited to nominate trees in the following categories:

- Association with a famous person or significant event
- Historic landmark
- Unusual in size, form, age, or other quality.

Nomination forms are available at shakeronline.com (click on the downloads button at the top of the page), from the Public Works Department, 15600 Chagrin Boulevard, or contact Forestry Superintendent Patrick Neville, at 216-491-3285.

Shaker to Host Tree Ceremony

Shaker Heights is honored to host the 2013 Tree City USA program and awards ceremony on May 14 at the Cleveland Skating Club, bringing more than 200 representatives from 11 counties in Northeast Ohio to Shaker. Visitors will see firsthand the meticulous care that is given to the City's urban forest, which enhances the quality of life for residents of Shaker Heights.

"Hosting the ceremony provides a great opportunity to showcase our City and all we have here in Shaker," said Patrick Neville, forestry superintendent. "We have attended these events in other communities where we learn a lot about tree management. We look forward to sharing information about how we care for our trees and in particular, our Shade Tree Program."

This is the second time in fewer than 20 years that Shaker Heights has hosted the regional Tree City USA ceremony, and the 28th consecutive Tree City USA award it has received.

Broadway Lights in Shaker Heights!

Don't miss the annual Thornton Park Spring Ice Spectacular, "Where Broadway Lights Meet the Ice," on May 17 and 18. The skating extravaganza brings Broadway's biggest hits to life with performances from "Les Misera-

bles," "Wicked," "Chicago," and more, magically transporting audiences with dazzling skating and special effects. Former, current, and future learn-to-skate participants will amaze audiences during matinee and evening performances.

This year's show features Ashley Cain, a member of Team USA and an Olympic hopeful for the 2014 and 2018 Winter Olympics. She has represented the United States in France, Russia, Latvia, and Romania. Tickets go on sale May 1. For more information, contact Jennifer Martino at jennifer.martino@shakeronline.com.

Rain Barrel Workshop Returns

By now, residents have seen higher fees in their water bills. To save more than water, make your own rain barrel at this Do It Yourself Rain Barrel Workshop on Tuesday, May 21 from 6 to 8 pm at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Boulevard. Rain barrels can be used for Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) stormwater rebates. Learn more about NEORS stormwater fees and credits by visiting neorsd.org.

Sponsored by the City, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, and the Nature Center with support from the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, this workshop provides the barrel, parts, and tools. It then shows you how to construct a closed, 55 gallon rain barrel system that can be easily attached to any standard residential downspout to collect and conserve rain water for use watering your plants and yard. The \$60 workshop and supply fee includes rainwater diverter for 2" x 3" downspout. Advance registration is required one week prior to workshop (by May 14). Call 216-321-5935 ext. 244 for more information and to register.

Memorial Day Parade and Pool Opening

The annual Memorial Day parade in Shaker Heights brings together a grateful community to memorialize the nation's war dead, and to honor local

heroes serving in all branches of the military.

Plan to meet in front of City Hall at 9 am on Monday, May 27 for placement of a wreath at the war memorial, gun salute, and a brief ceremony of commemoration.

Following the ceremony, the parade proceeds east to Thornton Park in the westbound lane of Van Aken Boulevard. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the remarkable Shaker Heights High School marching band.

If you haven't already registered your group, organization, or float for participation in the parade, there's still time to do so by visiting shakeronline.com. Volunteer servicemen and women are needed to carry flags from their branch of service, in uniform if possible.

Stick around at Thornton for the official pool opening at 11 am. Also part of the holiday will be the Pancake Breakfast at Thornton Park from 8:30-11:30 am. For information, 216-491-2598.

Save the Date for Arts & Music Festival: June 22 and 23

Sponsored by the City, the Shaker Arts Council, and the Ohio Designer Craftsmen, the annual Shaker Heights Arts & Music Festival returns June 22 and 23. The Festival no longer conflicts with Father's Day, but instead recurs on the fourth weekend of the month.

Last year's Festival was a rousing success, drawing large crowds on both days. Festival goers enjoyed fine arts and crafts at the juried show, superb musical entertainment, great food from local restaurants, and dancing under the stars. This year's event promises to be another opportunity to shop, dine, dance, and enjoy the company of your Shaker friends and neighbors right in your own backyard.

Sponsorship opportunities may still be available. Please contact Vicki Blank, director of communications, (vicki.blank@shakeronline.com) for more information and check shakeronline.com for the latest details about the event.



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CITY NEWS

UH Donates Life-Saving Machines to Shaker Heights Fire Department

University Hospitals of Cleveland has donated two CPR machines, known as Lucas devices, to the Shaker Heights Fire Department. The Lucas device is an automated compression machine that provides precise cardiopulmonary resuscitation. In addition to performing perfect compressions, a suction cup pulls the chest wall up, enabling the heart to fill with blood. Each device typically costs \$15,000. Shaker's Fire Department has already had one positive experience with the device, which contributed to the successful resuscitation of an 85-year old man in full arrest.

AHa! Presents an Evening of Celtic and Contemporary Music

Jim Carr and Pitch the Peat heats up the season with high-energy, traditional Irish music and song in a performance on Friday, April 26. The event is part of the Shaker Arts Council's AHa! (At Home with the Arts) series.

The band includes eight-string guitarist, bodhran player and vocalist Jim Carr; master fiddler, djembe player and vocalist Nikki Custy; and Irish flutist, accordion player, and vocalist Patrick Custy. Pitch the Peat enjoys exploring common threads between the vast wealth of Celtic music and the contemporary material created by artists such as the Beatles, Gipsy Kings, Sting, and Coldplay.

"This AHa! performance is something special," said AHa! Committee Chairman Jim Simler. "The music played by Jim Carr and Pitch the Peat will be exciting and fun, and reflect a vibrant element of the diverse culture our City is so proud of."

The evening begins at 7 pm with a reception followed by Pitch the Peat's performance at 8 pm. The event will be held in a Shaker Boulevard home.

Tickets are \$30 (\$25 for SHAC members). They can be purchased by credit card at shakerartscouncil.org, or by check made payable to Shaker Arts Council and mailed to PMB 232, 16781 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights,

44120. Please call 216-916-9360 for more information.

Happenings at Hanna Perkins

Residents of Shaker Heights are invited to take advantage of several expanded opportunities at The Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development, located in the historically renovated former Malvern School at 19910 Malvern Road. For more details on the following, visit hannaperkins.org or call the center at 216-991-4472.

Music in the Morning classes for parents/caregivers together with children up to 3 years allow participants to experience the joy of music in an informal setting through group songs, finger plays, dance, and instrument exploration. Classes are held on Tuesday mornings from 9–9:45. Four-week sessions are \$44 per child and begin April 9, May 7, and June 4. Contact Shari Nacson at snacson@hannaperkins.org or 216-929-0201.

Drop-In Play is offered on Fridays from 9:30 am to noon (closed April 5). Adults participate with their children in dramatic play, puzzles, toys, and books, as well as hands-on activities featuring science, gardening, snacks, and arts and crafts projects. Cost is \$7.50 per visit; 10-session passes are \$60.

Hershey Foundation Butterfly Community Garden offers growing plots to individuals and families throughout Shaker Heights. A nominal fee includes a leased garden plot, regular watering, and guidance from the community gardening team. Contact Garden Manager Laura Cyrocki at lcyrocki@hannaperkins.org.

Preschool and Kindergarten Open House will be held on Tuesday, April 26 from 4-6 pm. The Hanna Perkins Center offers preschool, a state-chartered kindergarten, and parent/toddler classes, all of which focus on emotional intelligence – the ability to understand and manage feelings – which is regarded as a building block for other success skills.

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CITY NEWS

The Hanna Perkins Center also announces personnel updates. Executive Director Barbara Streeter has been elected chair of faculty at the center. She will continue to oversee enrollment and day-to-day operations of the preschool, kindergarten, and parent/toddler program. Jeannine Lehman joined the center in the newly created role of finance director.

Business News

Real Estate Brokerage Firm is on the FASS Track

Akil Hameed, a 1996 graduate of Shaker Heights High School, recently returned to the community to relocate his company's headquarters. Hameed is an MBA, real estate broker, and owner of FASS Real Estate Services, a real estate brokerage firm specializing in property management, real estate sales, leasing, and commercial real estate and development.

Hameed purchased the building at 3705 Lee Road near Scottsdale Boulevard to house the FASS headquarters, taking advantage of a \$20,000 forgivable loan from the City's Vision Fund. Hameed founded the company in 2006, and owns or manages more than 300 properties worth a total of \$50 million.

"I decided to return to Shaker to house my business because of the deep history of Shaker's housing stock. This location will provide me an opportunity to assist the City in restoring the housing stock and helping to continue the branding of such a great community," says Hameed.

Hameed has improved the façade of the building, paved the lot, and renovated the second floor to lease as incubator space for emerging business owners, perhaps from nearby Shaker LaunchHouse. The space offers modern furniture and décor, a kitchenette, a conference room with a projector and screen,

and a high-tech training room that seats more than 50 people.



Be sure to stop by the following businesses to check out what's new:

Juma Gallery, 20100 Chagrin Boulevard, now offers a Vinyasa Flow yoga class on Thursday mornings from 9–10 am taught by Julie Schlemmer. \$12 drop-in fee; bring your own mat. Stay after for coffee or tea and to browse the shop for unique gift items, jewelry, clothing, and artwork.

MotoPhoto and Portrait Studio, located at 20116 Chagrin Boulevard, now offers a way to take care of your copying and printing needs without leaving the community. Its new Print-Shop service offers black and white and color document copying every day, including weekends. MotoPhoto can also print brochures, postcards, signs, banners, and announcements.

Salon Lofts, 16755 Chagrin Boulevard, is coming soon to Shaker Town Center. This franchise full service salon will occupy the old Blockbuster space. Stay tuned for details.

Simply Delicious Pies, 3433 Lee Road, now offers chicken and vegetable pot pies, which are available in 6-inch sizes, as well as five quiche flavors daily, available in 6-, 8-, or 10-inch sizes: bacon, apple and cheddar; quiche Lorraine; bacon and Swiss; spinach and feta; and mushroom and feta. Some items sell out, so call ahead to reserve your selections: 216-273-3566. The shop is open Tuesday–Saturday from 10 am–6 pm, and on Sundays from 10 am–3 pm. Closed Mondays.

Neighborhood News



Neighborhood resident Dan Clougherty (Shaker High class of '08) poses with a snow sculpture of an octopus he constructed in January at the ice rink at Fernway and Warrington roads.

Slip Slidin' Away

Due to popular demand, the City filled ice rinks again this year at neighborhood parks near Boulevard School and at the intersection of Fernway and Warrington roads. A third neighborhood skating rink was added this past winter in the Ludlow neighborhood, at the intersection of Onaway and Beckett roads. Neighbors enjoyed skating, hockey, and broomball as a way to stay connected during the winter months.

Shaker News Briefs

Holly Buffington, executive vice president of PNC Financial Services, has been named a board member of the American Red Cross Greater Cleveland Chapter. She also serves on the board of Business Volunteers Unlimited and the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and is a member of the organization In Counsel with Women.

CITY NEWS

Stewart Kohl, co-chief executive officer of The Riverside Company, a private equity firm, has been named to the Cleveland Clinic's Board of Trustees.

MLK Essay Contest Award Winners

Three Shaker students received scholarship awards from East View United Church of Christ as part of the church's 23rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Essay Awards Program. **Tyler Smith** of Shaker Heights Middle School won a first place award and \$300 scholarship; **Isabel Fedewa** of Shaker Heights Middle School won a third place award and \$50 scholarship; and **Jermame Poage** of Onaway Elementary school won a third place award and \$25 scholarship.

Students from throughout the Cleveland area submitted 130 entries on the theme, "What is the Value of Homework to your Education?" Since the Essay contest was created, East View has donated more than \$27,000 in scholarships to area students. Mayor Earl Leiken was a speaker at this year's program.

Seasonal REMINDERS

Bicycle Licensing: Licenses are sold from 9 am to 3 pm in the Police Department lobby, 3355 Lee Road. New licenses are \$5. Re-issued licenses are 50 cents. Go to shakeronline.com, Community Calendar, for specific licensing dates.

Fire Hydrants: The Fire Department will flush hydrants from April 15 through April 27. See the Community Calendar at shakeronline.com for street schedules. If you have any questions, please call the Fire Department office at 216-491-1200.



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Recycling Events:

All held at the Service Center,
15600 Chagrin Boulevard.

Computer Round-Up

April 13 and 14 and April 20 and 21

8 am-4 pm

Acceptable home computer equipment includes CPU's, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, terminals, modems, cables, software, and ink print cartridges. Cell phones and their accessories are also accepted.

Community Shredding Day

April 27

9 am-1 pm

Shaker residents may bring up to three bank boxes of paper. You will need a driver's license and proof of residency (current utility bill). Staples, clips, and other binding devices do not need to be removed. Stay and watch or leave your items to be shredded. The City receives credit for recycling the shredded paper.

**Habitat for Humanity
ReStore Collection**

April 27

9 am-3 pm

Donate usable household and construction items to help Habitat build and renovate houses and to sell in their ReStore to the general public. They are looking for construction/renovation materials, tools, kitchen cabinets, sinks, doors, vanities, plumbing and electrical materials, appliances, counter tops, lumber, etc. No paint, clothing or bedding. A Habitat volunteer will offer a tax receipt if desired. Larger items may be picked up by calling Habitat at 216-429-3631 ext. 238.

**Household Hazardous
Waste Round-Up**

May 11 and 12 and May 18 and 19

8 am-4 pm

Bring your household items for disposal. Items accepted: oil or solvent-based paints, sealers, primers, varnishes, polyurethanes, shellacs, spray paints, automotive fluids, kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, paint thinners,

mineral spirits, turpentine, caustic household cleaners, adhesives, roof tar, driveway sealer, and mercury. NO latex paint or materials from businesses will be accepted.

Trash Delays: Collections scheduled on or after Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day) will be one day late. Call the Public Works Department, 216-491-1490, to report a missed pickup. Calls must be received the next business day. To receive an email reminder when pickup is delayed, sign up for the City's email list at shakeronline.com.

Landscaper Registration: Landscapers and tree maintenance and removal contractors must register with the Building Department. (\$125 fee).

Block Party Requests: Register at least two weeks in advance to close streets for block parties, races, or parades at shakeronline.com.

Bicycle Riding: Helmets are required for everyone 5 and older when operating a bicycle and for all passengers regardless of age. Bicyclists may not ride more than two abreast in a single lane and must ride as near to the right side of the roadway as possible. Children under the age of 14 may ride bikes on the sidewalk, but must yield the right of way to pedestrians.

Power Outages: Please call CEI, not City Hall: 888-544-4877.

Dogs: Dogs are not permitted to run at large, and owners are required to immediately remove all waste deposited by their dogs on public or private property that is not their own. Dog waste must not be put in City waterways, sewers or on the curbside, as it poses a health hazard. Nuisance dogs should be reported to 216-491-1490.

Playing in the Street: Roller skating, roller blading, skateboarding or riding in any type of coaster or toy vehicle in the street is prohibited unless permission has been given to close streets for block parties.

For more information about the City's Codified Ordinances, visit shakeronline.com



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Layla Nelson, shown here as her alter ego, The Lego Lady, got the club started by soliciting donations from Fernway families and buying Legos by the pound on eBay.

Fernway Lego Club Builds on International Baccalaureate Themes

By day, Shaker parent Layla Nelson, PhD, is a coordinator of special education teachers for PSI Solutions, a provider of educational support services. But on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, she becomes something of a superhero for a group of students in the Fernway library. They call her The Lego Lady.

"When my son originally expressed his interest in Legos a few years ago, I adamantly refused to jump on the bandwagon because of the trendiness and cost," says Nelson. "But fighting Legos is like asking the sun not to rise." After spending a good deal of money on Lego classes (yes, such a thing does exist), Nelson had an epiphany. "I realized I could teach the classes myself at no cost to students."

Having been a special education teacher for 12 years, Nelson knew she

would be comfortable working with groups of young students to help them build their own Lego creations. The Fernway PTO immediately embraced the idea, as did Principal Christopher Hayward, a lifelong Lego enthusiast. Nelson anticipated that perhaps 20 students would have an interest; in fact, more than 130 boys and girls joined the club.

Nelson and Hayward immediately recognized the opportunity to tie the Lego Club into the school's International Baccalaureate program. Says Hayward, "Legos are a perfect fit with the learning theory that is the backbone of the International Baccalaureate program. Building with Legos embodies the excitement of working without a road map, yet accomplishing a goal." It also familiarizes students

with the design-test-build method of learning engineering concepts.

Recently, the club was fortunate enough to land a corporate sponsor. Equity Engineering, a firm based in Shaker Heights, has provided funds for software to expand into the realms of robotics and programming. Fernway parent Ryan Jones, father of two club members, is an engineer with the company.

At each session, Nelson challenges the builders with a design mission focused on a particular International Baccalaureate theme from the curriculum. One week the students built flags demonstrating their interests to illustrate the theme, "People Have Always Been Storytellers." They built unique animals to explore the theme that "Every Living Thing Has Traits It

Needs to Survive,” and constructed their own dream homes to demonstrate that “Every Living Thing Needs a Place to Stay.”

To help the club run smoothly, the students came up with their own essential agreements, just as they do in their classrooms. The agreements include “no building of weapons or projectiles,” and “everyone shares.”

Whether they build brick by brick, or design in the virtual world, the club is an undeniable hit – and one that Nelson feels other schools could easily replicate. As one parent sums it up, “Every night my son asks, ‘Is it Lego Club tonight?’”

