

shaker *life*

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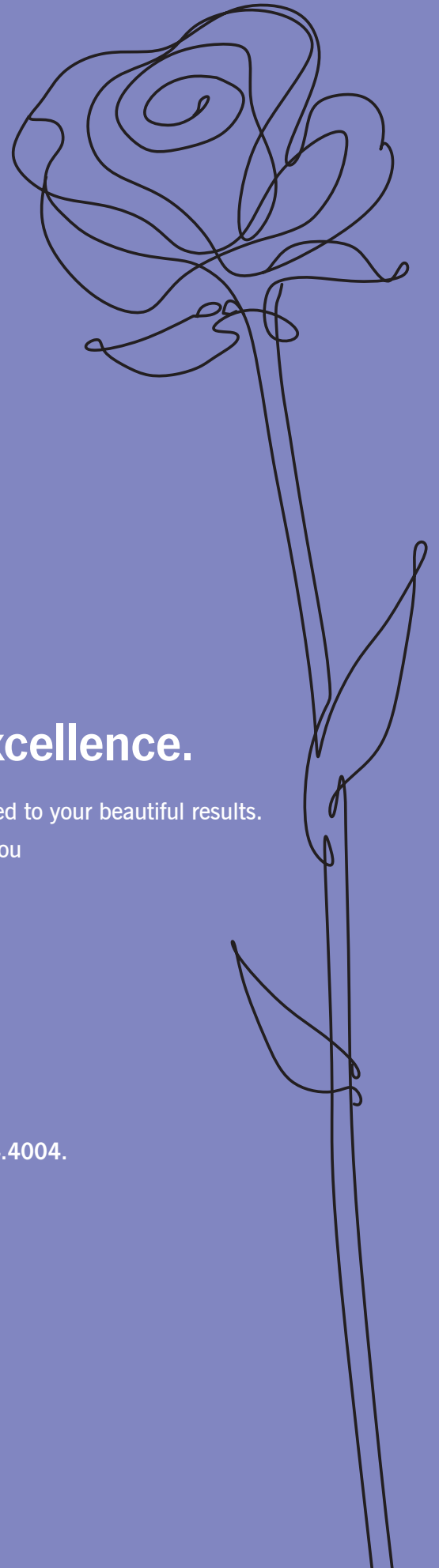
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Photo by Jeanne Van Atta of Green Street Studio



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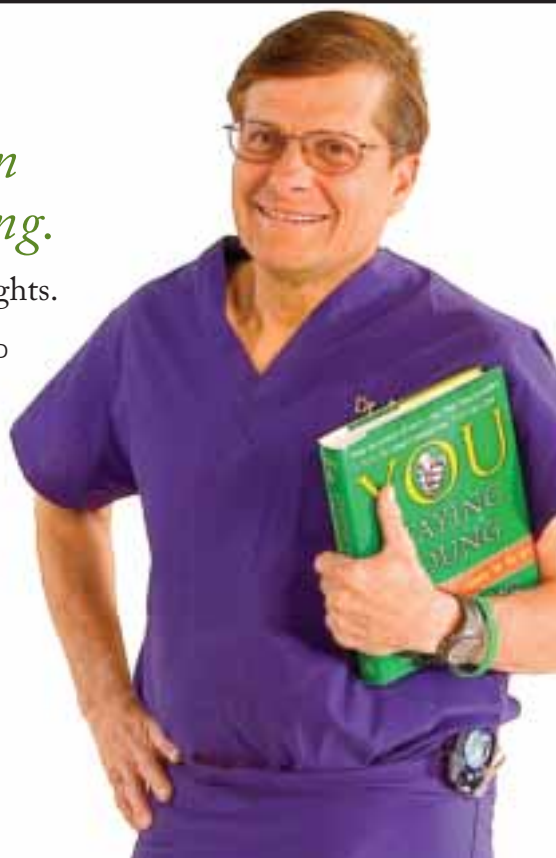
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Mayor Appoints Heinz Akers as Building Commissioner

Mayor Earl M. Leiken has appointed Heinz Akers as Shaker Heights building commissioner. Akers brings a wealth of experience to the position, including more than 20 years with the City of Shaker Heights. Prior to that, he worked for the building departments of Cleveland Heights, Beachwood, and Independence.



Akers

Akers is responsible for enforcing state and local building codes, reviewing plans, and processing permits. He also oversees all inspections, complaints, and investigations with regard to new building.

"My focus is to ensure that people who come into contact with the Building Department are serviced in a timely manner, whether we are interfacing with contractors, fielding questions about requirements for new construction, or helping residents who are trying to choose a contractor," says Akers.

With regard to choosing contractors, Akers offers this advice to residents: "Make sure you are comparing apples to apples. The lowest bid is not always the best bid. Always ask for references, ask to see their permit before starting work, and when in doubt, call the Building Department to be sure they are in compliance. The more educated you are about the project, the better."

Akers replaces James Ziegler, who retired from the Building Department last August after 17 years of service with the City.

Join the Centennial Celebration!

Committee chairpersons are hard at work to begin planning the various activities and events that will bring Shaker's Centennial Celebration to life. Opportunities are available for every interest and time commitment. Please consider lending your time and talents to one of the following committees to help create a truly memorable celebration. To get involved, sign up at shakeronline.com (click logo), or e-mail Anne Williams at shakercentennial@gmail.com.

A Community of Neighbors – Capturing the feeling of connectedness among Shaker neighbors, with activities and events that bring us closer together. *Chairs:* Vicki Elder and Crickett Karson.

Culture and Creativity – Highlighting the extraordinary depth of talent among Shaker residents, and harnessing that creative force for the Centennial celebration.

Education and Learning – Focusing on Shaker Heights as a community where learning, both inside and outside of the classroom, is embraced and nurtured throughout life. *Chairs:* Glenda Moss, Judy Stenta, and Sandy Holmes.

Green and Growing – Creating events inspired by our reverence for the environment and our devotion to our community's parks, gardens, and trees. *Chairs:* Ann Cicarella and Mary Mulligan with assistance from Robyn Minter Smyers.

Health & Wellness – Drawing on Shaker's extensive resources, developing activities and events that emphasize and promote the overall well-being of the community and its citizens.

Making History – Demonstrating how Shaker is inspired by its progressive past while striding confidently into its next century. *Chairs:* Jan Devereaux and Ken Kovach.

Special Events – Bringing new events to life and expanding existing events to celebrate the past and future of Shaker Heights. *Chairs:* Robb Forward, Char Glatley, and Brian Gleisser.

Be sure to show your centennial pride with a t-shirt (\$10) and collectable buttons, available in four different designs for \$1 each. T-shirts and buttons may be purchased at Thornton Park, Shaker Schools Administration Building, and the Shaker Heights Public Library (both Main and Bertram Woods). All proceeds support the activities and events of the Centennial Celebration.



Don't Get Snowed – Ask Contractors to Register

Snow plow operators are required to obtain a permit. City ordinance dictates that “no person shall use a vehicle to plow or remove snow from private property in the City...without first securing a permit for such vehicle, issued by the Police Department.”

The City publishes a list of licensed snowplow contractors, which is updated weekly throughout the winter, at shakeronline.com. The list is also printed below, but is accurate only as of press time.