Come Take a Look



Virtual Tours Debut

If you haven't seen the Shaker Schools lately, you can now visit without leaving home. Virtual tours of the Middle School and High School are now available online for current and prospective residents alike. To view the videos, visit the High School and Middle School home pages at shaker.org or the “Plan Your Visit” page for prospective families. The videos were produced by Second Story Productions, a Shaker-based firm owned by Sara Sullivan and Brian Sullivan (SHHS '85).

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

To receive regular e-news updates, subscribe at shaker.org/news.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/ForShakerSchools.

Join Us for Shakerfest!

Each spring, the Shaker schools open their doors to the community for Shakerfest, a showcase of our students' musical, theatrical, artistic, and academic talents. We invite you to come see our students in action at a variety of venues.



Here's a sampling:

An Evening of Jazz – Enjoy a wide range of selections by the High School Jazz Band on Thursday, April 18 at 7 pm in the High School Large Auditorium.

Spring Jazz Concert – Hear members of the Middle School jazz band strut their stuff on Wednesday, April 17 at 7 pm at the Middle School.

High School Art Show: Art Exposed IV – Opening reception will be held on Thursday, April 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Shaker Heights Public Library, second floor, 16500 Van Aken Boulevard. Paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and more from Shaker's award-winning artists will be on display through May 17.

High School Theatre Ensemble Show – Thursday, May 2, Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 at 7 pm in the High School Large Auditorium. (Free senior adult preview on Wednesday, May 1 at 4 pm.) Tickets may be purchased by calling the Shaker Theatre Box Office at 216-295-4287, or online at tix.com.

Ice Cream Social & Band Concert – Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm, on the High School front lawn. A Shaker family tradition! Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the music.

Come join us! Admission to all events is free unless otherwise noted. For a complete schedule of events, visit shaker.org/shakerfest.



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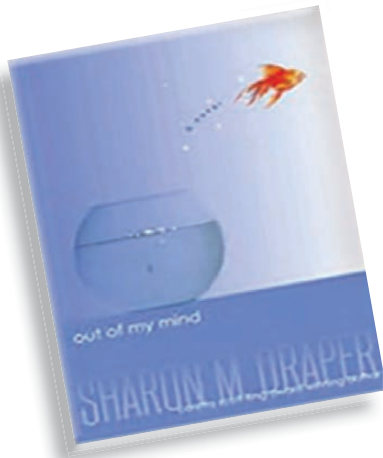
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On the Same Page

Woodbury and Middle School students and their families participated in two all-school book reads as a way to build community through a shared reading experience. The two selections feature very different protagonists and settings, but have a common theme of perseverance in the face of adversity.



The Woodbury novel, *Out of My Mind*, by Ohio author Sharon Draper, tells the story of a young girl who has much to say, but struggles to express her thoughts due to the physical limitations of cerebral palsy.

"Many people brought their own experiences with family members who are disabled," says Woodbury teacher Ruth Heide, who helped coordinate



the evening book discussion. "The discussion included questions about character traits, motives and many higher-level thinking skills."

Middle School students read *Inside Out and Back Again*, by Thanhha Lai, a series of poems by a ten-year old Vietnamese girl who must leave Saigon with her family at the end of the war in 1975 to start over again in Alabama. Prior to the discussion groups, Middle School swim coach Brendan Pham spoke to families in the auditorium about his similar personal experience.

Says Middle School principal Danny Young, "Not only was the book a good fit because of the global awareness it brings, the discussion really helped our students and families build a sense of community." 🌿

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REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between December 1, 2012 and January 31, 2013 appear below. The list excludes "quit claim" transfers as well as those resulting from foreclosure, in which the sale price is not reflective of the property value.

ADDRESS	2012/2013 SALE PRICE
16801 Aldersyde Dr	\$280,000
2671 Belvoir Blvd	\$352,500
2723 Belvoir Blvd	\$430,000
19851 Chagrin Blvd	\$275,000
2771 Coventry Rd	\$280,000
22175 Douglas Rd	\$390,000
2915 Eaton Rd	\$304,000
17103 Fernway Rd	\$129,050
3390 Glencairn Rd	\$225,000
2989 Glengary Rd	\$610,750
23501 Hazelmere Rd	\$151,000
3107 Huntington Rd	\$209,000
18518 Lomond Blvd	\$135,000
3035 Morley Rd	\$395,000
3584 Pennington Rd	\$109,900
2729 Rochester Rd	\$215,000
3699 Rolliston Rd	\$149,900
22650 Rye Rd	\$244,000
17925 Scottsdale Blvd	\$157,400
18926 Scottsdale Blvd	\$169,900
20113 Scottsdale Blvd	\$166,000
14620 Shaker Blvd	\$419,500
24139 Shelburne Rd	\$224,000
16850 S Woodland Rd	\$552,500
3305 Stockholm Rd	\$307,500
3305 Stockholm Rd	\$135,000
3680 Strathavon Rd	\$140,000
3565 Sutherland Rd	\$153,000
2913 Torrington Rd	\$195,000
3558 Townley Rd	\$148,000
2758 W Park Blvd	\$490,000
24001 Wimbledon Rd	\$200,000

Information Source: Cuyahoga County
Fiscal Officer

Nominations for 15th Annual Preservation Awards Sought

The Landmark Commission is seeking nominations for the 2013 Preservation Awards program. Exterior projects completed within the last two years are eligible. Recipients are acknowledged for success in preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, or interpreting the architectural integrity and cultural heritage of a Shaker home or building.

Projects may be nominated in the following categories: Retention of Original Materials, Exterior Restoration, Excellence in Stewardship, Distinguished Landscape, and Architecturally Appropriate Addition. Property owners, architects, or contractors can nominate themselves and/or others. All residential and non-residential building types are eligible.

The Shaker Heights Landmark Commission established its Preservation Awards program in 1998 to recognize and highlight efforts by property owners who have preserved and improved their properties. This awards program is modeled after the program established in 1971 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Nominations must be submitted by April 26 to the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission. Forms are available in the downloads section of shakeronline.com or by contacting Ann Klavara at 216-491-1436 or ann.klavara@shakeronline.com.

Housing Assistance Programs Available

The City of Shaker Heights offers a variety of resources to assist homeowners in maintaining or upgrading their property. 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 10 percent homeowner match) based on total cost of repairs. The Free Paint program

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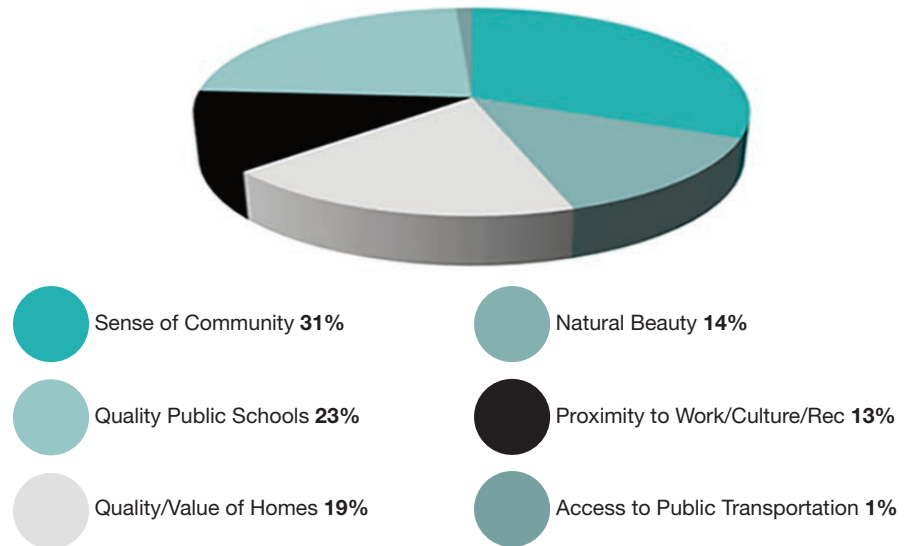
provides a voucher to cover the cost of paint to correct exterior paint violations. Both programs are also available citywide to owner-occupants who are disabled and/or seniors age 62 years and older. Income qualifications apply to all programs. The Housing Programs Specialist can also provide information on additional financial resources for those who may not qualify for City grant programs, as well as technical assistance to help you plan and execute your home improvement project.

Stay tuned for the training schedule and registration information for the 2013 Landlord Training Certificate Program. This program will provide professional training to rental property owners.

See shakeronline.com for more information, or contact Sharra Thomas at 216-491-1434 or sharra.thomas@shakeronline.com. 📧

Why Homebuyers Choose Shaker

In 2012, the City sent 250 new homebuyers a survey regarding their top reason for choosing Shaker Heights. One hundred of them responded; an impressive 40 percent return! Fractions have been rounded in the chart below.



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The Bookshelf: Gardening Books

Each spring brings forth beautiful gardens in Shaker. The Library's new gardening books are suggested for both master and beginning gardeners.

All New Square Foot Gardening II: The Revolutionary Way to Grow More in Less Space by Mel Bartholomew. Cool Springs Press, 2013. Square foot gardening is a practical, efficient method to make the most of gardening space and effort. This newest edition of an old standard has more helpful material on vertical gardening, pest control, and teaching children to garden.

Derek Fell's Grow This!: A Garden Expert's Guide to Choosing the Best Vegetables, Flowers, and Seeds So You're Never Disappointed Again by Derek Fell. Rodale Press, 2013. An expert gardener explains how to navigate through the marketing hype and choose the best plants for high yields and great taste.

Grow Your Own Drugs: The Top 100 Plants to Grow or Get to Treat Arthritis, Migraines, Coughs and More by James Wong. Readers Digest Association, 2013. An ethnobotanist explains how to make



easy and inexpensive creams, salves, teas, lozenges, and much more from home-grown ingredients.

Grow Your Own in Pots by Kay Maquire. Mitchell Beazley, 2013. No space for a garden? Grow delicious vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers in pots. Learn how to make the most out of the tiniest spaces.

Lawn Gone! Low-maintenance, Sustainable, Attractive Alternatives for Your Yard by Pam Penick. Ten Speed Press, 2013. A landscape designer and award-winning blogger describes how to replace high-maintenance, resource-hogging lawns with alternative grasses, ground cover plants, and hardscaping, which are eco-friendly and easy to sustain.

More Food from Small Spaces: Growing Denser, Deeper, Higher, Longer Vegetable Gardens by Margaret Park. Great River Books, 2013. Eat healthier and save money by growing your own food. The author presents new methods for maximizing food production in the home garden by growing deeper, vertically, and year-round.



Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener: How to Create Unique Vegetables and Flowers by Joseph Tychonievich. Timber Press, 2013. Create the juiciest tomato or the brightest rose. Learn to use genetics, cross-breeding, and seed harvesting to perfect your garden's flowers and produce.

Shrubs Large and Small: Natives and Ornamentals for Midwest Gardens by Moya L. Andrews. Quarry Books, 2013. Beautiful, botanically-correct illustrations enhance this informative book that helps readers choose shrubs for their gardens.

Straw Bale Gardens: The Breakthrough Method for Growing Vegetables Anywhere, Earlier and with No Weeding by Joel Karsten. Cool Springs Press, 2013. Step-by-step instructions and lavish illustrations help gardeners learn how to create their own straw-bale gardens.

Your Midwest Garden: An Owner's Manual by Jan Rikkenback. Bison Books, 2013. In this readable and useful book, the garden columnist for Midwest Living magazine shares her vast knowledge of plants and gardening conditions specific to the Midwest.

“one-two...



...I can bend over and tie my shoe.”

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LIBRARY NEWS

It's Happening at the LIBRARY

Art Exposed IV

The Library continues its collaboration with Shaker Heights High School in presenting the fourth annual student art exhibit, Art Exposed IV, which will be displayed on the second floor of the Main Library from April 25 through May 17.

The Gallery-Opening Reception will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm Thursday, April 25 when the public can meet the student artists and their teachers, and gain an appreciation for the breadth of the SHHS Art Department.

According to Art Department Chair Dan Whitely, “This exhibit is a great way for our students to learn the commercial aspects of art and to gain an understanding of what is involved in hanging and hosting an exhibit.”

The student art exhibit is one of the library’s most popular exhibits and has elicited many positive comments about the “amazing art” and the “talented students” who created it. The eclectic exhibit includes artwork in oil, watercolor, pastel, charcoal, line drawings, photography, jewelry, and ceramics.

Library and City’s Tree Advisory Board Co-Sponsor Poster Contest

In celebration of Earth Day, the Library and the City’s Tree Advisory Board are co-sponsoring a poster contest for youth in grades 3-12. Students are encouraged to use their creativity to make a poster that shows “How Trees Help Our Community.” Prizes will be awarded to the top three artists in different age groups.

Entries should be completed on 11 by 17-inch poster paper or card stock and must be submitted to the Library

by the end of the day April 12. The Tree Advisory Board will judge the entries and present the winners at an Awards ceremony at 4:30 pm on Arbor Day, Friday, April 26 at the Main Library.

Poster paper and entry forms will be available in the Children’s Rooms at both libraries and in the Main Library Teen Center from April 1-12 for those who wish to create their posters in the library.

To help jumpstart artists’ creativity, the Tree Advisory Board offers these “tree facts:

- Trees increase the market value of your home.
- Trees make us safer by reducing crime.
- Trees save \$200/year on heating/cooling costs.
- Each tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners.
- Trees provide significant stress reduction.
- The average tree is worth \$525 and one of the few assets that appreciates over time.
- Trees reduce flooding and water pollution in Lake Erie.
- Trees clean the air of toxins. They breathe in CO₂ and release oxygen.

Library Hosts Financial Literacy Seminars at Main Library

Michael Zawatsky from the Society for Financial Awareness (SOFA) will present two financial literacy seminars at the Main Library. Each presentation is designed to motivate individuals to identify and improve their personal and family financial planning needs.

At 7 pm on Wednesday, April 10, he will speak on *The 25 Biggest Money Mistakes*. Learn about the most common money mistakes and how to successfully avoid them.

From 3-4 pm on Tuesday, May 14, he will speak on *Solving the Retirement Income Puzzle: Strategies and Vehicles to Help*

Maintain your Income during Retirement. This will be of interest to retirees and those nearing retirement; Zawatsky will discuss the three major retirement risks and identify potential sources of income.

Zawatsky is president of the Lake Erie Chapter of SOFA. He has led workshops for organizations and corporations throughout Ohio educating employees about the rules, regulations, and choices they have regarding their rollover from a 401(k) or other qualified plan. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The Ohio State University and has completed advanced education on complex retirement issues, earning the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist designations from the College of Financial Planning.

SOFA is a nonprofit speaker's bureau of licensed professionals in the financial arena who provide general financial education, introducing individuals to the keys for a financially successful future.

Both workshops are free; however, reservations are requested.

Meet the Author: LaTasha C. Watts

Meet Shaker Heights resident and foster care advocate LaTasha C. Watts, author of the memoir *I'm Not Broken, Just a Little Twisted* and its sequel (to be published May 2013), *Aging Out of My Mind*, at 7 pm Thursday, May 30 at Main Library.

Watts spent her childhood in the foster care system before she aged out at age 18. She subsequently overcame a series of obstacles including homelessness, single motherhood,



Michael Zawatsky

and cancer, all by the age of 23. Her heartbreaking memoir starkly illustrates the difficulties children face in foster care and beyond.

Watts now devotes herself through advocacy, speaking, and writing to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. She is also

the founder and executive director of the advocacy organization, The Purple Project, which provides resources for children as they age out of foster care and transition to adult life.

Following her talk, Watts' books will be available for sale and signing. Registration is recommended.

Shaker Library Tackles the Browns

Readers might think there is no way Shaker Library could compete with the Browns. However, 540,371 people visited the Library in 2012 while only 533,058 attended the Browns' eight home games during last year's regular season. In fact, Shaker Library outdrew 15 NFL teams!

On average, each Shaker Library visitor checked out 2.3 items. Overall, 1,244,692 books, videos, and other material, both physical and virtual, were borrowed last year. That amounts to 38.3 items per capita in the Library service area – one of the top rates in the nation for a community our size or larger – and 10 more than the number of TDs (28) the Browns scored all last season!

If all the items circulated last year were placed end to end, they would stretch more than 311,000 yards, more than the length of a thousand football fields, and 50 percent greater than the 2012 offensive yardage gained by all NFL teams combined.

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The Browns ran 1,000 plays from scrimmage in 2012, but Shaker Library beat that with 1,500 programs attended by more than 32,000 people. On average, each person in the Library district attended one program during the year.

While the Browns had modest increases in passing, rushing, and scoring, none of their stats compares to the increase the Library had in downloadable and computer use. An all-time record of 178,460 computer sessions was established in 2012, an 18 percent increase over the previous year, and 23,232 e-materials were downloaded for a 70 percent increase! These virtual materials now represent nearly two percent of all items circulated.

Like the Browns, Shaker Library hopes to set new “passing records” when it implements its self-checkout on April 2. Check it out and help the Library score “extra points” toward circulation.

Library Makes Progress on Its Strategic Plan

With the introduction of self-checkout and self-pickup of holds in April, the Library reached another goal in its 2012-2014 strategic plan. Perhaps one of the most noticeable changes is the reorganization of the Main Library's first floor. The nonfiction collection has been rearranged to make the collection more user-friendly, and the movie collection moved to a central location, making space for a quiet study area. Another popular change has been the installation of vending machines and café tables and chairs on the Main Library second floor, where visitors can purchase drinks and snacks.

Significant cost savings were realized by the Library's migration to a Voice over Internet Protocol telephone system, through CLEVNET, and the Library is currently engaged in a

feasibility study to evaluate its current facilities and to examine all options available for housing and delivering Library services.

Funding is a crucial key as the Board examines the maintenance needs of the 87-year-old Main Library structure, which is leased from the City, and the 53-year-old Bertram Woods Branch, which the Library owns. Cutbacks

over the past few years have reduced state funding to 1992 levels and the increases offered in the next biennial budget bring the Public Library Fund only up to 1994 levels.

The property tax base has been declining since the foreclosure crisis of 2008, and the triennial revaluation for 2013 shows a further drop in local tax collections. Nonetheless, the Library

2012 SHAKER LIBRARY YEAR IN REVIEW

Library Use

Items Borrowed	1,244,702
Registered Library Card Holders	34,480
Library Visitors	540,371
Study Room Use	3,125
Meeting Room Bookings	1,381
Children's Program Attendance	15,054
Summer Reading Participants	1,876
Reference Questions Answered	92,768
Directional Questions Answered	153,036
Computer Sessions	178,460
Website Visits	60,968

Play And Learn Station

Sessions	248
Attendance	11,327

Library Collections

Books and E-Books Total	273,573
Books	194,484
Ebooks	79,089
Magazine Subscriptions	645
Music and Audiobook Total	51,949
Regular	26,533
eRecordings	25,416
Movie Total	32,368
Regular	30,974
eMovies	1,394
Total Holdings	357,890

will live within its means and that is what is driving the study of facilities. The Library will work with an architect to investigate the costs of maintaining operations in the current buildings, to examine options for streamlining operations for lowered operating costs, and to consider alternative locations.

The Library is working with the financial consultant hired by the City

for the proposed Warrensville/Van Aken development project to determine if a new consolidated facility might serve as an anchor for that large project.

Should the Library choose an option requiring construction, the intent would be to pay for the project with reserves and operating dollars realized through more cost-effective operations.



The late Daniel Thompson

Celebrate National Poetry Month with the Library

The Library celebrates poetry every month at its 15-year-long series of poetry programs, Poetry in the Woods, which introduces residents to the pleasures of reading and listening to poetry.

Featured poets at the 7 pm April 11 program at Woods Branch are P.K. Saha, Shawn Zevit, and Barry Zucker.

A "Happy Birthday, Daniel Thompson" program is scheduled 2-4 pm Sunday, April 21 at the Main Library. Drumplay will commemorate the birthday of the late



Cuyahoga County poet laureate Daniel Thompson, a public poet and political activist who founded Poetsbank. A past winner of the Cleveland Free Times Best World Music Act, Drumplay is a band that fuses jazz and folk elements with spoken word. They will be joined by saxophonist Ernie Krivda and special guest Ray McNiece, a nationally known poet, actor, singer, educator, and author of six poetry books. Wear your birthday hat! No registration is required.

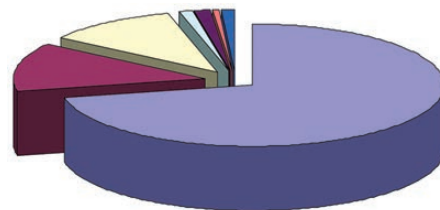
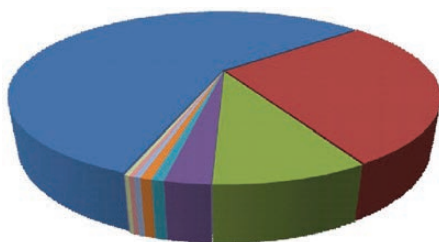
At 7 pm Thursday, May 23 at Woods Branch regional poets Catherine Criswell, Ray McNiece, Max Stark will read their poetry.

No reservations are required.

General Fund Revenue

Real Estate Property Tax	\$2,886,208	58.55%
Public Library Fund	\$1,365,667	27.70%
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$436,820	8.86%
Patron Fines & Fees	\$126,215	2.56%
Cellular Tower Revenue	\$34,500	0.70%
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$31,242	0.63%
Contributions & Other	\$18,214	0.37%
Meeting Room Revenue	\$16,272	0.33%
Advance In.	\$11,200	0.23%
Investment Interest	\$3,167	0.06%

General Fund Revenue \$4,929,506



General Fund Expenditures \$4,760,087

General Fund Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$3,398,867	71.40%
Purchased & Contracted Service	\$651,483	13.69%
Library Material & Information	\$541,572	11.38%
Capital Outlay	\$79,902	1.68%
Supplies	\$65,713	1.38%
Interfund Advances & Transfers	\$59,133	1.26%
Other	\$20,572	0.44%

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LIBRARY NEWS

History of the Underground Railroad with Cathy Nelson

During the 19th century, white abolitionists, slaves, and free blacks cooperated to help hide and transport runaway slaves on their journey to freedom. Ohio played a prominent role in this movement.

Join Cathy Nelson, founder and president emeritus of the Friends of Freedom Society, when she speaks about the history of the Underground Railroad, and identifies particular stations throughout Ohio at 6 pm Tuesday, April 9.

Nelson is retired from Columbus City Schools with over 36 years of service. She has testified in Congress on behalf of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1997, and has received countless awards for her research. As a member of the Ohio Humanities Council Speakers Bureau for nearly two decades, Nelson is consistently one of its most popular presenters.



Cathy Nelson

Genealogy Programs Continue in the Library's Training Lab

Residents interested in learning how to search online for family information can register for one of four workshops offered in partnership with the African American Genealogical Society. Three classes are held in the Main Library Training Lab. Registration is required and can be made online or by phone.

Genealogy Database: HeritageQuest

6:30 TO 8:30 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Shaker librarian Walter Lesch will demonstrate how to use the freely accessible genealogical search engine HeritageQuestOnline.com. Attendees can bring their family research notes

and conduct their own searches.

Genealogy Database:

Ancestry Library Edition

6:30-8:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Shaker librarian Walter Lesch will demonstrate how to use the Library's subscription to Ancestry.

com, which is accessible free to Shaker Library cardholders while in the building. Participants can bring their family research notes and conduct their own searches on the Ancestry Library Edition website in this hands-on program.

Genealogy Database: Family Search

6-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Sandra Beane-Milton of the African-American Genealogical Society will focus on how to use one of the most helpful online resources for genealogists, the free Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) FamilySearch.org website. Participants can bring their family research notes and conduct their own searches.

Local Resources and Genealogical Websites

6-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Sandra Beane-Milton of the African-American Genealogical Society will survey helpful research sites available in Cleveland, such as the Western Reserve Historical Society and Cleveland Public Library, as well as demonstrate how to use the spectrum of genealogical websites, message boards, and databases available online. Registration is required.

SAY Reads –**Community Book Discussion
at Bertram Woods Branch**

7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Read and discuss the book *Teach Your Children Well – Parenting for Authentic Success* by Madeline Levine, Ph.D. This book acknowledges that every parent wants successful children. However, until we are clear about our core values and the parenting choices that are most likely to lead to authentic, and not superficial, success, we will continue to raise exhausted, externally driven, impaired children who believe they are only as good as their last performance.

Second Hand Rose**Fashion Extravaganza**

2-4 PM SUNDAY, APRIL 28 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Show off your finest recycled duds at the Library's Second Hand Rose Fashion Extravaganza. Men and women, girls and boys are invited to come dressed in their finest "found" fashions and to walk down the runway. Learn about second hand fashions from a panel of shoppers and thrift store owners. All runway models will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate from an area thrift store. Please register by April 15.

Car Buying Simplified

7:00 PM THURSDAY, MAY 16

Whether to buy or lease a car is never an easy decision. There are many factors to consider: interest rates,



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Vacation Camp is also available during spring break, March 18 – 29.

LIBRARY NEWS

residual values, changing technology, fuel economy, safety, comfort, new versus previously owned. How do you make the right choice?

Paul Qua explains the benefits of buying versus leasing and answers your questions to take the mystery out of this process.

Qua spent 23 years working at his family's automobile dealership and graduated from the prestigious National Automobile Dealers Association.

For the past seven years, he has worked as a car concierge at the Classic Auto Group. His passion is helping others find the car that fits their needs, using a consultative approach. He has helped hundreds of people figure out their best car option.

Introduction to Smartphones for Adults

10-11:30 AM SATURDAY, MAY 11 IN THE MAIN LIBRARY TRAINING LAB

Now hear this! Considering the purchase of a smartphone? This workshop will compare and contrast operating systems, explain the difference between an app and a widget, and demonstrate how to operate useful features, including how to download and read a library book on your phone. Registration is required.

All About Hydrangeas

7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 AT MAIN LIBRARY

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LIBRARY NEWS

will explain all you need to know about these popular, flowering shrubs that bloom from spring to autumn. Learn about the different varieties in order to choose the best ones for your garden, and get tips on how to care for them. Registration is strongly suggested.

Visit the Master Gardener website at cuyahogamg.org.

Recent Donations to the Library

Randy Kammer made many contributions to the Marilyn Kammer Memorial Fund in honor of John Benner, Bonnie Burns, John Delaney, and Marc Kelman; and in memory of Ruth Markowski, Norton Rose, Jay Alligood, Sr., Darlene Fehrenbach, and Jim Fehrenbach.

Recent donations to the Local History Collection include Shaker Heights High School Gristmill yearbooks for 1927 and 1929; Denison University's The Adytum yearbook for 1932; a My Diary autograph and memory book from Flora Stone Mather College for 1933, and Flora Stone Mather College's The Polychronicon yearbook for 1934, all from Pete Doolittle. James R. Mogg also donated Shaker Heights High School yearbooks.

Other items included a DVD-Rom from the City of Shaker Heights featuring Mayor Earl M. Leiken, and four DVDs from the City about fair housing, an LP record of Byron Junior High School's Byron Band and Cadet Band from Karin Rosegger, two copies of a self-published book, *No Turning Back: A Journey into the World of Alzheimer's with my Mother* by Lyn H. Silberman. The Moses Cleaveland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated a one-year subscription to American Spirit magazine.

For more information about donations, please contact Library Director Luren Dickinson.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Winners of the Shaker Library's 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest

In its January 1964 issue, *Time* magazine named Martin Luther King, Jr., its Man of the Year for 1963, the first African-American recipient of this honor. Fifty years later he continues to stand the test of time. Students were asked to consider their lives 50 years into the future, including the things they would like to be remembered for and how they would have accomplished them.

Judges for this year's competition were Cheryl Darden, Anne Fink, April Hall, and Alex Jones.



Shaker Library's 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest winners; Front row from left winners from grades 3 & 4: Samuel Schmidt, second place; Eliza Bennett, first place; Kevin McMahon, third place. In grades 5 & 6: Kimball Call, second place; Sophia Honig, first place. Nandi Brown, third place for grades 5 & 6 is on the far right in the back row. Others in the back row, from left, are grade 7 & 8 winners Alexandra Andrus, third place; Cashion Perry, second place; and Palmer Hanley, first place.

Career Transition Center WORKSHOPS

The Career Transition Center (CTC) on the Main Library's second floor is a helpful resource for jobseekers.

The Monday Morning Jumpstart program meets weekly from 10 am to noon at Main Library. This program is a jobs club for those seeking employment. Participants meet, gather leads,

and discuss up-to-date job search techniques, new trends, job fairs and open positions. On the last Monday of each month, a featured speaker talks to the group on an employment topic. The CTC offers free workshops throughout the month. Residents can register online at the Library's website at shakerlibrary.org.

In addition to the weekly jobs club and free workshops listed below, staff offers one-to-one job counseling. To make an appointment or to discover how the CTC can help you, call 216-367-3011.

LIBRARY NEWS



Telephone Tips for Jobseekers

10 AM-Noon Tuesday, April 2

Contacting people by phone is an essential part of a job search. This workshop will prepare you to use the telephone effectively.

Improving Interviewing Skills

1-3 PM Thursday, April 4

Preparation is the essential ingredient for a successful job interview. It begins with research to insure the job is right for you and that you are qualified. Learn how to prepare to answer difficult and probing questions.

Networking Effectively

1-3 PM Thursday, April 11

Learn how to build and maintain a network of business relationships that can help in your job search and further your career.

Writing to Employers

10 AM-Noon Thursday, April 25

Learn professional letter writing techniques including how to write effective cover, marketing, follow-up letters, and more.

Results-Oriented Resumes

1-3 PM Tuesday, April 30

Learn how you can write a resume to catch an employer's attention.

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Computer Center CLASSES

The Library offers a variety of free computer classes every month. Register online or by phone, 216-991-2030 ext. 3185.

Understanding Devices

6:30 PM Monday, April 1

Understanding The Internet

10 AM Tuesday, April 2

10 AM Wednesday, May 1

Working With Windows 7®

10 AM Wednesday, April 3

3 PM Friday, May 3

Basic Word Processing

3 PM Thursday, April 4

10 AM Tuesday, May 7

Genealogy Database: Heritage Quest

6:30 PM Thursday, April 4

Basic Presentations

7 PM Friday, April 5

10 AM Tuesday, May 28

Internet Search Tools

10 AM Tuesday, April 9

3 PM Wednesday, May 8

Intermediate Word Processing

3 PM Thursday, April 11

10 AM Wednesday, May 15

Genealogy Database: Ancestry Library Edition

6:30 PM Thursday, April 11

Creating A Newsletter With Publisher 2010

10 AM Saturday, April 13

Using Devices

6:30 PM Monday, April 15

6:30 PM Thursday, May 9

Googlemania™

10 AM Tuesday, April 16

3 PM Saturday, May 11

Using Filenames And Folders

10 AM Wednesday, April 17

3 PM Friday, May 17

Basic Spreadsheets And Formulas

7 PM Thursday, April 18

10 AM Tuesday, May 21

Presentation Objects

2 PM Friday, April 19

10 AM Wednesday, May 29

Shaker Library & The City's Tree Advisory Board present

"How Trees Help Our Community" Poster Contest

Students in grades 3-12
are invited and encouraged
to use their creativity to
make a poster that shows
"How Trees Help Our Community"

Prizes will be awarded to
the top three artists in different age groups.
Entries must be submitted to the Library by the end
of the day, Friday, April 12, 2013

For complete details, please refer to the article
in the "It's Happening at the Library" section
on page 18 of this issue
of *Shaker Life*



Mailmerge And Macros

10 AM Tuesday, April 23

10 AM Saturday, May 25

Computer Security And Maintenance

10 AM Wednesday, April 24

3 PM Friday, May 31

Charts And Sparklines

7 PM Thursday, April 25

10 AM Wednesday, May 22

Animating And Controlling Presentations

10 AM Saturday, April 27

7 PM Thursday, May 30

Communicating Through Devices

6:30 PM Monday, April 29

6:30 PM Thursday, May 16

Pivot Tables In Excel 2010

10 AM Tuesday, April 30

7 PM Thursday, May 23

Create A Recipe Notebook In**Onenote 2010 @**

7 PM Monday, May 13



Consider joining one of the Library's book groups. Morning and evening opportunities are available. Register and pick up your books at the Main Library Information Desk one month before the discussion.

Book Buzz

10 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Mudbound by Hilary Jordan. Set in muddy Mississippi in 1946, this heart-breaking story of two families and two returning World War II veterans – one

white, one black – caught up in the blind hatred of prejudice received the Bellwether Prize, an award to recognize literature of social change.

Whodunit? Mystery Book Discussion

7:30 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Claire DeWitt and the City of the Dead by Sara Gran. Augmenting her deductive skills with dream analysis and the written work of a mysterious French detective, private investigator Claire DeWitt reluctantly returns to post-Katrina New Orleans to solve the disappearance of an unpopular prosecutor.

4th Tuesday Evening Book Discussion

7:30 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Line by Line by Barbara Hacha. Coming of age during the Great Depression, Maddy Skobel flees her disintegrating family and her central Ohio town, determined to survive, even to the point of living as a hobo, and gradually

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LIBRARY NEWS

discovers her own resourcefulness, skills, and strengths.

Book Buzz

10 AM TUESDAY, MAY 14

The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe. Between the time Mary Anne Schwalbe, former admissions director at Harvard and Radcliffe and founding director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, was diagnosed with cancer and died two years later, she and her son, the former editor-in-chief of Hyperion Books, read and discussed nearly 50 books. This is their inspiring story.

Whodunit? Mystery Book Discussion

7:30 PM THURSDAY, MAY 16

1222: A Hanne Wilhelmsen Novel by Anne Holt. A snowbound mountain pass, a derailed train, a heavily guarded carriage, an apocalyptic storm, an ancient hotel, old betrayals, murder, and state secrets make up the back-

ground for an investigation by retired police inspector Hanne Wilhelmsen.

4th Tuesday Evening Book Discussion

7:30 PM TUESDAY, MAY 28

The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka. Set in 20th century San Francisco, this is the story of six Japanese mail-order brides whose lives are marked by backbreaking migrant work, cultural struggles, children who reject their heritage, and the prospect of wartime internment.



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PLAY AND LEARN STATION AT MAIN LIBRARY

A free preschool literacy program offering interactive opportunities for parents or caregivers to explore with their children, ages birth to 5 years of age.

10 am–noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

6–8 pm Tuesdays.

No registration required.

PLAY AND LEARN BABIES

A special room filled with literacy-based activities for babies from birth to 18 months with their parents or caregivers.

10 am–noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

No registration required.

PLAY AND LEARN STATION FOR CAREGIVERS

A preschool literacy program offering interactive opportunities for non-parent caregivers to explore with their children, ages birth to 5 years.

10 am–noon Wednesdays.