Licensed contractors are expected to be aware of City ordinances regarding proper snow removal. For instance, “No [contractor] removing snow from any driveway or sidewalk within this City shall deposit the same on the pavement or sidewalk of any public street or on any tree lawn in any public street, except the tree lawn immediately in front of the premises from which the snow is removed.” Snow piles which block the sidewalk or wind up in the street are violations of City ordinances.

Residents who wish to file a complaint against a contractor can write to Deputy Chief Steven Hammett, Shaker Heights Police Department, 3450 Lee Road. Snow plow operators who obtain permits are advised that failure to comply with the ordinances can result in their permit's revocation. The contractor may also be prohibited from operating in the City for the remainder of the season. Encourage your contractor to obtain a permit. And remember, property owners are responsible for removing snow from their sidewalks.

Snow Plow Operators Licensed with the City

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Horseshoe Lake Viewing Area Donated in Memory of Michael Tucker

The Cleveland law firm Tucker, Ellis and West will donate approximately \$13,000 in improvements to Horseshoe Lake Park, in memory of Michael Robert Tucker, son of Christy Cole of Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, and of Shaker residents Robert and Karen Tucker. Michael was born June 4, 1982 and died April 24, 2010 as a result of a rock climbing accident. Robert Tucker is a partner with Tucker, Ellis and West.

Michael graduated from University School in 2000, The University of Colorado in 2004, and the Ohio State Moritz College of Law in 2009. He had recently returned to Cleveland to serve as the staff attorney for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Richard J. McMonagle. Michael was a passionate outdoorsman who taught rock climbing at the Cleveland Rock Gym. He climbed at many sites throughout North America.

Landscape architect Jim McKnight drew the plans to create a serene viewing area of the lake from the interior of the park, near the former wading pool. The viewing area will feature a new flagstone surface with stone benches flanked by ornamental trees, bushes, and flowers. The design will incorporate existing stone stairs and a stone wall, which will be repaired.

Michael's family intends the site to serve as an inspiration to celebrate the lives of young people, and to help others remember their loved ones. A photograph of Michael will be etched into a memorial boulder, along with these lines from a favorite poem of his, *Reminders* by William Stafford: “Tasting all these and letting them have their ways to waken me, I shiver and resolve: in my life, I will more than live.”

Mayor Earl M. Leiken commented, “We are very grateful to the law firm and the family for creating this unique and restful area in the park that will serve as

an inspiration to others.”

Historic Upson House Gets Facelift from Cleveland Restoration Society

A unique piece of pre-Civil War history sits quietly in the heart of Shaker Heights, ready to be rediscovered. The 1836 farmhouse at 19027 Chagrin Boulevard recently received special treatment from the Cleveland Restoration Society, which is now offering the home for public sale. The home's most recent owners, David and Kristine Saudek, donated the historic Upson House to the Cleveland Restoration Society last September with the hope that it would be preserved for posterity.

The house is named for its builders, Asa and Chloe Carter Upson, settlers from Barkhamsted, Connecticut.

Cleveland Restoration Society immediately set about giving the home a fresh look by painting the exterior, repairing a cupola on the garage, tuck pointing the chimney, and sealcoating the driveway. Several minor electrical and carpentry issues were also addressed. The home is now violation-free and ready for purchase. Cleveland Restoration Society is also pursuing landmark status for the home with the City.

Through the years, owners have maintained and updated the home, adding hardwood flooring, central air, and updated mechanical systems. However, some features date back to 1836, including several windows and doors, the wide-plank flooring in the upstairs bedrooms, and the gabled portion of the house. A plaque denoting the home's historic status, a wrought iron weathervane, and a quaint mechanical doorbell also add to its charm and appeal.

For more information about the property, or to inquire about its availability, contact Cleveland Restoration Society at 216-426-1000. For a full history of the home, contact Kerry Adams, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist, Cleveland Restoration Society, at 216-426-3101.

City Presents 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Human Relations Award

The Shaker Heights Human Relations Commission will present its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Human Relations to GET READY! and Learning English As a Family (LEAF) of Carol Nursery School and Family Connections, respectively, at a public observance of the holiday on January 18 at 7 pm. The event is held annually at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building, 3450 Lee Road.

GET READY! is a low-cost program designed to help create a smooth transition to kindergarten for children who have had minimal or no preschool classroom experience. The children learn socialization and school routines, important life skills needed for successful entry into kindergarten.

The LEAF Program provides an adult English as a Second Language instructor, activities for children and a family cultural coach to enable multinational individuals and their families to connect to their new community, enroll in school, find medical care, and make other important transitions to their new life in the United States.

The programs encourage volunteerism, service to the community, helping others, and building community in Shaker Heights.

A special lifetime achievement award will be presented to Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, who will be the evening's keynote speaker. Jones is a former vice mayor and Councilman in Shaker. He is the first African-American ever nominated for Lieutenant Governor in Ohio. Jones has previously served as Special Counsel for the Ohio Attorney General and Associate Bar Examiner for the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Accepting the award for the Get Ready! and LEAF Programs will be Program Coordinator Susan Pfaff of Carol Nursery School and Family Connections Director Joanne Federman.

Vanessa Meiling Haynes, a 12-year-old prodigy from China, will perform.

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Education Summit Draws from Shaker and the World

More than 300 educators from as far away as Hawaii and Canada participated in Hathaway Browns's Education Innovation Summit, held November 4-6. Panel discussions explored how innovation is nurtured in fields from business to the arts to medicine. The Summit's purpose was to inspire educators to use innovative strategies to tackle 21st century challenges in their schools and communities.

Panelists included an array of Shaker residents, including Baiju Shah, president and CEO of Bioenterprise, Chris Coburn, executive director of Cleveland Clinic Innovations, and Bela Anand-Apte, director of the Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute.

Mayor Earl M. Leiken welcomed participants to the City.

Business News

City Teams with LaunchHouse to Nurture Local Entrepreneurs

Shaker LaunchHouse, formerly Goldstein Caldwell & Associates, is ready for take-off in its new home. Last September, the City entered into a five-year public-private partnership with LaunchHouse, a business incubator, to create an entrepreneurial hub for Northeast Ohio. The City is providing LaunchHouse with the use of a 22,000 square-foot facility at Lee Road and Chagrin Boulevard.

"This is a unique opportunity to bring a group of innovative entrepreneurs to our City to drive the creation of new businesses," said Mayor Earl M. Leiken. "Attracting and nurturing start-up businesses will add an important dimension to our City and help in the development of a strong business environment. It will also

provide networking and educational opportunities for existing and home-based businesses."

Todd Goldstein, a Shaker resident, and Dar Caldwell created the incubator and seed capital investment company in 2008. Paul Allen, who also lives in Shaker, is the interim executive director. Allen brings experience with successfully launching technology start-ups in Silicon Valley and Northeast Ohio. LaunchHouse has incubated a dozen companies, providing mentoring, funding, facilities, and operational support. All of their current portfolio companies will join them in the new location, where they plan to expand their base.

Says Goldstein, "Our focus is simple: to draw entrepreneurs to the region and keep them here. Our objective is to catalyze promising start-ups to produce jobs and generate revenue."