The Friends of the Shaker Library Spring Book Sale!

a HUGE sale of gently used books

Members' Preview: 4–8pm, Thursday, April 18

Public Sale: 9am–4pm, Friday, April 19 & Saturday, April 20

Bag Sale: 1–3pm, Sunday, April 21

All bags of hardbacks, \$5; all bags of paperbacks, \$3

For more information, or to volunteer for the sale,
sign up on the volunteer forms at the circulation desks
at both libraries



LIBRARY NEWS

A one-time registration is required; please call Family Connections, 216-921-2023.

Play and Learn programs are a partnership with Family Connections.

NESTLINGS (Birth to 15 Months)

It's never too soon to start sharing books with babies! Enjoy songs and rhymes, books and bounces in this class for babies from birth to 15 months with an adult.

Spring Session: March 11–May 7.

9:30 am Mondays at Main Library.

9:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch.

No registration required; groups must make special arrangements.

No programs the week of April 1-6.

FLEDGLINGS (15 to 24 Months)

Experience the wonder of words with your child through stories and songs, movement, puppets and fun in this story time for children 15-24 months with an adult.

Spring Session: March 11–May 7.

10:30 am Mondays at Main Library.

10:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch.

No registration required; groups must make special arrangements.

No programs the week of April 1-6.

TERRIFIC TWOS

Stories, songs, and movement for 2-year-olds with an adult.

Spring Session: March 11–May 8.

10 am Mondays & Wednesdays at Woods Branch.

10 am Tuesdays at Main Library.

No registration required; groups must make special arrangements.

No programs the week of April 1-6.

KINDERMUSIK AT WOODS BRANCH

A free class of musical fun and learning for children.

10:30–11:15 am Monday, May 13 for toddlers ages 1½–3½ with an adult.

11:30 am–12:15 pm Monday, May 13 for babies from birth to 18 months.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Monday, April 29.



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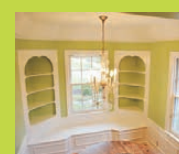
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BUTTERFLY HANDS AT MAIN LIBRARY (Grades K-4)

An introduction to basic signing skills for children with Nancy Barnett and her signing puppet, Sammy.

Spring Session: March 4–April 15.

4:15–5 pm Mondays.

Register in person, by phone, or online.

No programs the week of April 1-6.

BUTTERFLY HANDS AT WOODS BRANCH (Birth to age 5 with an adult)

An introduction to basic signs through songs, fingerplays, flannel boards, and interaction with Nancy Barnett and her signing puppet, Sammy.

Spring Session: March 7–April 18.

10:45–11:15 am Thursdays.

Register in person, by phone, or online.

No programs the week of April 1-6.

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LIBRARY NEWS

PRESCHOOL STORIES

Stories, rhymes, and fun for children 3, 4, and 5 year olds.

Spring Session: March 12–May 9.

1:30 pm Tuesdays & 10 am Thursdays at Woods Branch.

10 am Wednesdays at Main Library.

No registration required; groups must make special arrangements.

No programs the week of April 1-6.

PAJAMA STORIES

AT WOODS BRANCH

Stories for children ages 3 and up with or without an adult.

7:15 pm Monday, April 15.

7:15 pm Monday, May 20.

Register in person, by phone, or online two weeks before each program.

SATURDAY FAMILY STORY TIME

Stories and fun for the entire family.

Spring Session: March 16–May 11.

10-10:30 am Saturdays at Main Library.

No registration required. No programs the week of April 1-6.

READ TO KING AT MAIN LIBRARY

King is certified with Therapy Dogs International and loves to listen to stories. School-age students can sign up for a 15-minute time slot.

3:30-5:15 pm Wednesday, April 24.

3:30-5:15 pm Wednesday, May 15.

Register in person, online, or by phone two weeks before each program. Online registrants should call the Children's Department to select a reading time slot.

Diary Of A Wimpy Kid BOOK PARTY AT MAIN LIBRARY (Grades 2 & Up)

Join us for a craft, activities, and a snack as we celebrate our favorite Wimpy Kid, Greg Heffley. And don't forget to watch out for the cheese touch!

2-2:45 pm Saturday, May 18.

Register in person, online, or by phone beginning May 4.

LIBRARY NEWS

WRITERS CLUB (Grades 2-4)

Haiku, acrostic, cinquain, and even concrete... what do these forms have in common? Why the answer is simple; it's poetry, of course. Calling all poets wherever you are. Come, read and write poems about anything at all, and showcase your work at a reception at the end.

Spring Session: April 9-May 14.

4:15-5 pm Tuesdays at Main Library.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Tuesday, March 26.

New! THE WRITERS CLUB AT WOODS BRANCH

Spring Session: April 10-May 15.

4:15-5 pm Wednesdays at Woods Branch.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Wednesday, March 27.

THE HOMEWORK CENTER AT MAIN LIBRARY

Free homework help for students in Grades 2-8. Students can complete their assignments and have access to basic school supplies, reference material, and the use of a laptop computer in quiet surroundings with help from licensed teachers. An adult must be present to register the student at the first visit, and students must be picked up by 6:30 pm.

4-6:30 pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays through May 22.

Meeting Room F/Main Library Second Floor.
(The Homework Center will be closed April 1-3.)

The Homework Center is funded by MyCOM.

MEET AMERICAN GIRL DOLL REBECCA AT WOODS BRANCH (Grades 1-5)

Travel back in time to 1914 New York City and discover what life was like for Rebecca and her family. Listen to a chapter from one of the books in the *Rebecca* series, watch a DVD, make a craft, and enjoy a snack. Dolls welcome!

2:30-4 pm Saturday, April 13.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Saturday, March 30.

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LIBRARY NEWS

MEET AMERICAN GIRL DOLL KIT AT WOODS BRANCH (Grades 1-5)

Travel back in time to 1934 Cincinnati and discover what life was like for Kit and her family during the Great Depression. Listen to a chapter from one of the books in the Kit series, watch a DVD, make a craft, and enjoy a snack. Dolls welcome!

2:30-4 pm Saturday, May 11.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Saturday, April 27.

TEEN SCENE

The Teen Center (Grades 7-12) Main Library Second Floor

3:30-8 pm Monday-Thursday.

Spring Recess Hours: 1-5:30 pm
Thursday, March 28 and April 1-4.

YOUR PLACE IN THE WOODS AT WOODS BRANCH (Grades 7-9)

Join your friends in the Dietz Community Room after school.

3-4:30 pm Mondays through May 20.

No registration required. No program
Monday, April 1.

READING PAYS OFF FOR TEENS

Teens ages 12-17 can present their own library card at the Youth Services Desk to earn coupons towards paying off current overdue fines on Shaker Library materials. Earn a \$2 Library Buck coupon for every 15 minutes spent reading, with the potential of earning \$8 in one hour.

3-5 pm Thursday, April 11 at Woods Branch.

3-5 pm Tuesday, April 23 at Main Library.

3-5 pm Thursday, May 9 at Woods Branch.

6:30-8:30 pm Monday, May 13 at Main Library.

5-MINUTE POETRY FOR TEENS AT MAIN LIBRARY TEEN CENTER

Drop into the Teen Center Monday-Thursday for a special 5-Minute Poetry

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3:30-5:30 pm April 15, 16, 17, 18.

No registration required.

MAKE A VERY SPECIAL GIFT FOR MOTHER'S DAY AT MAIN LIBRARY

Come to the Teen Center to decorate a glass Mason jar and then fill it with a cookie or brownie mix to warm the heart of a special person in your life. Free!

4-4:45 pm Wednesday, May 8.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Wednesday, April 24.

Friends Sponsors Huge Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Shaker Library Spring Book Sale offers a huge variety of books at bargain prices. Volunteers have worked throughout the winter to organize the large sale of gently used books on the second floor of the Main Library.

The sale begins with a Members' Preview Sale from 4-8 pm Thursday, April 18, when Friends' members get first dibs on a wide selection of books. Non-members may join at the door. The sale continues from 9 am to 4 pm Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 and ends with the popular Bag Sale from 1-3 pm Sunday, April 21, when all bags of hardback books sell for \$5 and a bag of paperbacks sells for \$3.

For more information or to volunteer for the sale, sign up on the volunteer forms available at the circulation desks at both libraries.

END NOTES

Sunday, April 28 is the last day for Sunday hours at Main Library until October 6. Both libraries are closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

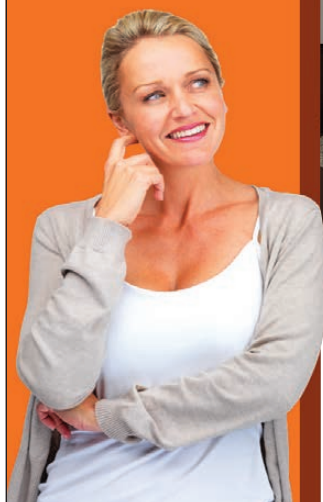
Creative? Join a group of knitters and get or give help. Knit Mornings are held from 10 am to noon Wednesdays, April 3 and May 1 at Main Library. Knit Nights are held from 7 to 8:45 pm Thursdays, April 18 and May 16 at Bertram Woods Branch. These creative sessions are moderated by experienced knitters, Fern Braverman and Elfriede Heaney.

ABLE/GED Classes are offered from 9 am to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Main Library Teen Center. Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) is for adults who need help in basic skills, reading, writing, and math. GED classes consist of reviews of reading comprehension, social studies, writing, math, and science in preparation for the General Education Diploma (GED). Participants must pre-register by calling the ABLE office: 216-371-7138.

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Shaker Library Director Luren Dickinson knows that the public sometimes has misconceptions about the library. That's why he created this list.

The top 10 Things most people don't know about Shaker Library

Shaker Library IS NOT run by the County. We are one of nine independent library systems throughout Cuyahoga County.

Shaker Library IS NOT run by the Shaker Schools. We are a School District Library, which means that the School Board appoints the Library Board and we serve the same population, but our operations are completely separate.

Shaker Library IS NOT run by the City. We do lease our Main Library building, which is owned by the City, but that is our only contractual relationship.

Shaker Library DOES NOT own the Main Library building.

We are responsible for its maintenance and we do own its contents. We do own Bertram Woods Branch Library and surrounding property.

Shaker Library DOES NOT tax residents twice for services. Only property owners pay the local library tax and they pay ONLY for the Shaker Library.

Shaker Library taxes ARE NOT high compared to other local libraries. Our millage is below the county average and is about three percent of the property taxes paid in Shaker.

Shaker Library IS NOT trying to join the county library system. We are a 30-year member of the CLEVNET system, which gives us instant access to a much deeper collection, three times the county system's size and the largest in Ohio.

Shaker Library IS NOT going to make decisions in a vacuum. We completed an in-depth strategic planning effort in 2012 with over 8,000 public interactions observed, input from over a thousand residents, and interviews with local stakeholders.

Shaker Library IS NOT promoting a new consolidated facility. We are doing a feasibility study that will look at our current facilities, and a consolidated building may be one of several options considered.

Shaker Library IS NOT seeking any additional taxes from the public. If we do choose an option from the feasibility study requiring construction, our plan would be to pay off any project with reserves and operating dollars saved through more effective operations.



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Lower & Middle School OPEN HOUSE

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Lyndhurst
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From left, Nick Gallo and Sarah Harris of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and John Herrick and Maureen Garnett of the Citizens Police Alumni (CPA).

PHOTO: ALEJANDRO RIVERA



Giving Back to the Community

**Citizen volunteer
groups help the
Police, Fire, and
Health departments
make Shaker a
safe place to live
and work**

by Diana Simeon

When Sandi Hurley had 5,000 doses of vaccine to dispense to area residents at the height of the swine flu – or H1N1 – pandemic in Ohio in late 2009, she didn't hesitate to pick up the phone.

"I sent out a plea for help to our Community Emergency Response Team," recalls Hurley, who serves as the City's nursing director. "They responded and we were able to open and staff five mass vaccination clinics."

"There were times when we had a line snaking all the way through the Middle School," she says. "Our Health Department could not have delivered those vaccinations to our community without them."

When it comes to public health and safety, Shaker's Fire, Police, and Health departments have some extra help in their corner.

That includes the Community Emergency Response Team (or CERT), whose volunteers are specially trained to provide emergency help – like at vaccination clinics – but also the Citizens Police Academy Alumni, whose volunteers, also specially trained, work closely with the City's Police Department.

Together, these resident groups are helping make Shaker a safer place to live and work.

Ready or Not

The Community Emergency Response Team Program was created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in the 1980s. Today, it's sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (or FEMA); there are more than 1,100 CERT teams in operation in the United States, including in



“ This is a group of trained volunteers who are ready, willing and able to assist their City. They are a very dedicated group and I am very grateful to all of them. ”

Sandi Hurley, RN, BSN,
Director of Nursing,
Shaker Heights Health Department

Shaker, where CERT works hand-in-hand with its sponsoring agencies, the City's Health and Fire departments.

“The idea is to prepare people for emergencies,” explains Nick Gallo, a longtime resident who serves as president of CERT. “We start with ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and then the larger community.”

Members of CERT participate in a special 40-hour national training program that includes everything from disaster preparedness to fire safety, even light search and rescue. In Shaker, volunteers must also maintain current CPR and first-aid certifications and several residents on the team, including Gallo, are trained in the Incident Command System (or ICS). ICS is a standardized system that dictates how first-responders from different communities work together in the event of an emergency.

“We deal with emergency situations, so a lot of the training comes down to being ready,” says Gallo. Members meet monthly for additional training (in January that included a presentation on the photoelectric smoke detectors now recommended by the Fire Department); there is also a monthly “call-down,” where members are required to respond to an email or phone call as if there were an emergency; and then, there are the times CERT is called out to help in the community.

“We work with both the Health and Fire departments, when either one needs us,” explains Gallo.

Most recently, for example, CERT members knocked on doors and talked



to Fernway residents about fire safety in the wake of that neighborhood's tragic Daleford Road house fire, which claimed two lives and injured several others.

"We passed out literature, passed out batteries, helped install smoke detectors," says Gallo.

Before that, CERT was deployed to support the Fire Department's response to Hurricane Sandy, which didn't hit the City directly, but caused widespread power outages and damage nonetheless.

In fact, storms are one of the most common events requiring CERT's help. The team, which you can recognize by their lime-green shirts and hats, typically watches downed power lines, but



also keeps an eye on residents who may need extra help.

"A few summers ago when we had a bad storm, we were on a street where a lady was nine months pregnant, with no power, and her husband was out of town. A tree fell over on her car, so she had no way to do anything," says Gallo.

The importance of these residents

being available whenever the City's first responders need them cannot be underestimated, says Hurley. "This is a group of trained volunteers who are ready, willing and able to assist their City," she says. "They are a very dedicated group and I am very grateful to all of them."



This page, clockwise from upper left: **Director of Nursing Sandi Hurley of the City's Health Department; CERT volunteer Chris Ramsay works with members of the Health Department staff at a drive-through flu shot clinic at the Middle School in October of 2010; a CERT team meeting at the Fire House.**

PHOTO: CAYDIE HELLER



PHOTO: GREEN STREET STUDIO

Eyes and Ears

In 1995, when Shaker's Police Department launched its popular Citizens Police Academy, the goal was to provide interested residents with an up-close look at the workings of the law enforcement agency.

But the Department got much more than it bargained for.

"The first class was really excited about what they were able to learn," explains Deputy Chief Michael Schwarber. "They said, 'Let's not let it stop here.' So they created an alumni association and that has morphed into something incredible."

In 2012 alone, the Citizens Police Alumni, which has 64 members, performed more than 2,500 hours of volunteer service for the Police Department.

"They are a tremendous help to us and the community," says Schwarber.

For starters, CPA members handle several tasks that, while important, can be hard for officers to find time for. That includes checking the City's street lights once a month (outages are now down by more than half); taking over

electronic finger printing of residents (who may need it to apply for a job, for example); converting old arrest records to a new filing system; and cleaning the Department's shotguns and rifles.

Volunteers must be graduates of the Citizens Police Academy program, but also receive extra training in order to perform these duties. For example, volunteers who sign up to clean weapons must be certified to do so and work under the direction of the department's armorer.

Then there's the CPA's Citizens Patrol program, which started in 1997, under then-Police Chief Walter Ugrinic.

"Volunteers go out with a partner in an unmarked car and patrol a particular area of the City and be eyes and ears for us," says Schwarber. "If they see a suspicious circumstance, they bring it to our attention."

That could include anything from a driver who appears to be drunk to a public nuisance. Again, volunteers are specially trained to participate in the Citizens Patrol.

"There's also an interview and a background check," explains CPA president Frank Holowach, who oversees

the program. "And we have a one-year probationary period."

Shifts are scheduled a month in advance and are typically 8 pm to 12 am on Fridays and Saturdays, and 7 to 11 pm during the week. Weeknights vary, depending on the availability of volunteers. In any given month, the Citizens Patrol – who don brown shirts when on duty – is in all five zones of the City; it also routinely helps out at City-sponsored events, like the annual Arts & Music Festival.

"We get our assignments from the officer on shift. We might focus on problem areas, but we may also be driving by a resident's house when they've let the department know they're out of town," says Holowach. The CPA has also established an Emergency Response Team, which can be ready to assist the police within 20 minutes' notice.

Resident George Gelehrter, a physician at MetroHealth, has been involved with CPA from the beginning. "At the time, my younger son was 12 and had some interest in police work. I came across the notice in Shaker Life and it piqued my interest," Gelehrter says.

So he enrolled in the Academy, which runs for 12 weeks each fall. Participants meet on Thursday evenings, from 7 to 10 pm. each week covers a different aspect of the department, from the detective bureau to the weapons range and most everything in between (and, yes, that includes the K-9 unit too). To date, more than 300 individuals have graduated from the Academy; the program is open to those who live or work in Shaker.

"But when we graduated, there wasn't any idea that the alumni would



PHOTO: GREEN STREET STUDIO

In any given month, the Citizens Patrol – who don brown shirts when on duty – is in all five zones of the City. It also routinely helps out at City-sponsored events.

Opposite page and above: **Citizens Patrol** members George Gelehrter and Allison Hart suit up for a night patrol in an unmarked car after being instructed by SHPD Sgt. Bill Martin. This page, right: Chris Ramsay and George Gelehrter on CPA duty.



be able to do something,” recalls Gelehrter. So he and some other alumni approached Chief Ugrinic, who came up with the idea for the Citizens Patrol.

Over the years, says Schwarber, CPA Alumni have become a trusted

part of the Department’s efforts.

And that’s just how it should be, says Holowach. “It’s a good way to give back to the community, and not just to prevent crime or bad situations. It’s an opportunity to help people too.”

CERT CPA

Residents interested in learning more about the Community Emergency Response Team can contact Nick Gallo at rainbownpg@wowway.com.

The Citizens Police Academy is accepting applications for its fall 2013 class. The dates are August 15, August 22, August 29, September 12, September 19, September 26, October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24, October 31, November 7, and a tentative graduation date of November 11. Contact the Police Department at 216-491-1220.



Photo by Kevin Reeves



A Great Ride

An Interview with Superintendent Mark Freeman

By Jennifer Proe

When Mark Freeman retires in July, he will have spent 46 years of his career in service to the Shaker schools, 25 of those as superintendent. The Freeman era encompasses many of the milestones of the history of the schools and the community: voluntary racial integration, a major school reorganization, the birth of the Shaker Schools Foundation, and the International Baccalaureate program, to name only a few. Before riding off to his next adventure, whatever that may be, he sat still long enough to reflect on his career, and to give us some of his thoughts for the future of public education.

Tell us a little about your early days – what were you like as a student?

I was not a good student in grade school and high school. I was only engaged if I liked the teacher, kind of the classic thing you see in students all the time. I think because of this, perhaps I'm more empathetic about the struggles a student might have.

In college at Kent State University I had an incredibly spotty record – going from a 4.0 at one time to passing with a D at another. I got a little more serious when I became an upperclassman. I met my first wife [Linda, now deceased] in college. When we were dating she asked me when I planned to graduate, and I was sort of shocked by the question. I couldn't imagine why anyone would want to leave a college campus. I was a senior in college when Linda and I got married. She turned out to be an excellent influence on me academi-

cally. By graduate school I was a more serious student, first at the school of technology and then later in education.

What attracted you into the teaching profession?

In college, I worked at a whole variety of jobs – at a beverage store, at a bar, at a retail clothing store, and in a couple of factories. I remember operating a plastic injection molding machine and doing rubber denuding and realizing I didn't want to do that for the rest of my life. My first professional job was one of the most rewarding jobs I ever had, working as a care provider and then a recreational therapist at a children's psychiatric hospital. I left that job because there was no money in it.

My first teaching job was at Euclid High School. Initially I went into teaching because I realized I could teach industrial arts and make a living doing it. It seemed like a fun thing to do. It was one of the subjects in school I enjoyed. I don't like to sit still. I have always believed that if you teach anything that has a lot of student activity, where students wind up with some type of product, it is very rewarding. It gives you a lot of time to talk with your students on an informal basis. I found that very attractive.

Once I got into teaching I really loved it. I still like to teach. One of the drawbacks of my current job is that I don't get to teach as much.

How did you come to join the faculty of the Shaker schools in 1967?

I was teaching at Euclid High School

After 25 years in the superintendent seat, Mark Freeman reflects on his career and considers the road ahead.

and my wife was teaching at Cleveland Heights High School, and we decided we were ready to make a move. We researched the area and decided Shaker Heights was the best district.

"Mark Freeman came to Woodbury Junior High when I was in eighth grade. When Mark arrived, he made an impression on us. He had this dark beard. We had respect for him from the beginning. We interpreted him as being strict, but really he was just serious-minded. We had this dangerous equipment in our shop for working with both wood and metal, and you had to be focused. One of my classmates, who shall remain unnamed, brought some barbecue Fritos to class, thinking he would eat them in shop class that day. Mark saw the bulge in his shirt right away and pulled him over. He did not get to eat those Fritos. We knew right then that Mark was very observant and not to be messed with."- Paul Mason, '74



As someone who “doesn’t like to sit still,” Freeman found an outlet for his energy in football. (Photo from the 1962 Eastlake North High School yearbook)

You were quite a political activist for teachers’ rights while you were on the teaching staff at Woodbury. What were some of the issues you advocated for?

General collective bargaining agreements or master contracts were not common in Ohio at that time, and I, along with some others, thought we ought to have a master contract, so we drafted one and worked at negotiating it. I also got involved in teacher grievances so I learned quite a bit about that. At that time I didn’t have any interest in school administration, and if I did I certainly thought it could never be in Shaker Heights because I had burned every conceivable bridge with these negotiations.

I totally underrated and misjudged the school administrators at that time. I thought they would hold grudges because of my union activities. Well, it turned out just the opposite. Apparently they had a different take on me and thought I had a good understanding of what was going on and that I might be a good candidate for something.

I occasionally joke about clauses in our collective bargaining agreement that are difficult to administer and people remind me that I may have written them. I continue to have tremendous respect for teachers

and teaching. Shaker has a fabulous faculty and I think the collective bargaining units in Shaker have been extremely professional and interested in how their work affects children. It’s not always wonderful, sometimes there is great disagreement – it’s usually over compensation or benefits, the obvious things.

“When I was president of the Shaker Heights Teachers’ Association, I knew that Mark would work with me to deal with concerns. For both of us, it was more important to make things work than to be confrontational or ‘right.’”
 - Rebecca Thomas, former Shaker schools librarian and head of the SHTA

What was your first role as an administrator?

The first job I applied for was assistant director of recreation. I didn’t get the job, but the Assistant Superintendent at that time, Fred David, told me not to be discouraged.

After I received my doctorate, I remember talking to some administrators about my interests, and I sort of got recruited for the job of Director of Educational Services, which covered all instructional media and equipment. One of the things I did in that job was to write a funding proposal – probably to buy some equipment – and it was successful. I became very interested in writing grant proposals and lobbying for them. The biggest one I wrote was for the Emergency School Aid Act that provided funds for school districts to desegregate. Some districts were under court order to do so, but Shaker was in a whole different ball game with this. We were interested in racial balance in the schools and doing it voluntarily, so we received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Emergency School Aid Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



Freeman joined the faculty of Woodbury Junior High in 1967 as an industrial arts teacher. He has seldom been seen since without his beard. (Photo from the 1970 Woodbury Tower yearbook)



“When Mark was appointed superintendent in 1988, our sense was that he had a good understanding of the system, was thoughtful, and intelligent,” says Earl Leiken, president of the School Board when Freeman was appointed and current mayor of Shaker Heights. (Photo from the School Review, 1988)

*"There is always unfinished business,
always more to do. It's a work in
progress. It should be."*

What was your role in implementing the Shaker Schools Plan? What was the community reaction to it at the time?

The Shaker Schools Plan began with voluntary busing in 1969. I was a teacher at the time, and I can remember going to large community meetings where there was a great deal of anger and hostility. I remember a guy just yelling and screaming about how awful this was, saying, "How could you do this?" I found this really surprising because this was not my experience with the parents of the students I worked with. I had a great deal of respect early on for how the school board and the administrative team dealt with this kind of behavior. I think that left quite an impression on me.

I spent a lot of time developing relationships in Columbus and Washington, D.C., trying to obtain funding for the plan. Much of the later work that I directed as an administrator included staff development to help the faculty adjust to challenges, intensive meetings with staff and parents – some of it was pretty gut-wrenching.

I'll take credit for recruiting Beverly Mason, who was then working as a social worker in our schools, to direct the integration effort. She had great interpersonal skills and leadership. The school board was very solid in their leadership on this issue, in particular Bob Rawson, Sr., who showed incredible conviction for doing the right thing. And there was incredible leadership within the community, both white and black.

"I know that my mother considered Mark both a wonderful colleague and a tremendous supporter of the integration plan. It was risky and courageous. It was not a popular idea with a lot of people initially. There was some sense that people's neighborhoods were being broken up. But when you think about the greater good, there was a lot of logic to it. - Paul Mason, '74 son of Shaker Schools Plan coordinator Beverly Mason (now deceased)"

How did you progress as an administrator?

I worked for a while as director of research and evaluation, and then director of curriculum and instruction. My boss at the time suggested I attend a meeting that was sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership, a think tank in Washington D. C. They later invited me to join their Educational Policy Fellowship program, which I did.

A few years later, I was asked if I wanted to become the local coordinator of the program. We had guest speakers who talked about leadership style, and we took trips to other states to study what was going on in other parts of the country. I made some great professional contacts and learned a lot.

It helped equip me for the superintendency in an area that you would never think about in formal training – learning about how policy is developed, the politics of education, group dynamics. It was great training.

School funding has been a major part of your job for years. Why does Shaker have such a strong track record of success in passing our levies?

I have worked on about 15 or more levy campaigns in my time here. There have only been two levies that did not pass on the first try. We have a highly educated community and there is a pretty strong correlation between education level and the rate of levy passage. I'm very sympathetic about the tax rate residents are asked to pay here and grateful for their support. Hopefully there will be some reforms in state funding to ease that burden.

Another reason our levies usually pass is that we have a good product. If a school district is stable and has the trust of the people, and prizes that trust, then the chance of levy success goes way up. In times when I've told the public when we'll be on the ballot, or where the trouble spots are, I've been very direct and open. I also think stability of leadership helps a great deal. We have had



Freeman has signed the diplomas of close to 9,000 Shaker Heights High School graduates. (Photo by Kevin Reeves)

"It's very common for kids to say thank you at commencement. It can't get much better than that."

very stable and dedicated school boards here. Our school board members have been very smart, and diverse, and they don't do the job for political gain, but rather as a public service. They don't take a salary, which is rare. In most districts, they take the salary.

"Working with Mark on a levy campaign was like taking a graduate course in school finance. He was an excellent teacher. The most traumatic time for me as school board president was in 1994 when the levy failed. The community felt that the school board was not listening to them. With Mark's input and support, we developed a state of the schools meeting and hundreds of people came. We had a phone bank every night for a month, with school board members answering questions, and ultimately the levy passed."

- Judy Stenta, former Board president

What was the state of the Schools when you first became Superintendent in 1988?

We had just gone through a major school reorganization, where we had to close several schools due to population decline. At the time of the K-4 closings,

we had schools that were just on the edge of having only one class section per grade. Most folks understood the need to close schools, but nobody wanted their school to be closed. It took a long time to evolve and became very emotional. Strong leadership on the Board, led by Earl Leiken, helped us get through it.

We were at a low of about 4,800 students at that time. Gradually, our enrollment did grow, and has been very stable for the past 16 or 17 years. Because of that growth, we needed to expand Onaway and Boulevard schools. From a financial standpoint, adding a wing to a building versus adding a whole building, there was no comparison.

We also needed a larger gym at the High School, which we were later able to add because of some back tax collections and other sources. We changed the front entrance of the High School so that it would be more accessible to disabled students and have a true front door. We expanded the cafeteria at the High School, which helped change the whole tone of the place – before that, the kids had nowhere to go. And of course the Shaker Schools Foundation was active in renovating the Large and Small Auditoriums.

"Mark was always a strong advocate for maintaining a high quality standard, whether it was hiring the best teachers, providing whatever was needed in terms of technology, or maintenance of the physical facilities. Some of the board members might have pushed him on the financial side, but his priority was always education." - Earl M. Leiken, former Board president and current mayor of Shaker Heights

You were instrumental in forming the Shaker Schools Foundation in 1981. Why was it needed?

I thought there were problems with Ohio's funding formula for schools and we needed to think about building some type of endowment just like private schools and universities do. Certainly there was some concern about how this might affect school levies. The danger was that people might think they did not have to vote for the school levy, because private donations were coming into the schools. In fact, it's the opposite. If someone invests in the schools, whether it's \$100,000 or \$10, they feel they have an equity interest in it.

I was on the School Board when they were first talking about having the Night for the Red & White (an annual benefit now in its 21st year). Mark was supportive and gave it the go-ahead. Now, a lot of school districts have foundations, but we were pioneers." - Judy Stenta

Minority achievement has been a critical issue throughout your time as superintendent. What can be done to address the achievement gap?

This is not a new item. As a District, we started addressing it in the early 1960s. A superintendent can be effective through basic leadership, by paying attention to it, setting goals, providing readings about it, and being aware of what behaviors are modeled by you that affect others.

Much of what we do has been effective – that's why people come from other districts around the country and look at what we're doing. In saying that, more needs to be done. Right here in Shaker Heights there is a dramatic difference in wealth between European Americans and African Americans. This is certainly linked to school achievement.

One of the issues is that schools can't skip what's going on in a child's home. This isn't an excuse, it doesn't mean that the school shouldn't continue to do more. In fact, we probably need the resources to do more to intervene in a child's life. That's the reality.

You also have to look at how we are doing compared to similar districts.

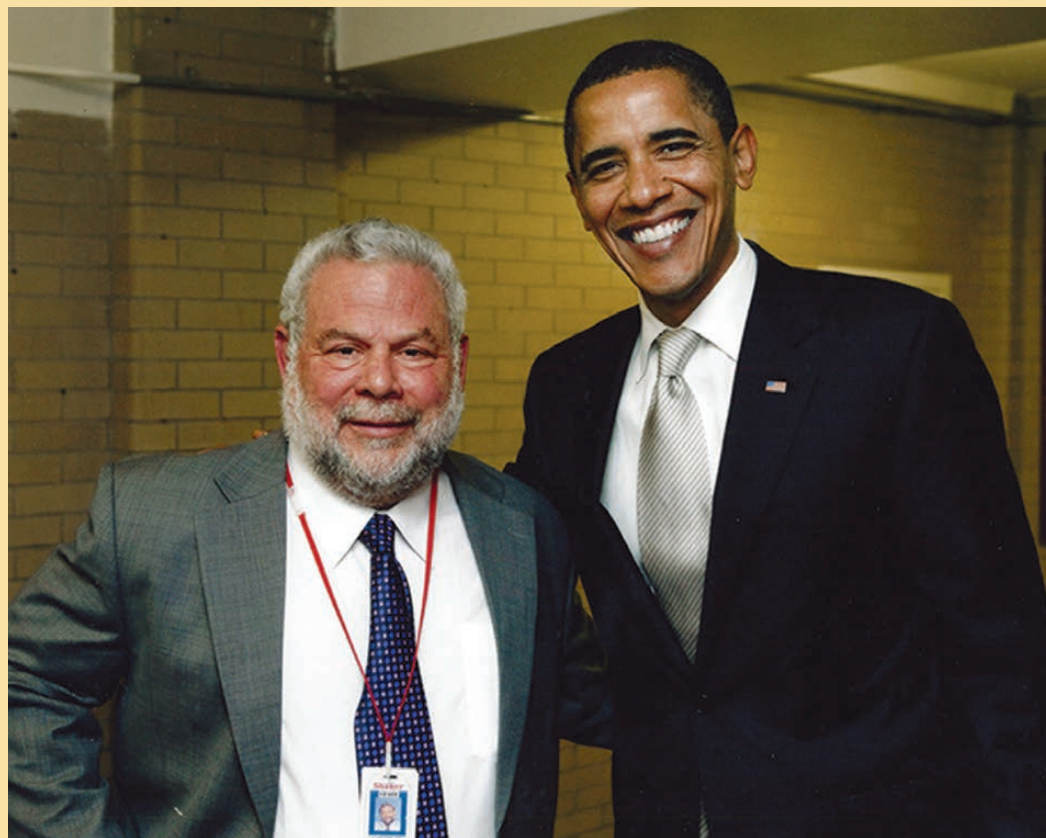
Several years ago, a group of superintendents got together and formed the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN). We wanted to look at school districts with a common thread – middle-class or upper-class school districts with an achievement gap. That gap is there for a whole variety of reasons. There is an over-riding issue of subconscious racism that often gets overlooked, but is very real and detrimental. Also, we were concerned with how to deal with negative peer pressure and how to develop faculty to counteract this achievement gap. This work continues in Shaker and other MSAN districts.

On your watch, Shaker instituted the Asian Studies program, expanded international travel opportunities for students, and adopted the International Baccalaureate program. Why is the global focus of our curriculum so important to you?

The expression is kind of trite, but it's true: The world is getting smaller. We now have a much larger number of students who come to us from other countries. It's paramount for our graduates to have a grasp of not only the

"One of the issues is that schools can't skip what's going on in a child's home. It doesn't mean that the school shouldn't continue to do more. In fact, we probably need the resources to do more to intervene in a child's life. That's the reality. "

A high point was President Obama's visit to Shaker Heights High School in 2009. The President returned in 2012. (Photo courtesy of Mark Freeman)





A 1992 trip to Senegal led Freeman to greater understanding of the brutality and legacy of slavery. (Photo courtesy of Mark Freeman)

"I have always felt that travel is very enriching. It can open your eyes to how others see things."



Rebecca Freeman ('91), boards the bus to Moreland Elementary School as part of the voluntary integration effort known as the Shaker Schools Plan. All three of Freeman's children are graduates of the Shaker Schools. (Photo courtesy of Mark Freeman)

U.S. but the world, as we are moving very much to a world economy. If we're interested in diversity and living with others, experiencing their cultures will provide a better perspective for our students and our faculty.

I've always been interested in the International Baccalaureate program. When you look at international education and talk to other school administrators, they often talk about IB. I also felt that IB would be very helpful in supporting collaboration among teachers to plan and develop lessons.