The current portfolio of startups includes a wide range of innovative prod-

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www.launchhouse.com/movement

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In partnership with the City of Shaker Heights.

ucts and services. Sunflower Solutions (see related story this issue) developed a manually operated solar panel mounting and positioning device that greatly increases solar energy efficiency. LifeServe Innovations developed and patented two novel devices for performing lifesaving surgical airway procedures. RingRang, one of the newest companies onboard, has developed a smartphone application to allow multiple users to communicate immediately, anywhere in the world.

In addition to expanding their base of portfolio companies, LaunchHouse is actively recruiting other businesses to the building that can benefit from the shared space and access to collaboration. Says Allen, "We plan to offer membership opportunities for startups, freelancers, and established companies, including flexible space, desks, and permanent offices. Prices will start at \$29 per month and include free coffee, free wi-fi, free parking, and free workshops." Copiers and printers will also be available to those renting space.

To learn more about LaunchHouse, or to apply to become a portfolio company, tenant, investor, or mentor, visit www.LaunchHouse.com or contact Paul Allen at paul@launchhouse.com.

Economic Development Plan Takes Shape

Last September, the City invited public input on a bold economic development plan that declares Shaker "open for business." The consulting firm of Robert Charles Lesser & Co. of Bethesda, Maryland created a five-year plan based on a thorough fiscal and environmental analysis of Shaker Heights. The primary goal of the plan is to boost Shaker's commercial and income tax base in order to supplement the revenue from residential taxes.

Key recommendations from the plan include:

- Focus attention on commercial district zoning and planning, paying particular attention to the Chagrin/Lee Road area and to the Warrensville/Van Aken area.
- Alter the tax structure to make the city's commercial tax rates more competitive.
- Offer tax breaks for property owners who pursue commercial building upgrades and for new office development.
- Start a revolving loan fund for small businesses.
- Create an integrated process for new business creation/expansion that is seamless to businesses.

The plan also calls for aggressive marketing to recruit targeted businesses in four main areas: health care/social assistance (such as ambulatory care); legal/government services (such as law offices); design firms (architecture, engineering, boutique contracting); and "flexexecutives" (home based businesses, entrepreneurs). Engagement of Shaker residents will be critical to the plan's success. Residents are a great asset and each one will need to be an ambassador for Shaker Heights

within their professional and social networks.

Economic Development Director Tania Menesse says, "We are focusing on creating a competitive and more vibrant office environment because that in turn will seed demand for the restaurants, retail, and other amenities that everybody wants." She noted that the City is already embracing this approach with the opening of Shaker LaunchHouse.

To learn more about economic development opportunities in Shaker, or to view more details from the plan, visit www.shakeronline.com/business.

Neighborhood News

Moreland

Chelton Park Expansion Completed

Work on a vacant lot adjacent to the popular and well used Chelton Park was completed last October. The additional park space and play area are designed specifically for use by children ages two to five. Equipment, fencing, landscaping and a bench were provided through Neighborhood Stabilization Project funding.



Shaker News Briefs

- **Serving Shaker: Faith In Action** – a group of more than 250 volunteers representing seven of Shaker's largest churches – this past November celebrated its third year helping the City's infirm and elderly with fall yard clean-ups.

"We had more than 60 homes on the list," says resident **Christina Forward**, one of the event's coordinators. "We had homes all over town, from south of Chagrin to North Park. Many of them were repeats from past years. The event is getting to be well-known."

The annual clean-up was the brainchild of the **Rev. Peter Faass** of Christ Episcopal Church on Warrensville Center Road. Other sponsor churches include St. Dominic, Plymouth, Heights Christian, First Unitarian, First Baptist of Greater Cleveland, and St. Peter's Lutheran.

The volunteers, many of them young families, met early on Saturday, November 6, at Christ Episcopal Church and had breakfast, provided by Panera Bread and J. Pistone. They were divided into groups of eight or ten people, and each group was assigned three or four homes, where they raked leaves and did small chores around the yards. They met again later at the church for a pizza lunch donated by A Touch of Italy.

"Serving Shaker: Faith in Action has been growing every year. We are so thankful to be able to help out the residents of Shaker," says Forward. "This is truly a great project for everyone involved – and we look forward to many more years."

- Shaker resident **Michael Roizen, MD**, was the featured speaker at the Milestones Consortium for Autism Professionals (MCAP) last September. The topic of his presentation was "Caring for the Caregiver: The Physician, Therapist, Educator, and Family Member." Milestones Autism Organization, headquartered in Beachwood, provides the tools for a better life for individuals with au-

tism, their families, and the professionals who support them.

Roizen is the chief wellness officer at the Cleveland Clinic, and is well known for developing the "Real Age" concept. He has authored or co-authored five number one New York Times best sellers, including the YOU series with Dr. Mehmet Oz. Roizen has also been a frequent guest of The Oprah Winfrey Show.

- The American Swimming Coaches Association selected Shaker resident **Jerry Holtrey** as one of five inductees into the ASCA Coaches' Hall of Fame in 2010. Holtrey began his coaching career in 1963 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he coached Sharon Wichman and Matt Vogel, both of whom went on to win Olympic medals. During his short tenure as coach in Ashland, KY, Holtrey developed seven all-star swimmers.

In 1967, Holtrey was hired to coach the Lake Erie Silver Dolphins, where he still coaches. He also taught and coached at Hawken School from 1969 to 2008, where he developed more than 400 All-American swimmers. His team won 22 state titles, and his girls team has won 12 straight team titles. He has had swimmers qualify at every Olympic Trials from 1968 through 2008, and has coached Olympic medal winners Melanie Valerio and Diana Munz.

- **Frances "Fran" McCrea** was honored with a Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award in recognition of her service as a deputy clerk for the Shaker Heights Municipal Court. The awards are presented annually by the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation to honor individuals employed by the local courts for their outstanding service to the legal profession, the general public, and our justice system.

McCrea is a lifelong resident of Shaker, a graduate of the Shaker Schools, and a 29-year employee of the Shaker Heights Municipal Court. **Judge K.J. Mont-**

gomery said of McCrea, "She is one of the unsung heroes, who handles every call coming into the court with efficient, high-caliber public service. Fran truly deserves this recognition, and the entire court family is extremely proud of her."

- The Cleveland Association of Fundraising Professionals has presented Shaker resident **Deborah Ratner** with the 2010 Outstanding Philanthropist Award. Ratner was nominated for the prestigious honor by the Shaker Schools Foundation and by Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio.

Sue Starrett, director of development for the Shaker Schools Foundation, lauded Ratner for her pivotal role in that organization. "Ms. Ratner has served the Shaker Schools Foundation as a volunteer, board member, advisory board chair, donor, and friend. She works without regard for public recognition and uses her personal contributions and those of her family's business and private foundation to encourage others to give generously."

Said Ratner, "Helping children and seeing their dreams come to life is inspiring and gives me hope for the future. It is a privilege to give back and to say thank you to organizations that make a real difference in our community."

Seasonal Reminders

Brush and Leaves on the Tree Lawn: Use of the tree lawn for clippings, leaves or brush ends on December 15, after which collection vehicles are equipped with snow plows. Landscapers must haul yard waste until the month of April when tree lawn collection resumes.