We knew that if we wanted to implement IB we had to beef up our language program, especially in the elementary schools. We became aware of a program in which teachers from China come to the U.S. as guest teachers. We thought that looked like an ideal program for Shaker. So the two things – IB and the Mandarin language program – came into being almost simultaneously, one with an eye towards the other.

I have always felt that travel is very enriching. It can open your eyes to how others see things. On a trip to Senegal in the 1990s with a group of other educators, we visited Goree Island and saw the place where many slave ships departed, also called the Door of No Return. It kind of takes your breath away to see the reality of it. Some of the leg irons are still there. It leads one to a whole new level of understanding of the brutality and legacy of slavery.

"In the 1980s, the world was changing dramatically. Japan and China were becoming powerhouses, and India was just coming on the scene. Mark understood that we needed to bring non-European history into the curriculum, such as the Asian Studies program. We became a school without walls." - Terry Pollack, High School social studies teacher

What were some of the best moments or memories you have from your time in this job?

It's always the kids, and always the unexpected stuff. It's great when kids earn honors and awards, but sometimes just the feedback from students is very rewarding.

I love to see adults who come back and say what a great education they had here and to say thank you. People come up to me at Heinen's and say things are going well. I love that. It's very common for kids to say thank you at commencement. It can't get much better than that.

We've also had lots of interesting guests here—educators from other parts of the country, from other countries, visiting academics – it's a steady flow. We've had two visits from President Obama. Walter Mondale. Al Gore. I had a chance to meet Bill Clinton when he talked to a small group of superintendents before he was president. I've enjoyed meeting accomplished people from our alumni hall of fame. Shaker Heights has connections to all sorts of folks.

What are you proudest of? What makes you feel good about the work you've done?

I think what makes me feel good is that the District is really in good shape at the moment. We have a great faculty, supportive community, our labor contracts are settled, we have been able to delay a levy again. We've got some great new programs going, some fabulous new staff people, so the District's in very good shape. There is always unfinished business, always more to do. It's a work in progress. It should be.

What are your plans for retirement?

I don't know yet. Relax, reflect, and then decide. I think my wife, Gina, is very anxious that I won't have enough to do and I'll bother her. I'll probably ride my bike and travel more often. And I look forward to seeing more of my family. I have two grandchildren who live in France – Rebecca's children. She works for Doctors Without Borders. My son Matthew lives in the state of Washington and runs the university health services for Pacific Lutheran University. My stepdaughter Deborah is finishing a doctorate in political science and is joining the faculty at Yale. All three of my kids are Shaker grads, which makes me very proud.

"The role of superintendent is not easily filled. There are a lot of people who have the academic ability, but they don't have the social skills to interact with parents. Or they may have the social skills, but not the political skills, such as how to communicate with legislators, how to advocate for public education. What we had in Mark was the whole package. It didn't come all in one lump. All those years, in all of that time, those skill sets were being perfected. I'm not sure we always appreciated what we had, but we will soon." - Rev. Marvin McMickle, former Board president

What Lies Ahead:

Freeman on the future of public education

I think the educational experience will be more personalized in the future. We know that one size does not fit all. Yet American schools continue to be divided into grade levels and classroom units that have limited flexibility. We need to find ways to create a dynamic personal learning plan for each student. In this, we have much to learn from our colleagues in special education, whose work is tailored to the specific needs of each student.

I hope state and federal policymakers will finally reverse the trend toward more and more mandates. Almost all are unfunded or at best underfunded. We spend an inordinate amount of time on compliance activities that have little to do with the improvement of teaching and learning. It is costly and, more important, it diverts educators' time from what really makes a difference.

Technology presents great opportunities and great challenges. Online learning is getting better; just look at Coursera, which offers online courses from top universities like Stanford and Brown. This is a powerful tool if used well and equitably. We need to make sure

that all students have access to online resources and that students and faculty members are comfortable using them.

Aspects of the teaching profession must be reformed. There are too many schools of education, they are not sufficiently selective, and they do not provide students with enough authentic classroom experience during their training. Once they are on the job, American teachers have too little time for planning and collaboration. Visiting educators from other nations are shocked by the typical teaching load here. In countries like Finland and Singapore that have highly respected schools, teacher training is far better, and practitioners have considerably more time to refine their lessons and exchange ideas with colleagues. These things make a big difference.

We talk about educating "the whole child," but we fall short. There simply aren't enough resources and time. I would like to see schools become the hub of a broader focus on the well-being of children and families, including wellness, mental health, parenting support, and constructive

out-of-school activities – almost like the settlement house model. This would go a long way toward mitigating the effects on children of poverty and family stresses.

It has never been more important to educate students for responsible citizenship. By this I don't just mean civics lessons – although those are very important – but also development of empathy and interpersonal skills. To be contributing members of society, people need to be able to work in teams, using technology as a tool rather than as a barrier.

It is beyond dispute that high-quality early childhood education lays a foundation for greater success in school and in life. I am encouraged by the President's call for universal preschool. I think it is one of the best investments our country could make.

I remain a firm believer in the ideal of the common school, a public institution serving children of many backgrounds. The common school has made our democracy great. It is an ideal worth continuing to fight for. 🐘

A Farewell Reception

All residents are invited to a retirement reception in honor of Mark Freeman on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, from 5-7 pm in the Upper Cafeteria at Shaker Heights High School.

The reception is sponsored by the School District, the City of Shaker Heights, the Shaker Schools Foundation, PTO Council, the Shaker Heights Teachers' Association, Ohio Association of Public School Employees, and Local 200.

Philanthropy | 25 Cents at a Time

By Diana Simeon

The next Friday afternoon you find yourself hankering for a sweet treat, head over to Greta and Owen Bauer's house, just steps from Fernway School on Fernway Road.

There, at 3:25 most every Friday during the school year, and in most every kind of weather, you'll find the sixth and third grader selling brownies and, depending on the season, cold lemonade or hot cocoa. There are often cookies, too.

The duo, along with their mother, Harriet Bauer, have been running their Bauer/Powers Lemonade Stand, as it's known in the neighborhood, since 2009.

"We started it at the beginning of that school year. It was supposed to be for-profit, a way for the kids to learn a bit about business, and for the first few weeks it was," explains Harriet.

But when Harriet's mother, whom the family called Loisey, died from lung cancer in September of that year, the mission changed quickly.

"It took about a minute for us to decide that we could do something better with the money," Harriet recalls. "So we decided to donate all the proceeds to help find a cure."

To date, the Bauers have given away almost \$800. At first, the proceeds went to the American Cancer Society, but last year the Bauers discovered LUNgevity, a Chicago-based not-for-profit that works exclusively on the disease.

Slow but steady is one-way to characterize the family's philanthropy.

"I say, 'It's one quarter at a time' because everything costs a quarter," jokes Harriet.

On a blustery afternoon in early February, Greta and Owen, along with friends and frequent helpers Lane Murray and Emilie Evans, were cheerfully greeting customers, mostly students walking past on their way home from Fernway School or the



From left: Lane Murray, Jenna Cahn, Emilie Evans, Greta Bauer, Harriet Bauer, and Owen Bauer. Photos by Janet Century.



High School or just off the bus from Woodbury and the Middle School.

"I love it," says Owen. "The best part for me is giving the treats to the younger kids." And the hardest? "Dealing with the money," he says. "Everyone wants change back and everything."

Adds Greta, who was busy trying to prevent napkins and cups from blowing away in the wind. "I'm proud of myself and my family. We hoped we could somehow make a change and we have. We've donated a lot of money."

The stand rarely closes, except when school's in recess. "During the school year, we try only to close if it's down pouring or too cold," says Harriet. And when it does, the Bauers often tack a sign to a nearby tree.

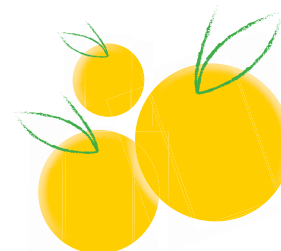
"One time, when I took the sign

down, I noticed someone had written "thank you" with an arrow and stuck a dollar bill between the paper and the tree," says Harriet. "It was so sweet. We came to find out it was a high school boy."

Indeed, at Fernway School in particular, remembering to grab a quarter or two from the piggy bank is an important part of many students' Friday mornings.

"Friday afternoons aren't the same without a visit to the Bauer/Powers stand," agrees Fernway resident Amy Swinton Fredricks, who frequents the stand with her daughters. "We all look forward to it at the end of the week."

And what would Loisey think of all this? Greta has no doubts: "If my grandma was alive now, she would be really happy." 🍋



the need for speed

Shaker LaunchHouse's Accelerator Program gives local entrepreneurs a fast track from idea to startup, and has direct benefits for the City's economic development efforts.



Top Row: Christopher Armenio, Art Geigel, Phil Alexander, Brandon Pitts, Matt Strayer, Amit Patel, Derrick Dunn, Brandt Butze, Aaron Marks, Kyle Blair, Eric Golubitsky, Jonathan Yale **Middle Row:** Bob Means, Todd Goldstein, Shannon Lyons, Sam Krishevsky, Dar Caldwell, Laura Fumich **Floor:** Katie Connelly, Stephanie Colangelo.
Photo by Alejandro Rivera

by Jennifer Kuhel

Not so long ago, Chris Armenio and Art Geigel were those two guys who walked into a bar.

They dreamed of a day when fellow watering hole patrons could order a frosty one and serve it up to themselves using only a smartphone, a scannable code, and an Internet-enabled beer tap fitted with wireless hardware.

Turns out that day might not be so far off into the future.

Thanks to Armenio and Geigel's immersion in Shaker LaunchHouse's 12-week Accelerator program, known as LHX, the entrepreneurial duo was able to take what Armenio refers to as a "side project" and turn it into iOTOS, their startup company that's poised to bring web connectivity to a variety of ordinary devices – even a beer tap.

"We wouldn't be where we are today without the Accelerator," says Armenio. The same is true for most, if not all, of the entrepreneurial teams that participated in the program.

LHX Director Bob Means and LaunchHouse Chief Business Development Officer Shannon Lyons – both Shaker residents – say the 10 teams of LHX entrepreneurs were selected from a field of more than 30 to engage in the intense three-month long small business bootcamp. The program began last September and ended with a Showcase Day – an opportunity for the teams to present their companies to investors – at the end of November.

Acceptance into the program earned each team \$25,000 in seed capital and a rigorous schedule of developing business plans, conducting customer interviews, testing hypotheses, and learning from LHX mentors. The program was funded by a \$200,000 ONEFund grant through the Ohio Development Services Agency's Ohio Third Frontier program, a \$2.3 billion initiative geared to attracting more technology-based jobs, companies, and organizations to Ohio. A \$50,000 matching grant from Cleveland-based Clarion Direct Investment provided the balance of the program's funds.

"The whole program is meant to make you think," says Geigel. "We

came in with this idea as a hobby and switched to a small-business mindset. Over three months, your mind switches from 'Oh, couldn't this be cool technology that could make money,' to, 'Hey, what are some ways we can actually make money?'"

Pivot First, Execute Later

Team iOTOS wasn't the only one to enter LHX without a finely honed business plan. In fact, most of the entrepreneurs entered the program with little more than an idea. That was just as well, say Means and Lyons, because it made the teams more nimble and able to pivot (a popular term among LHX participants) into something that customers would want. And the only way to find out what customers want was for the teams to hit the pavement and talk to their customers to determine need and to test their business hypotheses.

"In the past, the focus was always on having a business plan, but that all changed with this approach in that we saw it had nothing to do with a business plan. It had everything to do with the planning to see if there was a problem or a need that was valid," says Means.



LHX CLASS OF 2012

Tagora, tagora.com

iOTOS, iotos.com

Gtail, gtail.com

Quick2Launch, quick2launch.com

FitVia, fitvia.com

Widdle, thenestapp.com

Sliced Apples, slicedapples.com

HooftyMatch, hooftymatch.com


Duel, duel.fm

Winners Circle Gaming,
winnerscirclegaming.com



A Shaker LaunchHouse work session.

Photo courtesy of Shaker LaunchHouse.



“I’ve seen a 180 on this part of Lee Road,” says Dar Caldwell of LaunchHouse. “It’s one of the last places that any entrepreneur would have thought we could have set up shop, and now we’ve got this hotbed of innovation right here in Shaker.”

“That is very different than the traditional models of accelerators where the focus is on execution. Our whole focus is not about scaling your business; it’s about nailing your idea first. So, more planning, less execution.”

In other words, talking to customers early on enabled the teams to fulfill the right customer need and, more importantly, contribute to the longevity of their companies.

One team in particular became the poster child for pivoting, says Means. Amit Patel, founder of Tagora, a company whose app will streamline the process of listing items for sale across multiple marketplaces like eBay and Craigslist, interviewed 159 subjects over three weeks. Those interviews took him away from his original idea of an “online garage sale” and led him to his current incarnation.

“Based on feedback and research, I found the secondary market was saturated and that my original idea wasn’t what customers really wanted,” Patel explains. “A lot of companies develop stuff and waste time and effort on something that isn’t what the customer wants. I had the support and the mentors to get it done right.”

Patel hopes that in the coming year, Tagora’s app and website are fully automated. His goal is to have at least six full-time Cleveland-based employees, up to 30,000 users and close to \$500,000 in funding. “That’s aggressive, but I think I can do it,” he says.

Matt Strayer, like Patel, had a business idea that also had multiple pivots. Strayer’s company, Widdle (formerly The Nest App), was originally set to provide users with a central hub for all

of their social media. “We started out with this idea that going to all these social media sites is cumbersome. But we realized that if you’re a social media person, you can see up to 2,500 posts a day. And if we put all those in one place, that would be overwhelming,” Strayer explains.

After conducting interviews and discussing their idea with LaunchHouse mentors, Widdle went from being simply a central hub to being a central hub with filters, giving users the capability to see only what they want to see.

Strayer is hopeful that Widdle catches on, not just with users, but with the investment community. Strayer and his cofounder, A.J. Mihalic, are in discussions with investors and hope to confirm additional funds this year.

Ultimately, pivoting to the customer wasn’t just beneficial to the entrepreneurs in terms of defining their businesses, it was also helpful when it came time for them to put hat in hand. “During due diligence sessions, even investors began to ask, ‘Well, can you validate your ideas by showing us the customers you’ve had contact with?’ This was a wonderful reinforcement because it’s the kind of thing investors are looking for in a viable concept,” says Means.

Ready for Launch

Only two months after the end of the LHX program, nearly all of its graduates were either beta testing their technology or were ready to go live. “The next couple of months are going to be exciting to see which ones have a future and which will fizzle out,” says Shaker LaunchHouse co-founder Dar

Caldwell. “That’s what this program is all about. It’s not about every company being a huge success.”

Jonathan Yale, founder of Hoofty-match, a digital marketplace for buying and selling locally produced meats, is up and running. Although Hoofty-match is still in the “soft launch” stage, Yale’s customers are already picking up their locally produced meats at LaunchHouse on Fridays. Provided the company is able to attract additional funding, Yale hopes he can start matching farmers with consumers in other major metropolitan areas next year. “We want to build a national platform,” he says.

Similarly, Phil Alexander of Quick2Launch – a platform that turns basic outlines for business presentations into creative, graphically enhanced presentations – had paying customers by the end of the LHX program. So far, Quick2Launch has developed web-based presentation materials for nearly a dozen companies, many of whom he says hope to have a platform with the company after its official launch in January.

Brandt Butze, a Shaker Heights resident who founded FitVia (which was scheduled to launch in February), is optimistic about his app, thanks to successful beta testing with 10,000 users. FitVia began as a scheduling application Butze originally named Walk With Me to jumpstart his own lifestyle change and weight loss last year. Now, after pivoting, the app is designed as a mobile scheduling application for people who are interested in finding exercise partners.

The entrepreneurial teams over-

whelmingly credit LHX for their ability to go live in such short order. "What's great about accelerators is that they have momentum," says Eric Golubitsky, founder of Gtail, another LHX company. "I think of myself as someone who is connected, but I did have questions throughout this process. And those questions were answered quickly. Outside of this ecosystem, who knows if I'd have gotten answers."

Golubitsky also credits Shaker LaunchHouse with getting his company to the stage it's at now. "Without LaunchHouse, it would have taken us maybe double the time. Or maybe never." While the LHX teams were able to move from concept to company in short order, the program itself wasn't born overnight. Caldwell and Shaker LaunchHouse co-founder Todd Goldstein had been working towards the program since their beginnings as an incubator in University Heights in 2008.

Both men saw an accelerator function as a way to minimize the Northeast Ohio's brain drain and to celebrate and capture local innovation. But it wasn't until Shaker LaunchHouse opened in its Lee Road space in 2011 that a formal LHX program could begin. (Moreover, the Shaker Heights Development Corporation [SHDC] has a three-percent equity stake in the LHX companies. Shaker LaunchHouse is the City's first entrepreneurial and venture



**Shaker LaunchHouse co-founders
Todd Goldstein and Dar Caldwell.**
Photo by Janet Century.

capital project under the auspices of the SHDC, which allows the City to take an equity stake in a company as well as to raise federal, state, foundation, and private dollars for economic development projects.)

The Shaker LaunchHouse space also helped fuel feelings of camaraderie, rather than competition, among the LHX teams. "One of the unique things for me was seeing these guys learning from each other, not just from our staff," says Shannon Lyons. "They started asking each other difficult questions and created an ecosystem where they came as strangers and left as this tight network of brothers. That was very compelling."

Lyons and Means recently learned that Shaker LaunchHouse will receive a second ONEFund award for \$200,000 for the 2013 LHX program. A portion of the grant award will be matched with private funds. For information about giving, please contact John J. Boyle at j.boyleiii@csuohio.edu.