Bicycle Licensing: Licenses will be sold from 9 am to 3 pm December 4 and January 7 in the Police Department lobby, 3355 Lee Road. New licenses are \$5. Re-issued licenses are 50 cents.

House Numbers: City ordinance requires

residents to display their address in a way that is clearly visible from the street – either above the door, upon the door frame or door step of the entrance, or upon a sign in the yard or tree lawn directly in front of the home. Check to be sure your house number is easy to spot in every season; homeowners should trim shrubbery as needed and remove any snow that may obscure a sign placed in the ground.

Jogging: Street joggers may not obstruct traffic and are required to wear reflective clothing at night.

Trash Delays: Collections scheduled for Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31 **will proceed as scheduled.** Collection scheduled the week of January 17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) will be delayed by one day. 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 a day, sign up for the City's email list at shakeronline.com.

Security: The Police Department reminds residents leaving town on vacation to lock securely all windows and doors and to make arrangements for the house to be checked periodically, the newspapers and mail to be picked up and the lawn to be mowed regularly.

Snow Policy: Residents are asked not to park their cars in the street when snow reaches a depth of 2" or more. Please remember that residents are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks fronting their property. The City does not plow residential driveways; snow removal contractors must be registered with the Police Department and their permit clearly displayed. Do not push snow into the street, onto sidewalks or onto another person's property.

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



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The Shaker Schools Update

Students Eat Up **Hot Lunches**

Many longtime Shakerites have fond memories of going home at lunchtime for a bowl of soup, a grilled cheese sandwich, and a hug from Mom. As times changed, and more mothers joined the workforce, packing a lunch for school became the norm. Five years ago, the Shaker schools introduced a bag lunch program for K-4 students, but hot meals were not on the menu due to the limited kitchen facilities at those buildings.

Now, for the first time, K-4 students can enjoy a hot lunch at school – and early results indicate the program is a big hit. Demand has increased dramatically across the District, with about 2,000 additional lunches being ordered each week. David Moore, an Onaway second grader,

is one fan of the new program. “I buy my lunch every day now. Last year the lunches were cold. I like the hot lunches better,” he said, as he tucked into a hot meatball sub.

A new contract with AVI Foodsystems – the same company used by the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and several area schools and colleges – ensures that the meals are not only hot and tasty, but healthy, too. Frying is out, baking is in, and no trans fats are used. AVI prepares the elementary school lunches at the Woodbury and Middle School kitchens and delivers them piping hot to the K-4 buildings using portable steam trays and insulated rolling carts.

Popular offerings include spaghetti and meatballs, popcorn chicken, and freshly baked pizza – along with fruits or veggies and milk – all at an affordable cost of \$2.75. Middle School and High School lunches are \$3.00, and offer an even wider array of selections, including a vegetarian option every day.

The new lunch program is also healthier for the District’s bottom line. “Our lunch program had been operating at a deficit, partly due to increased federal guidelines,” said Business Administrator Robert Kreiner. “Now, thanks to increased efficiencies and demand, we are on track to eliminate that deficit.”



Onaway kindergartner Abigail Beck (above) gave the hot meatball sub two thumbs up. “I should start asking my Dad to make this at home!” she said.

Mercer Olympians (right) Giovanni Cristaldi, Tristan Cyrus, Sophia Ehlers, and Nolan Sindelar wear their gold medals with pride.

For the latest news and info about the Shaker schools, please visit shaker.org. To receive regular e-news updates, subscribe at shaker.org/news.

Mercer Goes for the Gold with **New Fundraiser**

When the members of Mercer’s PTO introduced a different type of fundraiser this year, they hoped that families would embrace the new approach. The concept was elegant in its simplicity. Instead of selling catalog products such as wrapping paper and cookie dough, students were asked to collect pledges from family, friends, and neighbors to support their participation in a week-long physical fitness event called the Mercer Olympics.

In true Olympic style, the event kicked off with an opening ceremony, where every student received a bandana matching one of the five colored rings in the Olympic flag. Each grade level was designated as a team, and students were asked to wear their team color, along with their bandana, throughout the week. Students cheered one another on at relays, tug-of-war, and even a javelin toss using swim noodles.

At the closing ceremony, anticipation ran high as the students waited to hear the final tally of \$13,200 – more than three times the amount raised by traditional fundraisers in the past. Every student left with a gold medal, the glow of victory, and a strong message about fitness. As Mercer Principal J. Lindsay Florence reminded them, “Mercer is the big winner here, and every one of you participated to make that happen.”



8 Graduates Inducted into **Alumni Hall of Fame**



Inducted into the Shaker Heights Alumni Association Hall of Fame on October 10 (from left): *Lauren C. Moore*, '80, Cleveland Municipal Court judge; *Bob Tuschman*, '75, senior vice president and general manager of Food Network; *Betsie Norris*, '78, executive director of Adoption Network Cleveland; *Melvin Shafron*, '48, neurosurgeon; *Griffin Allen*, '84, broadcaster and communications skills trainer; *Zack Bruell*, '71, award-winning chef and restaurateur; and *Marci Koblenz*, '76, national expert in workforce effectiveness and leadership development. Comic book writer, music critic, and media personality *Harvey Pekar*, '57, was inducted posthumously.

29 Shaker Seniors Earn **National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic** Program Honors

Twenty-nine Shaker Heights High School seniors have been honored by the National Merit Scholarship, National Achievement Scholarship, and National Hispanic Recognition Programs. These students were selected on the basis of their scores on the 2009 Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists from Shaker are **Nathaniel Henry, Leo Katz, Isabella McKnight, Ilana Polster, Kirby Rayburn, Brendan Ryan, Michelle Scharfstein, Annabel Wang, and Molly Wymer.**

The National Achievement Semifinalists are **Mark Kinney and Erica Schoonover.**

All eleven Semifinalists are in the running for prestigious National Merit

and National Achievement scholarships.

This year's National Merit Commended Students are **Joseph Becker, Adam Cohen, Jamal Dillman-Hasso, Victoria Fydrych, Trent Gramlich, Isaac Hoffman, Timothy Krause, Miranda Margolis, Elisa Rodriguez, Diane Ryu, Thomas Scholl, Robin Su, Joshua Tallman, Evan Tuttle, and Emma Weitzner.**

The National Achievement Commended Students are **Aaron Hicks and Wesley Smith.**

The National Hispanic Recognition Scholars are **Marco Cabrera and Elisa Rodriguez.**

These scholastically talented seniors are considered top candidates for admission to the most selective colleges.

Focus on **Finance**

Through careful stewardship and vigilance, the Shaker schools finished fiscal year 2010 (ending June 30) with expenses approximately \$1 million below budget. The savings resulted primarily from the reduction in the total cost for students with special needs served outside the District and from reduced expenses for utilities, materials, and supplies.

In an additional effort to lower costs, the District completed an audit to ensure that only eligible dependents are covered under health insurance plans. The audit resulted in the removal of approximately 25 ineligible dependents from District insurance coverage, for ongoing cost savings of about \$60,000 per year.

Unfortunately, both basic aid from the state and specific grant programs such as school bus purchase subsidies and special education reimbursements have declined. Further cuts are expected in the biennial budget now under discussion.

As part of the federal stimulus legislation passed in August, the District expects to receive approximately \$760,000 to help save or create education jobs. The funds, which are non-recurring, are slated to be applied beginning in FY12 to help absorb anticipated reductions in state funding. Additionally, the District has been awarded nearly \$400,000 from "Race to the Top," a U.S. Department of Education grant program designed to spur reforms in K-12 education at both the state and local levels. The funds will be allocated over a four-year period, and their use is limited to a narrow range of activities defined by law.

Beginning in January 2011, the District will begin to receive additional revenue from the levy passed in May. In order to extend the interval between levies as much as possible, the District will continue its aggressive search for cost savings. Detailed financial information is available at www.shaker.org/news/financial.



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Bedford Heights
23760 Miles Road
216-662-5550

Macedonia
874 East Aurora Road
330-467-2100

Mentor
8653 Mentor Avenue
440-255-4068

North Royalton
13513 West 130th Street
440-877-2100

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www.CalvettaBrothers.com

REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between June 1 and July 15, 2010 appear below. The first list includes only those properties that have had a prior sale within the last 10 years. Excluded are "quit claim" transfers as well as those resulting from foreclosure, in which the sale price is not reflective of the property value.

ADDRESS	2010 SALE PRICE	PRIOR SALE PRICE
2956 ATTLEBORO ROAD	\$460,000	\$685,000 (2005)
3576 AVALON ROAD	\$105,000	\$ 75,000 (2005)
2730 BELVOIR BLVD	\$302,000	\$485,000 (2004)
3284 BRAEMAR ROAD	\$188,500	\$218,000 (2006)
20576 BYRON ROAD	\$244,000	\$226,500 (2006)
2910 CARLTON ROAD	\$408,000	\$415,000 (2005)
16106 CHADBOURNE ROAD	\$346,000	\$270,000 (2004)
3355 CHALFANT ROAD	\$275,000	\$ 80,500 (2009)
2666 CRANLYN ROAD	\$265,000	\$130,000 (2009)
23225 LAURELDALE ROAD	\$350,100	\$257,000 (2008)
2953 LITCHFIELD ROAD	\$420,000	\$505,000 (2005)
8 LYMAN CIRCLE	\$575,000	\$585,000 (2002)
3333 MAYNARD ROAD	\$340,000	\$307,000 (2001)
3175 MONTGOMERY ROAD	\$570,000	\$649,000 (2005)
3200 MONTGOMERY ROAD	\$475,000	\$250,000 (2008)
3343 NORWOOD ROAD	\$327,600	\$362,000 (2004)
22225 PARNELL ROAD	\$503,500	\$417,000 (2009)
3642 RAWNSDALE ROAD	\$190,000	\$163,000 (2009)
3716 RAWNSDALE ROAD	\$175,000	\$199,900 (2002)
3655 RIEDHAM ROAD	\$139,000	\$139,000 (2002)
16000 SHAKER BLVD	\$510,000	\$525,000 (2002)
18927 SHELBURNE ROAD	\$750,000	\$774,600 (2003)
3259 STOCKHOLM ROAD	\$187,000	\$ 90,500 (2008)
3637 STRANDHILL ROAD	\$151,400	\$147,500 (2006)
3564 STRATHAVON ROAD	\$134,000	\$136,250 (2008)
22649 WESTCHESTER ROAD	\$332,500	\$338,000 (2009)
2895 WEYMOUTH ROAD	\$174,000	\$104,458 (2008)
3130 WOODBURY ROAD	\$231,000	\$295,000 (2003)
17575 S WOODLAND ROAD	\$325,000	\$280,000 (2004)
194000 S WOODLAND ROAD	\$581,000	\$556,200 (2002)

LIST OF HOUSING TRANSFERS WITH A PRIOR SALE WITHIN 15 YEARS:

3273 CHALFANT ROAD	\$255,000	\$249,900 (1999)
2901 DRUMMOND ROAD	\$575,000	\$350,000 (1999)
2861 LEE ROAD	\$370,000	\$264,000 (1996)
18707 LOMOND BLVD	\$209,000	\$171,000 (1999)

LIST OF HOUSING TRANSFERS WITH A PRIOR SALE WITHIN 20 YEARS:

21016 CLAYTHORNE ROAD	\$454,000	\$328,000 (1994)
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Discounted Tenant Screening Program through Tenant Patrol. Make the best decision when offering a lease to a prospective tenant by using a professional screening firm. Membership is free and simple. Receive a thorough evaluation, save money, time and headaches. Visit www.tenantpatrol.com/shakerhgts.asp and get started today.

Become "Certified Shaker"

Give yourself a leg up on the competition by attaining certification in this unique program, which is offered to landlords at no charge. Among other benefits, properties that meet or exceed City standards of excellence are promoted on the City's website and are shown to prospective renters by relocation specialists.

Newly Certified and re-Certified Shaker property addresses and their owners' names are listed in this publication. The listings represent the best rental properties the City has to offer. For a complete list of Certified properties and to find out about vacancies, call 216-491-1332 or check the City's website, shakeronline.com.

Learn how to qualify by calling Jacqueline Patterson the Housing Specialist at 216-491-1333.

Certified Shaker Properties

Apartments:

Shaker Dale Apartments
Owner: Ms. Christine Boyce
3725-55 Warrensville Center Rd
Certified: 2009, 2010

Rental Homes:

3568 Ingleside Road
Owner: Paul Gordon
Certified: 2010

18406 Newell Road
Owner: Deborah Purcell
Certified: 2002-2010

3555 Strathavon Road
Owners: Robert & Randa Jacops
Certified: 2010

3136 Van Aken Boulevard
Owners: Linda Macklin & Troy Grela
Certified: 2010

18419 Winslow Road
Owners: David & Diana Chrien
Certified: 2003-2010

19407 Winslow Road
Owners: James & Anita Henry
Certified: 2004-8, 2010

Being a Landlord in Shaker Heights

In order to rent any property, the owner must first apply for a Certificate of Occupancy and obtain an interior and exterior inspection. The Certificate of Occupancy is required annually and an inspection is conducted every three years. The annual fees:

	BY FEB 1	AFTER FEB 1
Single Family House/ Condominium Unit:	\$50	\$100
Two Family House:	\$50	\$100
Two Family with Third Floor:	\$50	\$100
Multiple Dwelling	BY MAR 1 \$35/ unit	AFTER MAR 1 \$50/ unit

Shaker Renovator Program

Coming to this space in future issues, before and after pictures of beautifully renovated Shaker properties rehabbed by those who have earned "Shaker Renovator" status because of the quality of their renovations in Shaker and their history of meeting and exceeding City standards.

Properties renovated by Shaker Renovators are available for sale and sometimes, rent. To learn more, call 216-491-1370 or www.shakeronline.com/services/home/ShakerRenovatorProgram.asp. 



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At Hawken, our early childhood classrooms are filled with exploration, adventure and hands-on discovery. That's because a lesson plan for math, science, language or art always includes one additional goal: to develop a love of learning – a foundation for school and for life. **The beginning is everything.**

Get Ready. | HAWKEN.EDU

Please Join Us!