A Culture of Entrepreneurship

As it begins planning for the next LHX program, Shaker LaunchHouse continues to build on its culture of entrepreneurship. For example, nearly a dozen Shaker LaunchHouse entrepreneurs, including Widdle's Matt Strayer, have moved into some rental properties in the neighborhood. Moreover, two homes on Chelton Road will be rehabbed and upgraded – funded by the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program – as housing for future LHX participants. This gave the

LHX program a competitive advantage in being selected for its second ONEFund award.. The housing is within an easy walk to Shaker LaunchHouse and goes a long way toward fostering the entrepreneurial lifestyle in the surrounding neighborhood.

"I've seen a 180 on this part of Lee Road," says Caldwell. "It's one of the last places that any entrepreneur would have thought we could have set up shop and now we've got this hotbed of innovation right here in Shaker. It just goes to show the impact of interest and involvement of a community that supports this early stage of entrepreneurship."

Means says Shaker LaunchHouse hopes to spin off a program this summer called LightHouse, which is similar to LHX but geared toward high school students. The program, known as LEAP (LightHouse Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program), will provide 10 teams of high school students with an intensive experience from the end of this coming June to the beginning of August.

"Entrepreneurship isn't something you can teach. It's a hands-on experience," says Lyons. "It's something that has to be applied. We think this kind of skill set is best taught in the earliest stage possible and has to be embedded in the way we think. And I think the more we embed this kind of thinking at an early stage, we're going to change the way people think about entrepreneurs in Northeast Ohio and how successful our startups are going to be. 🍀"

"Entrepreneurship
isn't something
you can teach.
It's a hands-on
experience."

**Shannon Lyons, LaunchHouse Chief
Business Development Officer**

Ongoing Activities for FAMILIES

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Parent and Child Play Sessions, THE PATRICIA S. MEARNs FAMILY PLAYROOM AT SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Stay cool in our air-conditioned playroom, where parents and caregivers with children ages birth to 5 years old can play, make friends, and network. Playroom is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am–12:15 pm or Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 4–6 pm. Use of gym and muscle room during specific hours also included. FEES & INFO: 216-921-2023.

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS: Play and Learn Station, 10 AM–Noon, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, literacy-based play for parents and caregivers with children birth to age 5 co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Family Connections. Evening hours: 6–8 pm Tuesdays. INFO: 216-921-2023 or 216-991-2030. INFO: 216-921-2023 or 216-991-2030.

TUESDAYS: Play and Learn Station, 6–8 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, literacy-based play for parents and caregivers with children birth to age 5 co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Family Connections. INFO: 216-921-2023 or 216-991-2030.

WEDNESDAYS: Play and Learn Station for Home Day Care Providers, 10 AM–NOON, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop in literacy play sessions just for home day care providers and their children birth to age 5, co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Family Connections. INFO: 216-921-2023 or 216-991-2030.

FRIDAYS: Family Fun Fridays for Families with Special Needs Children Ages 3–5, 1–3 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Same great program, new place! Free, drop-in, facilitated play-group for parents with children ages

3–5 with special needs. Special activities held on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Friday of the month. INFO: 216-921-2023.

SATURDAYS: Saturday Gym, 10 AM to 12 NOON, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER GYM. A place for parents and children, birth–6 years, to climb, jump, ride trikes, and play during the colder months on Saturday mornings through April. All children must be accompanied by an adult. FEES and PASS INFO: 216-921-2023.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: Birthday Parties are available for children birth–6 yrs., SATURDAYS 11:30 AM–1:30 PM OR 2:30–4:30 PM, and Sundays 11 AM–1 PM or 1:30–3:30 PM. SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Family Connections at Shaker Family Center is the perfect place to hold a birthday party for your young child. Enjoy private use of the indoor gym, filled with riding toys and large muscle equipment. FEES & INFO: 216-921-2023.

The Nature Center at SHAKER LAKES

Info: 216-321-5935 or shakerlakes.org

TUESDAYS: Stone Oven Days, 2267 Lee Road. *Arbor eat'um.* When you eat at the Stone Oven on Tuesdays, they donate a percentage of the day's sales to the Nature Center.

APRIL 1–5: Spring Break Camp, 9 AM–3 PM, with extended care available 3–5 PM. Children in Grades K through 5 enjoy a week of adventure and discovery through hikes, games, and crafts. Register for one or all five days. Bring a lunch; afternoon snacks provided. Cost: \$45/day or \$200/week for members; \$55/day or \$250/week for non-members. Extended care \$7.50/ hour per child; reservations are made in one-hour increments.

APRIL 7: Rain Garden Service Learning Opportunity, 1–4 PM. Join Garrett Ormiston and Josh Koppen as they restore the Nature Center Rain Garden. Tools and gloves will be provided. Free, but registration is required for at least a two-hour time slot.

APRIL 12: Festival, 6–9 PM. This cocktail reception fund-raiser features the cuisine of some of Cleveland's finest chefs, who use garlic mustard, an invasive, edible, plant in their

creative concoctions. VIP (6–9 pm) reservations: \$85/person; general admission (7–9 pm): \$60.

APRIL 13: Doan Brook Annual Stream Sweep, 1–4 PM. Meet at the Rockefeller Park Gazebo. Help clean up winter's accumulation of trash in the lower watershed area.

APRIL 14, 21, and 28: Audubon Bird Walk, 7:30 AM. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot to see what birds are migrating. Free.

APRIL 19: Artist's Reception: Birds, Bugs and Beasts from Cleveland to the Galapagos, 5:30–7:30 PM. Meet Laura Gooch, author of *The Doan Brook Handbook*, and avid birder and photographer, and view her colorful photographs of birds, mammals, and insects on display through June 28.

APRIL 20–21: Electronics Recycling Days, 9 AM–5 PM. Place old computers and electronics for recycling in the Gaylord boxes in the Friends' Pavilion. No TVs please.

Ongoing Activities for ADULTS

MONDAYS: Shaker Monday AA, 8:30-9:30 PM, CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 3445 WARRENSVILLE CENTER RD. One day at a time leads to healthier years. INFO: 216-991-3432.

TUESDAYS: Weight Watchers, 5 PM, ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 18000 VAN AKEN BLVD. If you think you don't have a *fat* chance to fit into your swimsuit this season,

try this healthy, effective weight loss program for both men and women. INFO: weightwatchers.com.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS: Pick-up Hockey for Adults, 11:30 AM-1 PM, THORNTON PARK ICE ARENA. *Breakaway from work for a home-ice advantage of high sticks and hijinks*. Thru May 10. \$7/resident; \$9/nonresident. Take off, eh? Punch passes available. INFO: 216-491-1295.

THURSDAYS: Open Bridge, 1-4 PM, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COMMUNITY BLDG. *Suit-able* afternoon's entertainment for \$1.

APRIL 21: Doan Brook Annual Stream Sweep and Weed Pull, 1-4 PM. Meet in the Friends' Pavilion. Help clean up winter's accumulation of trash in the upper watershed area and pull garlic mustard, too. *Grass-roots support appreciated!*

APRIL 22, 24, 26, 29; MAY 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, and 31: Bird Banding. Most Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings April 22 through June 7 beginning one hour after sunrise. Observe citizen science and migratory birds at their best as Julie West bands birds to provide invaluable insights about the migratory bird routes in North-east Ohio.

APRIL 27: Spring Migration at Lake View Cemetery, 8-10 AM. Join Julie West and Nature Center staff for a bird migration hike. Register by calling Lake View Cemetery, 216-421-2687. \$10/ hiker; children 3 and under free.

MAY 5, 12 and 19: Audubon Bird Walk, 7:30 AM. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot to see what birds are migrating. Free.

MAY 11: 31st Annual Plant Sale: 9 AM-1 PM. It's *thyme* to choose from a selection of native plants, herbs, vegetables, perennials, and annuals,

including pre-arranged hanging baskets and container gardens, during the annual Plant Sale to benefit the Nature Center.

MAY 18: Family Camping Workshop, 10 AM-NOON. Learn proper tenting, fire and cooking skills, and enjoy a tasty pancake snack during this hands-on workshop. \$30/ family, \$15/member; \$35/ family, \$18/non-member. Registration is required.

MAY 21: DIY Rain Barrel Workshop, 6:30-8:30 PM. NATURE CENTER Make your own rain barrel that can be easily attached to any standard residential downspout. Workshop and supply fee of \$60 includes barrel and rainwater diverter. Registration by May 14 is required.

B'Earth'day Parties: Create a unique and memorable party for your child to celebrate his or her special day, the natural way! Amazing Animals, Dinosaur Times, Letterboxing, and Shelter Building "Survival Skills" are just a few fun themes. Visit the website for more information or call for rates and reservations.

FRIDAYS: Bread Distribution, 10 AM-NOON, CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3445 WARRENSVILLE CENTER RD. Free bread from The Fresh Market is available to the public. Most bread is 2-3 days old, but still quite good. Some days other products are available. Everything is first-come,-first-served. Bread not taken on Friday will be available on Saturday and Sunday. INFO: 216-991-3432.

SATURDAYS: North Union Farmers Market, 8 AM-NOON, SHAKER SQUARE. *Turnip at the market to find good food and fronds*. Buy fresh and local on the Square. INFO: 216-751-7656.

Events for APRIL

THRU APRIL 13: Early Bird Swim Passes. THORNTON PARK POOL. Beat the heat and save some cold hard cash. Prices go up after April 13.

THRU APRIL 19: Annual Barbara Luton Art Show. MAIN LIBRARY.

APRIL 1-5: Spring Recess. Shaker Schools closed.

APRIL 4: Gallery Opening Reception, 6-8 PM, ANNEX GALLERY, LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Meet the artists of the Altered Book Group and enjoy their unique creations on display through April 29. INFO: 216-795-9800.

April 6: North Union Farmers Market, 8 AM, SHAKER SQUARE. The market opens with a blessing for farms and farmers followed by the Annual Sheep Shearing. Geoff Baldwin will tell stories to young and old alike, while he shears his sheep. Mikell Blocker, executive chef of the Cleveland Browns Hospitality Group, and Steve Aheimer, executive sous chef of the Cleveland Browns Hospitality Group, will prepare breakfast samples using a mobile kitchen from Capozzi Design Group. The outdoor market is open Saturdays through December 21. INFO: 216-751-7656.

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Stone Oven Days Ongoing Tuesdays Weight Watchers 5 PM Ongoing Tuesdays	3 Pick-up Hockey for Adults 11:30 AM-1 PM Ongoing Wednesdays & Fridays	4 Open Bridge 1-4 PM STJ Community Bldg. Ongoing Thursdays	5 Family Fun Fridays, for Families with Special Needs Children, Ages 3-5 1-3 PM Shaker Family Center Ongoing Fridays	6 North Union Farmers Market 8 AM-Noon Shaker Square Ongoing Saturdays
7 Rain Garden Service Learning Opportunity 1-4 PM	8 Shakerfest Begins	9 A History of the Underground Railroad 6-7:30 PM Main Library	10 25 Biggest Money Mistakes 7-8 PM Main Library	11 Gene's Jazz Hot 7-9 PM Loganberry Books Writers Center Stage, 7:30 PM Ohio Theater at Playhouse Square	12 iImagine Film Festival 2013 7-9 PM Black Box Theater, Hathaway Brown School	13 Doan Brook Annual Stream Sweep 1-4 PM Eggstravaganza 1-2:30 PM Horseshoe Lake Park
14 April 14, 21 & 28 Audubon Bird Walk 7:30 AM Race for the Kids 9 AM Thornton Park, 5-K Run +1 Mile Walk	15 Used Toy Donations 9 AM-5 PM Shaker Family Center	16 Sports Boosters 7:30 PM Shaker High School	17 April 17, 18 & 19 Used Toy Sale 6-8 PM Shaker Family Center Jazz Fest 9 PM Shaker Middle School	18 Friends Preview Book Sale April 18-21 4-8 PM Main Library Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon May 18-19	19 Artist's Reception: Birds Bugs & Beasts from Cleveland to the Galapagos 5:30-7:30 PM Nature Center	20
21 25th Annual Hathaway Brown 5K Carnival Race 9 AM Hathaway Brown School	22 Doan Brook Annual Stream Sweep and Weed Pull 1-4 PM	23	24	25 Art Exposed IV Gallery Opening Reception 6:30-8:30 PM Main Library	26	27 Collection for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore 9 AM- 3 PM City Service Center
28 Second Hand Rose Fashion Extravaganza 2-4 PM Main Library	29 Band Boosters 7 PM Shaker High School	30				

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Annual Flower Sale, supporting Shaker Heights High School PTO	2 Gallery Opening Reception 6-8 PM Annex Gallery Loganberry Books	3 Family Connections' Gala Benefit 6-9 PM Nighttown	4 ArtsPlymouth 7:30 PM Plymouth Church
5 May 5, 12, and 19 Audubon Bird Walk 7:30 AM	6 Orchestra Concert 7:30 PM Shaker High School	7 Ice Cream Social & Band Concert 6:30 PM Shaker High Front Lawn	8 Spring Choir Concert & Senior Recognition 7:30 PM Shaker High School	9 Gene's Jazz Hot 7-9 PM Loganberry Books	10	11 31st Annual Plant Sale: 9 AM-1 PM
12 Festival 6-9 PM Nature Center	13	14 Board of Education Meeting 6 PM Administration Building	15	16	17 Bike to Work Day 7:30-9 AM Spring Ice Spectacular Thornton Park May 17 & 18	18 PTO Flower/Plant Pick up 8 AM-Noon Shaker High School
19	20	21 DIY Rain Barrel Workshop 6:30-8 PM All About Hydrangeas 7-8:30 PM Main Library	22	23	24	25 Larchmere Sidewalk Sale 10 PM-5 PM Larchmere Blvd.
26	27 Memorial Day: Schools, City Offices and Libraries closed Parade begins at 9 AM	28	29	30	31	

OUT & ABOUT

APRIL 6: Edible Book Festival, 1 PM, LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. *Food fun!* Create an edible concoction and bring it to the bookstore to be enjoyed and devoured. Bake a pie to depict the book, *Life of Pi*. Bring a plate of beans to depict the *Beans of Egypt Maine*. You get the idea. It's great fun and kids can enter, too. INFO: 216-795-9800.

APRIL 7: The Reel Cleveland: An Exciting Story, 9:30-10:45 AM, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 21600 SHAKER BLVD. Cleveland's International Film Festival has helped to make Cleveland a movie mecca. Jon Forman, president of Cleveland Cinemas, speaks about the current trends in movies. INFO: 216-751-2320 or firstunitariancleveland.org.

APRIL 8: Shakerfest begins. Shaker Schools celebrate students and teachers. Come back to school and see education in action.

APRIL 9: A History of the Underground Railroad with Cathy Nelson, 6-7:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Cathy Nelson, founder and president emeritus of the Friends of Freedom Society, a 19th century historical research organization whose main focus is the underground railroad, presents a slide presentation on its history and particular stations throughout Ohio. INFO: 216-991-2030.

APRIL 9: Board of Education, 6 PM, ADMINISTRATION BLDG. Regular monthly meeting of the school board, led by President Annette Tucker Sutherland.

APRIL 9, 16 & 23: Future Directions: Energy, Sustainability & Spirituality, 7:30-9 PM, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 21600 SHAKER BLVD. What is the best framework to evaluate the daily decisions we make? What does our energy future look like if we use a whole-systems approach that incorporates a moral and spiritual call to action? \$25/3 sessions or \$10/session. Registration required by April 5. INFO: 216-751-2320.

APRIL 10: 25 Biggest Money Mistakes, 7-8 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Michael Zawatsky from the Society for Financial Awareness will discuss the most common money mistakes and how to avoid them. Free. INFO: 216-991-2030.

APRIL 11: Gene's Jazz Hot, 7-9 PM, LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Enjoy hot jazz in a cool bookstore. INFO: 216-795-9800.

APRIL 12: iImagine Film Festival 2013, 7-9 PM, BLACK BOX THEATER, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 NORTH PARK BLVD. Film festival of original works by regional high school students through The Edna Dawley Strnad '42 Fellowships in Creativity Program, organized by HB senior Maddie Stambler. The film screenings and festival are free and open to the public. Events include screenings of all entries, awards ceremony, and reception. INFO: 216-932-4214 or hbedu/imagine.

APRIL 12 & 13: Concert in Dance, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

APRIL 13: Eggstravaganza, 1-2:30 PM, HORSESHOE LAKE PARK. Shaker Recreation presents its third annual golden egg hunt for children ages 8 and under accompanied by an adult. Search the park for treat-filled eggs and the elusive golden egg, which holds a summer pool pass for a family of four. Flower the Clown will create balloon sculptures at the free event is free. Purchases of snacks/drinks helps the Recreation for Youth Scholarship fund.

APRIL 14: Race for the Kids, 9 AM, THORNTON PARK. 5-K run and 1-mile walk to benefit Recreation for Youth Scholarship fund. \$20/pre-race registration; \$25 race day registration. Register online at: hermescleveland.com or by mail to Hermes Sports & Events; 1624 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114.

APRIL 15 & 16: Used Toy Donations, 9 AM-5 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Drop off your gently used toys, books, games,

puzzles, riding toys, baby equipment and receive a tax deduction. Please make sure all donations have all their pieces parts and are in good working order. No plush animals or car seats. INFO: 216-921-2023.

APRIL 16: Sports Boosters, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

APRIL 16: ArtsPlymouth, 7:30 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. The string quartet Quatuor Ebénè presented by the Cleveland Chamber Music Society. Tickets required. ClevelandChamberMusic.org. INFO: 216-921-3510.