Early Childhood Open House

Thursday, December 9, 2010
PS-PK-K | 8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Lyndhurst Campus

Parent Morning Visitation

Thursday, January 20, 2011
PS-8 | 8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Lyndhurst Campus
admissions@hawken.edu

Preschool to Grade 8

Lyndhurst Campus
440.423.2950

Grades 9 to 12

Gates Mills Campus
440.423.2955

**RSVP
today!**

Another Five-Star Year for Shaker Library



For the third consecutive year, Shaker Library has been recognized as a 5-Star Library by *Library Journal*. This is the publication's highest honor for excellent public libraries in America. The designation capped off a successful 2010 and set the stage for better things to come in 2011.

What did the Library accomplish in 2010?

- Friends of the Shaker Library marked their 30th anniversary by approving \$42,850 of support for Library operations and programs.
- Grant successes during the year included a \$6,900 Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the State Library for community gardening, and a \$50,000 entrepreneurial grant from the State Library to create a Community Entrepreneurial Office (CEO). The grant enables the Library to create a profit based Community Entrepreneurial Office (CEO), to benefit members of the community and the Library. It will provide home-based businesses a place where they can meet with clients. They can use the CEO workstations and software to create brochures and get printing services and volume copying. CEO users will have access to the business equipment and services they need, along with easy access to Library information. The Library anticipates that the CEO will be open and operational by June 1, 2011.
- Other recent funding includes publicity, training support, and equipment provided through the Library's partnership with Connect Ohio, a statewide

federally funded project.

- The Library has received over \$70,000 in MyCom money for out-of-school-time activities since 2008. (MyCom is a program that creates positive experiences for youth in grades K-12 across greater Cleveland, including South Shaker to help them reach their full potential.) These funds include \$20,000 for the Homework Center at Main Library and for Teen Center programs during the 2010-11 school year.

- Renovations continue on the second floor of the Main Library to create new space for the Computer Center and Training Lab facilities, which will double the capacity of both. The former Computer Center will become CEO. The design will include seven individual business workstations and three conference-style areas with partitions to allow for private business/client discussions and teleconferencing.

- Office space for Adult Services staff will be created, along with an improved book sale sorting area for Friends of the Shaker Library, a Maintenance workroom, and storage space.

- The redesign of Main Library's first floor includes the shifting of nonfiction material to the current Movies & Music area and relocating the DVDs and CDs to the middle of the main floor to centralize the checkout process, with self-service equipment for the public. This reconfiguration will eliminate the need for two checkout desks.

- There will be an accessible shelf designated for reserved books. Residents will be able to scan the shelf to find their names on the books they have reserved, then check them out at a self-serve check-out station.

- Program highlights for 2010 included the 50th anniversary celebration of Bertram Woods Branch; the continuation of northeast Ohio's longest running poetry series, Poetry in the Woods;

and a new collaboration with the Shaker Heights High School Art Department that yielded the first student art show held outside of the high school.

Despite these successes, a state budget shortfall has required the Library to make cuts to its budget by reducing both the materials and staff budgets. The Library has implemented a hiring freeze, a wage freeze, and has scheduled a series of furlough days when the Library will be closed and the staff unpaid. The Library and staff continue to be thankful for the community's support and patience during these challenging economic times.

Library to Offer ABE/GED Classes



Scher-Marcus

Do you want to earn your GED or go to college but aren't sure if you're ready? Get prepared, and test with confidence through a series of Adult

Basic Education/General Educational Development classes, which will be offered at the Main Library. Classes are designed to cover topics on the GED and other tests, and to help bring skills up to the post-high school level. Shaker resident William Scher-Marcus will be the instructor.

Interested students must attend an orientation, which will be held at 9 am Monday, January 3 at Taylor Academy, 14780 Superior Avenue (on the corner of South Taylor Road). The orientation will involve assessments in reading, writing and math, an essay, and goal setting.

Classes will begin January 11 and will be held from 9:15-11:45 am Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Main Library Teen Center. Computers will

be used and the program will offer both classroom and distance learning support.

Sher-Marcus is currently a full-time Liberal Arts faculty member at Bryant & Stratton College, where he teaches English, Sociology, and Critical Thinking. He also teaches for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Adult Basic and Literacy Education program. Bill has worked with students and group participants ranging in age from preschoolers to senior adults. He earned a bachelor's degree in Education and English Literature from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. He enjoys working with students on a variety of skills and content areas.

Bill, his wife, Michal, and their three children moved to the Fernway area of Shaker Heights in 2006. The family is frequently found weekday afternoons and weekends at the Main Library, checking out books, CDs, DVDs, and Playaways.

Hats Off to the Library!

There is still time to participate in the Library's "Caps for Kids" project. Knit or crochet a winter hat for a child and bring your completed project to Woods Branch by December 9 so they can be delivered to Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Project ACT for distribution to homeless children.

Last year, more than 200 caps were donated. For more information, call 216-991-2421. An easy pattern, published with permission from *Madrona Fiber Arts*, follows:

Child's Cap

Worsted weight yarn and size 11 and size 6 needles. Pattern can be knit in round or back and forth with 2 needles.

Cast on 54 stitches with size 11 needles and knit in stockinette stitch for 2 1/2 inches.

Change to size 6 needles and work 4 rows in stockinette stitch. Change back to size 11 needles and work 4 more inches.

Decrease.

Row 1: K2 tog across row (27 stitches).

Row 2: K1, K2 tog across row (18 stitches).

Row 3: K2 tog across row.

Row 4: K1, K2 tog across row.

Cut yarn and run it through stitches. Bind off.

Recent Donations to the Library

Shaker Library received generous donations in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Bertram Woods Branch from Drs. Tom and Abby Abelson, Judith Allen, Carol Bates, Meghan Bhatia, Reverend Daniel Budd, Diane Burgin and David Hutt, Mary Rebecca Bynum and J. Phillip Calabrese, Faith and Andrew Chakalis, Shawn and Luren Dickinson, Kristen Drake, Patricia Eaton, Joanne Federman, Jean and David Foxman, Nina Gibans, Patricia Harvey, Sharon Heslin, Maxine Jacqmin, Alyce Krantz, Evelyn Krent, Patti and Richard Lawrence, Earl Leiken, Jennifer and Walter Lesch, Ken and Mary Lynne McGovern, Lynne Miller, Nancy Moore, Rosemary Nugent, David Piskac, Amy Reed, Laurie Rosenberg, Lynn Ruffner, Jean Sacatsh, Barbara and Aaron Saltzman, Susan and Larry Scheps, Sara Schiller, Jeanne Shatten and Lawrence Oscar, Dick Shapiro, Margaret and Bill Simon, Martha Sivertson, Jane Smith, Annette and Mark Sutherland, Amy Switzer, Betty Ann Toth, and Donna Whyte.

Friends of Shirley Gendel, who contributed to the Bertram Woods Branch Fund in her memory, included Carole and Stan Berman, William Carpenter, Stephanie Danzinger, George DiSanto, Ruth Mardell and Jerry Kagan, Deanna and David Katz, Joanne Klein, Gretchen and Robert Larson, Amy and Larrie Nadler, Rachel Nelson, Leona Polster, Ginger and Lamar Ratcliffe, Laura Rocker, Carolyn and Elliot Ross, Ruth Sherman, Cathy and Robert Weiss, Jackie, Ron, Seth and Tova Wiesenthal, Dan, Laura, and

Jeffrey Zuckerman, Isabelle Zuckerman, Kay Zuckerman and Jim McCarthy.

Randy Kammer made a number of memorial contributions to the Marilyn Kammer Memorial Fund to remember Judge Virginia Beverly, Barbara Coleman, Carl Demery, Paul Dooley, Donald Goetz, Charles Gray, Gordon Kuhr, Junior Seth Welch, Mona "Lynn" Wolf, John Wooden and she also contributed in honor of Deanne Roberts. Roy Cohn and Susan Massari-Cohn donated to the Marilyn Kammer Memorial Fund to honor Randy Kammer and Jeffry Wollitz. Marilyn Gardner donated to the Frances Belman Fund in memory of Frances Belman.

How to Give to the Library

Looking for the perfect gift for your friends who have everything? Consider a donation to the Library in their honor. The Library accepts checks, credit cards and cash. Online donations can also be made at www.shakerlibrary.org/Donations/

In return for your gift, the Library will send a certificate suitable for framing to the honoree and a tax receipt to the donors. For more information about giving opportunities, call Library Director Luren Dickinson at 216-991-2030.

Services for the Homebound

If you or someone you know is homebound due to illness or injury, Library services are still available. The Library's Homebound Service offers access to Library material delivered to you at your home. It is a personalized program that makes Library material available, and volunteer drivers bring material on a bi-weekly or a monthly basis. As a courtesy, members of the Homebound Service are exempt from overdue fines.

For more information about the Library's Homebound Service, or to serve as a volunteer delivery driver, please call 216-991-2030 ext. 3139 and leave a message. Homebound Services coordina-

tor, MaryAnn Friedlander, will call back with information about the program and answer all your questions.

Local History Collection – Blueprints and House Research News

Looking for blueprints of your Shaker home? The Library just might have them. To find a home's blueprints, residents need the Plan File Number (not the parcel number or permit number) that corresponds to the home's blueprints on microfilm. If it exists, the Plan File Number for a house can be obtained from the Shaker Heights Building Department in City Hall.

Sometimes the Plan File Number is incorrect, as it doesn't correspond to your home's address. Also, if your home was built before 1945, it is likely there is no Plan File Number and thus no blueprints for the home. Plans of homes built before 1945 were not microfilmed, and the originals were not kept. Occasionally, however, there might be a set of plans from a later addition or renovation.

To save time and avoid frustration, call Local History Librarian Meghan Hays at 216-367-3016 or email her at mhays@shakerlibrary.org. She can search for the Plan File Number ahead of time and let you know if the Library has your blueprints. Leave a message for her with your contact information and the house address you seek and she will get back to you as soon as possible. Even if she can't locate the blueprints, she can provide other interesting information about your home, such as who lived there before you, and information about your architect.

If the blueprints are located, residents can use the Library's microfilm reader-printer to view and make plain letter-sized copies for ten cents. They can also order copies printed on 18x24-inch plain paper for \$20 for a set of plans up to 20 images, and \$1/image over 20 images. Turn-around time is usually less

than one week.

Nonprofit Start Ups and Grant Seeking

Starting a nonprofit venture can be challenging. Organizers need to be sure that their nonprofit has a strong foundation from which to grow, and they need guide-

lines to help them identify particular issues in nonprofit management along with the tools to successfully resolve them. Finally, they need to know where to look for funding.

Learn about these issues from Tony Coletto from the Service Corps of Retired Executives and David Holmes of the Foundation Center – Cleveland



Academic Leaders Start Here.

In the incessant debate between public and private schools, St. Dominic stands apart as a refreshing alternative. With small student-teacher ratios, a top-notch curriculum and a wealth of classroom resources, we are competitive with the most elite of institutions. Yet, with a strong grounding in faith, a nurturing environment and an emphasis on community service, our attitude is anything but elite.

Ours may not be the only path to academic leadership, but it's a mighty effective one. Year upon year, graduates of St. Dominic School have gone on to become leaders not only in their high school and university classes, but in most every aspect of business, political, spiritual and community life.

To learn more, join us at our Open House on Sunday, December 5th, 10 am to 1 pm. Or, call 216.561.4400 to schedule a meeting and tour.

Come see for yourself why tomorrow's leaders start here.



3455 NORWOOD ROAD SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO WWW.STDOMINICSCHOOL.NET

MAIN LIBRARY ■ 16500 VAN AKEN BOULEVARD ■ 216-991-2030 EXT 3141
BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH ■ 20600 FAYETTE ROAD ■ 216-991-2421 EXT 2241

PLAY AND LEARN STATION

AT MAIN LIBRARY

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

10 am-noon Tuesdays,
Thursdays & Saturdays.

6-8 pm Tuesdays.

No registration required.

(Closed Saturdays, December 25 & January 1.)

PLAY AND LEARN BABIES

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

10 am-noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

No registration required.

(Closed Saturdays, December 25 & January 1.)

PLAY AND LEARN STATION

FOR CAREGIVERS

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

10 am-noon Wednesdays.

One-time registration is required; call Family Connections at 216-921-2023.

Play and Learn programs are offered in collaboration with Family Connections.

SATURDAY PRESCHOOL STORIES AT PLAY AND LEARN STATION

Stories and fun for preschoolers.

11 am Saturdays.

No registration is required.

(Closed Saturdays, December 25 & January 1.)

NESTLINGS

It's never too soon to start sharing books with babies! Enjoy songs and rhymes, books and bounces in this class for babies 5 to 15 months with a grown-up.

Winter Session:

January 10–March 1.

9:30 am Mondays at Main Library
(This class will be held on the second floor in meeting room B.)

9:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch.

Must be target age by January 10.

Register in person, by phone or online beginning Monday, December 27.

(No program Monday, January 17.)

FLEDGLINGS

Experience the wonder of words with your child through stories and songs, movement, puppets and fun in this story time for children 15 to 24 months (with a grown-up).

Winter Session:

January 10–March 1.

10:30 am Mondays at Main Library
(This class will be held on the second floor in meeting room B.)

10:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch.

Must be target age by January 10.

Register in person, by phone or online beginning Monday, December 27.

(No program Monday, January 17.)

TERRIFIC TWOS

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

Winter Session:

January 10–March 3.

10 am Mondays or Wednesdays
at Woods Branch.

10 am Tuesdays or Thursdays
at Main Library.

Must be 2 years old by January 10.

Register in person, by phone or online beginning Monday, December 27.

(No program Monday, January 17.)

PRESCHOOL STORIES

Stories, rhymes, and fun for children 3, 4, & 5 years old.

Winter Session: January 11–March 3.

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

10 am Wednesdays at Main Library.

No registration required; groups must make special arrangements.

PAJAMA STORIES AT WOODS BRANCH

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

7:15 pm Monday, December 20.

7:15 pm Monday, January 24.