APRIL 17, 18 & 19: Used Toy Sale, 6-8 PM ON THE 17TH & 18TH; 9 AM-1 PM ON THE 19TH, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Everything old is new again for your child or grandchild. Browse and buy gently used toys to benefit Family Connections. INFO: 216-921-2023.



APRIL 17: Jazz Fest, 7 PM, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

APRIL 18: Evening of Jazz, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

APRIL 18 - 21: Friends Preview Book Sale, 4-8 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Friends of the Shaker Library opens its book sale to Friends' members. Not a Friend? Join at the door. Browse and buy from a huge selection of books in well-organized categories at prices as low as 50 cents. The sale continues April 19 & 20

OUT & ABOUT

from 9 am to 4 pm and 1-3 pm April 21 on Bag Sale Sunday when all bags of books cost \$5. INFO: 216-991-2030.

APRIL 21: Solar Energy: Birthing A Green Future, 9:30-10:45 AM, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 21600 SHAKER BLVD. Rob Martens, Founder and President of Bold Alternatives Solar, will speak on green energy and its challenges and rewards. INFO: 216-751-2320 or firstunitariancleveland.org.

APRIL 21: Daniel Thompson Birthday Observance with Drumplay, 2-4 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Commemorate the late great Cuyahoga County poet laureate Daniel Thompson's birthday. INFO: 216-991-2030.

APRIL 21: ArtsPlymouth, 4 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Artists in Residence Les Délices celebrates spring in a program inspired by the Four Seasons. Preconcert lecture begins at 3:30 pm. INFO: 216-921-3510. ClevelandChamberMusic.org.

APRIL 24: SAY Reads, 7-8:30 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Bellefaire JCB Social Advocates for Youth invite residents to read and discuss the book, *Teach Your Children Well – Parenting for Authentic Success* by Madeline Levine, Ph.D. Join in the discussion. INFO: Judy Stenta, 216-320-8203.

APRIL 25: Art Exposed IV Gallery-Opening Reception, 6:30-8:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Meet the Shaker Heights High School art students and their teachers at this reception and exhibit of students' work. INFO: 216-991-2030.

APRIL 26: 4th Quarter Principal & Parent Coffee, 7:30 AM, SHAKER HIGH.

APRIL 27: Collection for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, 9 AM- 3 PM, CITY SERVICE CENTER. Donate usable household and construction items to help Habitat for Humanity build and renovate houses. Construction/renovation materials, tools, kitchen cabinets, sinks, doors, vanities, plumbing and electrical

materials, appliances, counter tops, lumber, etc. Please do not include paint, clothing, or bedding. For pick up of larger items, call 216-429-3631 ext. 238.

APRIL 28: Second Hand Rose Fashion Extravaganza, 2-4 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Everything old is new again! Dress up in your finest "found" fashions and walk on our runway as a panel of shoppers and vintage store owners discusses fashion trends both old and new. Runway stars will be entered into a raffle for a gift certificate from a vintage clothing store. Register by April 15: 216-991-2030.

APRIL 29: Band Boosters, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

APRIL 30: ArtsPlymouth, 7:30 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quartet. The Cleveland Chamber Music Society closes its 63rd season. Tickets are required and are available online at ClevelandChamberMusic.org. INFO: 216-921-3510.

Events for MAY

THRU MAY 8: Annual Flower Sale. Beautify your home while supporting Shaker Heights High School PTO, which supports over 40 student clubs, activities, parent forums, and programs. Choose from a variety of annuals in an assortment of colors to complement your landscaping. The sale offers geraniums, petunias, New Guinea impatiens, and begonias, as well as purple fountain grass, spikes, and vinca vines. Colorful, planted 12-inch patio pots are available in three varieties. Order forms are available at any of the Shaker schools, libraries, or the Shaker Schools Administration Building and online at shaker.org/hspto. INFO: Liz Montenegro, 216-921-9040.

MAY 2: Gallery Opening Reception, 6-8 PM, ANNEX GALLERY, LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE. Meet Lamar

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Richardson and enjoy his photography, on display through June 3. INFO: 216-795-9800.

MAY 2, 3, & 4: Spring Ensemble Show, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

MAY 3: Family Connections' Gala Benefit, 6-9 PM, NIGHTTOWN, 12387 CEDAR RD. Food, drink, silent auction, and presentation of the Carolyn Grossman Award. FEES & INFO: 216-921-2023.

MAY 4: ArtsPlymouth, 7:30 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Baroque Reverberations featuring harpsichordist Kenneth Cooper, playing music that spans Baroque through the 20th century. INFO: 216-921-3510. Tickets required. ClevelandChamberMusic.org.

MAY 6: Orchestra Concert, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

MAY 7: Ice Cream Social & Band Concert, 6:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH FRONT LAWN. Hear Shaker Bands hit the high notes while enjoying cool treats.

MAY 8: Spring Choir Concert & Senior Recognition, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

MAY 9: Gene's Jazz Hot, 7-9 PM, LOGAN-BERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Enjoy hot jazz in a cool bookstore. INFO: 216-795-9800.

MAY 10 & 11: Once Upon a Time. CLEVELAND SKATING CLUB, 2500 KEMPER RD. CSC presents its 76th Ice Show with guest skaters Ross Miner and Christina Gao. Miner is a 2013 U.S. figure skating silver medalist, a two-time reigning bronze medalist, and 2014 Olympic hopeful. An Ohio native and Harvard University student, Christina Gao was ranked the highest American in the 2013 Four Continents' skating championship held in Osaka, Japan. TICKETS & INFO: 216-791-2800.

MAY 11: An Introduction to Smartphones for Adults, 10-11:30 AM, MAIN LIBRARY. If you're considering the purchase of a smartphone or have one

you don't know how to use, this workshop is for you. INFO: 216-991-2030.

MAY 14: Solving the Retirement Income Puzzle, 3-4 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Michael Zawatsky from the Society for Financial Awareness will discuss strategies and vehicles to help maintain your income during retirement. Free. INFO: 216-991-2030.

MAY 14: Board of Education Meeting, 6 PM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. Regular monthly meeting of the school board.

May 17: Bike to Work Day, 7:30-9 AM. Grab your briefcase, bike, and helmet and pedal to work today.

MAY 17 & 18: Spring Ice Spectacular, THORNTON PARK. Shaker skaters strut their skills and are joined by Ashley Cain, 2012 U.S. National Junior Silver Medalist, 2013 Midwestern Sectionals Senior Ladies Champion, and 2013 U.S. National Senior Ladies Competitor. Tickets go on sale May 1. INFO: Jennifer Martino, 216-491-1295 or jennifer.martino@shakeronline.com.

MAY 18: Shaker High School Prom, 8 PM. Coiffures and chauffeurs are the order of the evening as seniors enjoy their last dance. The festivities continue at a parent-run After Prom from 12-4 AM.

MAY 22: PlayActs To Go, NOON, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COMMUNITY BLDG. Back by popular demand. Wake Up And Live Actors' Studio performs at the Luncheon Social. Seniors will enjoy entertainment that showcases original readings by the team of playwrights-in-residence including Michael Laurynt, Tom Raber, Ted Schvimer, Gary Webster, and Vickie Williams. Luncheon tickets: \$8; donations to Play Acts To Go are appreciated. INFO: 216-491-1460.

MAY 22: All About Hydrangeas, 7-8:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Flower power! A Master Gardener from the Ohio State University Extension Program will

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explain everything you need to know to become a master of hydrangeas. Learn how to choose the best ones for your garden and how to care for them. INFO: 216-991-2030.

MAY 25: Larchmere Sidewalk Sale, 10 AM-5 PM, LARCHMERE BLVD.

MAY 27: Memorial Day. Schools, City offices and libraries closed. Get out your lawn chairs, the city parade begins at 9 am at Van Aken and Lee. The patriotic Pancake Breakfast begins at 8:30 and includes all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage, coffee, orange juice, and milk until 11:30 am at Thornton Park. Fees: \$7/adults, \$5/children, 5-12, \$3/children under 5. Proceeds benefit the Recreation for Youth Scholarship Fund.

MAY 30: Meet the Author: LaTasha C. Watts, 7 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Meet Shaker resident and foster care advocate LaTasha C. Watts, author of the memoir *I'm Not Broken, Just a Little Twisted* and its sequel (to be published May 2013) *Aging Out of My Mind*. Her moving memoir illustrates the difficulties children face in foster care and beyond. Watts is the founder and executive director of the advocacy organization The Purple Project, which supports and provides resources for children as they age out of foster care. Following her talk, books will be available for sale and signing. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Beyond the CITY LIMITS

Thru June 2: The Caporali Missal: A Masterpiece of Renaissance Illumination, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD. This exhibition examines the Caporali Missal, a stunning Renaissance manuscript acquired by the museum. The missal is presented in a setting that combines liturgical objects that position the manuscript in ceremonial, cultural, and art historical contexts. Many of these works

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have never been on view in the United States. INFO: 216-888-CMA-0033 or clevelandart.org.

APRIL 5: Revolutions I Have Known, 4:30 PM, CLARK HALL ROOM 309, 11130 BELLFLOWER RD. The Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities presents Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and noted biographer Ted Morgan. Free. INFO: 216-368-5241.

APRIL 7: Poetry in the Museum, 1 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART REID GALLERY, 11150 EAST BLVD. The Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities presents American poet, essayist, novelist, critic, and translator Forrest Gander, who will read poetry in the museum's Reid Gallery. Following his presentation, he will announce the winners of the 2013 Poetry in the Museum contest, who will read their winning poems. Free. INFO: 216-368-5241.

APRIL 9: Recipes Remembered with June Hersh, 1:30 pm, MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, 2929 RICHMOND RD. The author discusses her moving compilation of food memories from Holocaust survivors and their children. Free with admission. INFO: 216-593-0575.

APRIL 10: Cleveland Archaeology Society Lecture, 7:30 PM, MURCH AUDITORIUM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL DR. Professor Andrew J. Koh from Brandeis University speaks on "The Chemistry of Kinship: Diados and Kothar Revisited." Learn how identifying the contents of exchanged objects leads to better understanding of early cultures in the eastern Mediterranean. Free to the public. A meet-the-speaker reception follows the lecture. INFO: 216-231-4600.

APRIL 11: Writers Center Stage: Rita Dove, 7:30 PM, OHIO THEATER AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE, 1511 EUCLID AVE. Akron native Rita Dove takes center stage. She received the Pulitzer Prize

in poetry, for *Thomas and Beulah*, and in 1993, she became the first African American to hold the position of Poet Laureate of the United States. Proceeds benefit Cuyahoga Public Library Foundation. Tickets: \$30/person. INFO: 216-241-6000.

APRIL 13: Science of Manuscripts Workshop for Teachers, 10 AM-1 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD. Practice using natural pigments to create the paint for your own works of art. Presented in partnership with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Workshop registration includes parking. \$35 for CMA Teacher Resource Center and CMNH Science Resource Center members, \$40/non-members. INFO: 216-421-7350.

APRIL 13: A Night of PlayActs, 6:30 PM, GREENMONT PARTY CENTER, 800 S. GREEN RD. Wake Up And Live Actors' Studio presents a memorable dinner theatre benefit with cocktails at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:15 pm. Tickets: \$45/person; \$80/couple; \$300/table of 8. INFO: 216-561-8608 or e-mail wakeup4664@aol.com.

APRIL 19: Campfire 2013: An Evening of Conversation with Bette Midler, 5:30-8:30 PM, SEVERANCE HALL, 11001 EUCLID AVE. The evening includes a VIP Cocktail reception at 5:30 pm, conversation at 7 pm, with a gala dinner to follow. The event benefits Flying Horse Farms, a camp for children with serious illnesses, part of SeriousFun Network founded by Paul Newman. Tickets: \$250/person includes dinner and show or \$1,000/person includes VIP cocktail reception, dinner, and show. Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$5,000. INFO: Liz Lewis, 216-534-3485 or liz@flyinghorsefarms.org.

APRIL 30: Writers Center Stage: Erik Larson, 7:30 PM, OHIO THEATER AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE, 1511 EUCLID AVE. Erik Larson is the author of four bestsellers: *Isaac's Storm*, *The Devil in the White City*, *Thunderstruck*, and *In the Garden*

of Beasts. Proceeds benefit Cuyahoga Public Library Foundation. Tickets: \$30/person. INFO: 216-241-6000.

MAY 1: Cleveland Archaeology Society Lecture, 7:30 PM, MURCH AUDITORIUM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL DR. Professor Jodi Magness from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presents "Ossuaries and the Burials of Jesus and James." Learn how the Jews of Jerusalem disposed of their dead in the time of Jesus in this slide lecture. Free to the public. A meet-the-speaker reception follows the lecture. INFO: 216-231-4600.

MAY 12: Second Sunday Family Day: Caporali Sunday, 11 AM-4 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD. Family-friendly activities to celebrate the exhibit of the Caporali Missal, include art-making, storytelling, scavenger hunts and movement-based gallery talks. Free and fun for the whole family. INFO: 216-888-CMA-0033 or clevelandart.org.

MAY 18-19: Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon. The 36th annual marathon, and Boston Marathon qualifier, offers a full marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K and a kids' run. Begin the weekend at the Marathon Expo May 17, and then head home and get ready to run. To register, go to clevelandmarathon.com/ registration.

MAY 22: How We Survive: A Panel Discussion, 7 PM, MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, 2929 RICHMOND RD. Eileen Korey moderates a panel of three extraordinary women, who will speak about survival and keeping the faith under difficult circumstances. This program is cosponsored with The Gathering Place. FEES & INFO: 216-593-0575. 🍷

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I CAN WORK IT OUT



By Beth Friedman-Romell

I love to cook and I love to eat, so I figured out pretty early in life that as a vertically challenged ectomorph, I'd better figure out what exercise to love, too. (Apparently, petite women need almost 1,000 fewer calories per day than their taller sisters – bummer!)

Since I hate team sports and I'm really uncoordinated (I recently hurt myself peeling an orange), as a teen I gravitated to road cycling and weight training. Cycling because it was outdoors and provided free transportation, and weight training because my friend Colleen and I were the only girls to take this gym elective in a room full of ripped teenage jocks. This was probably the only time those boys talked to me in my high school career.

To my own surprise, I found I really dug lifting weights. It improved my cycling endurance, and made me look ripped and feel “macha.” I could compete against myself, adding another plate to the Nautilus machine (remember those?), but not feel I was being compared to anyone more athletic than me. All through college, years of temp jobs, graduate school, motherhood, and juggling multiple part-time careers, I worked out. I liked the small, cheap, “bare bones” variety of gym, with lots of sweaty, grunting guys seeing who could pump the most iron, while they covertly checked to see if you were watching.

At one point, I signed on for a brief stint at A Certain Ethnic Fitness Center, but I discovered the facility was so large, and I saw so many people I knew each time I went, that I was investing over two hours of my day for each hour working out.

Then I tried to keep fit by walking. However, bad weather, the defection of most of my walking partners, and my own excuses interfered with my good intentions. Gardening was once my passion, until I was sidelined by a back injury. Besides, it's no fun to weed now that Cleveland summers feel like Alabama. And so, as I inched closer to 50 than 40, my bathroom scale also inched upward. A random wrong move could mean weeks of painful pulled muscles; even my typically low blood pressure seemed to be creeping north.

So this past November, I marched into Shaker's local gym, Club Fit, and plunked down my credit card before I could find reasons not to. Run by husband-and-wife team Philip and Ashley Stotter, this low-key gym offers weights, cardio, and an area for stretching, as well as personal training and a few group classes. It's close to home and, while I often see Shaker neighbors and friends, there's more exercising than chatting going on. Best of all, no spandex or makeup required – I hate the places where everyone else seems poised to stroll down the catwalk rather than up the treadmill.

The first three months have been a fantastic time warp for me. Just like at Heinen's these days, the soundtrack is from my youth – songs of the 70s and 80s, played at a non-obnoxious volume. I also resurrected a perfectly serviceable piece of ancient tech, my knockoff Discman. The problem was that all of the great compilation workout recordings I'd made back in college were stored on an even more ancient format, cassette tapes. In December, my husband surprised me with the gift of an MP3 player, which will keep me happily sweating and

panting, as soon as I figure out 1) how to use it; and 2) how to get the music I want on it. Rumor has it that my sons possess this esoteric knowledge, which is good, because nothing comes with a manual anymore.

Great tunes make all the difference in my workout. The right music makes me move faster, harder, and longer. It transports me back to whenever I first listened to the song. I can actually feel the endorphins being released in the back of my head when certain songs are playing. Only a few things in life do that.

I came of age when “feeling the burn” and “aerobics” were fitness buzzwords. So it's no surprise that I have failed to connect with Yoga. First of all, it's slowwww; I want to move. Second, there are no tunes. Third, there are mirrors and I'm a klutz, and everybody is better at it than I am. Finally, putting my body to work against weights or a machine already creates a meditative state for me. I just want to count to 15, I don't want to have to think about not thinking. (By the way, 15 is the new 10, as far as weight repetitions go.)

The other new thing I tried was “passive stretching” with Club Fit trainer Jen Noggle, in which she pushed, pulled, and twisted my limbs to the point of numbness. Although my hamstrings are notoriously tight, it was my arms that felt broken afterward. Jen certainly got a good workout that day.

All in all, it feels great to be back in the rhythm of the gym. I don't feel as creaky, my blood pressure is back to normal, and after weeks and weeks of not seeing the scale budge, I've finally lost 5 pounds. Sometimes “just doing it” really does work. 🐾

“I can keep trying absolutely new things... new to me and probably new to the art world.”



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