Registration begins 2 weeks before each program.

WRITERS CLUB AT MAIN LIBRARY

(Grades 2-4)

An enriching program that encourages children to express themselves using their imagination and words. Poetry, creative fiction, letters, postcards, newsletters, menus, and maps are just some of the library forms that young writers will explore.

Winter Session: January 11–March 1.

Register in person, by phone or online beginning Tuesday, December 28.

THE HOMEWORK CENTER**AT MAIN LIBRARY** (Grades 2-6)

Free homework help provided by teachers under the supervision of Cheryl Darden, special education supervisor, Cleveland Public Schools.

An adult must be present to register the student at the first visit. Students must be picked up by 6:30 pm.

4-6:30 pm Mondays Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

Meeting Room F (second floor).

(Closed December 20, 21, 23 & December 27, 28, 29 & Monday, January 17.)

The Homework Center is funded by MyCom.

FEIERN, CELEBRER, PRANZNOVANJE,**OSLAVOVAT – INTERNATIONAL WINTER****CELEBRATIONS AT WOODS BRANCH**

(Grades K–4)

Learn how children around the world celebrate winter. Enjoy crafts, food, and fun!

4:15-5:00 pm Wednesday, December 8.

In-person, phone, and online registration began November 24.

MEET AMERICAN GIRL DOLL JULIE

(Grades 1–5)

Listen to a passage from the first book in the doll's series, play a game, make a craft and enjoy a snack from Julie's era.

2-3:30 pm Saturday, December 11 at Main Library.

In-person, phone, and online registration began November 27.

2-3:30 pm Saturday, January 8 at Woods Branch.

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Monday, December 27.

when they present "How to Start a Nonprofit before You Seek Funding" at 7 pm Tuesday, December 7 at the Main Library.

Tony Coletto is senior business development consultant at S&A Consulting Group with more than 35 years experience in business planning. He has particular expertise in the areas of business plan development, succession planning, financial analyses, and internal corporate reorganizations.

David Holmes is the regional training coordinator for the Foundation Center-Cleveland, where he is responsible for developing and implementing training programs in support of nonprofits. He has over 23 years experience in the nonprofit sector and offers a unique and insightful perspective into the field of philanthropy and nonprofit management. He has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in Literature from Villanova University, and a master's degree in Library Science from Kent State University.

Back-to-School Library Orientation for Adult Learners Offered at Main Library

Shaker Library has created a reference tour that will highlight the Library's academically oriented resources. Designed for adult students, the tour begins on the main floor of Main Library at 8 pm Tuesday, January 11 and ends in the Computer Lab on the second floor where participants will get a quick overview of the Library's online resources. Take the 45-minute tour and save hours of searching. For more information, call 216-991-2030.

Library Sponsors Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest

Students in grades 3 through 8 are invited to enter the Library's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest. One winner will be selected in each category (grades 3 & 4; grades 5 & 6; and grades 7 & 8) to receive a U. S. Savings Bond. Rules and entry forms are available at the information desks at both libraries, and all entries are due by 6 pm Friday, December 10. Participants will be invited to an awards reception at 4:30 pm Friday, January 14 at the Main Library.

Book Discussions

Warm up your winter with a good book and double your reading pleasure by sharing a discussion with others. Sign up for a discussion and pick up books at the Main Library one month before each discussion.

10 AM TUESDAY DECEMBER 14

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

The compelling voice of a refugee illuminates the life-changing friendship between two women that begins with a horrifying encounter on a secluded Nigerian beach.

7:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 14

Where Memories Lie by Deborah Crombie

When a stolen diamond brooch turns up for sale at a London auction house, its owner, a retired academic who escaped Nazi Germany with her now deceased husband, turns to Metropolitan Police Inspector Gemma James for help.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Spies of Warsaw by Alan Furst

A French military attache searches for clues to Nazi intentions in this historical espionage set in pre-war Warsaw.

10 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

The Vintage Caper by Peter Mayle

Both Francophiles and oenophiles will enjoy this satisfying tale about a crime fighting wine expert in pursuit of a multi-million dollar wine thief, which begins in L.A. and ends in France's wine country.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

by Alan Bradley

Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, a resident of the English village Bishop's Lacey, is happy to use her precocious skills in defense of her father, Colonel de Luce, who is under suspicion in the deaths of two men.

7 PM WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19

First, Break All The Rules: What The World's Greatest Managers Do Differently

by Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman

Based on interviews with 80,000 successful managers, the authors isolate the skills

involved in managerial positions and discuss how you can develop them yourself.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

by Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks died of cancer in 1951, yet she lives on. Cells from her biopsy were cultured, reproduced, and distributed to labs worldwide, making her the godmother of virology. This fascinating history is her story – full of the racial politics of medicine.

The BookShelf:

New History Books of Note

American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism, 1865-1900 by H.W. Brands. Doubleday Books, 2010. Focusing on the accomplishments of business visionaries, such as Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and J. P. Morgan, the author describes how America was transformed, in just

three decades, from a nation of small farmers and businessmen into an industrial giant.

And the Show Went On: Cultural Life in Nazi-Occupied Paris by Alan Riding. Knopf Publishing Group, 2010. This book explores Parisian cultural life under the Nazis, and the decisions made by prominent artists, authors, and entertainers, such as Picasso, Matisse, Camus, Sartre, Edith Piaf, and Maurice Chevalier, to stay or flee, to collaborate with or resist the occupying forces.

Berlin at War by Roger Moorhouse. Basic Books, 2010. Berlin was the epicenter of the war in Europe and the author, a British historian, uses diaries, memoirs, and interviews to provide a detailed account of the effect the conflagration had on everyday life in the German capital.

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The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, and Indian Allies by Alan Taylor. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. The War of 1812, the causes and course of which were complicated and often obscure, is given a full treatment in this book, with emphasis on the borderlands between British North America (later to become Canada) and the young republic to the south.

The Envoy: The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II by Alex Kershaw. Da Capo Press, 2010. Credited with saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the grasp of Adolf Eichmann and his Nazi cohorts, Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat and graduate in architecture from the University of Michigan, vanished from Soviet-occupied Budapest in January 1945, his fate unknown to this date.

First Family: Abigail and John Adams by Joseph Ellis. Knopf Publishing Group, 2010. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author's keen historical and political insights illuminate the dynamic relationship of this couple, their triumphs and tragedies, and their contributions to the founding of the nation.

Hitler's First War: Adolf Hitler, the Men of the List Regiment, and the First World War by Thomas Weber. Oxford University Press, USA, 2010. In this groundbreaking work, the author challenges the conventional theory that Hitler's formative experience was his service in World War I, showing that Hitler carefully crafted and aggressively protected the myth of his wartime experiences.

My Thoughts Be Bloody: The Bitter Rivalry Between Edwin and John Wilkes Booth That Led to an American Tragedy by Nora Titone. Free Press, 2010. Painting multiple portraits of members of the dysfunctional Booth family, the author describes how the spectacular professional success of Edwin Booth on stage offended the vanity of his untalented younger brother, John

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Leo Katz	Michelle Scharfstein
Isabella McKnight	Annabel Wang
Ilana Polster	Molly Wymer
Kirby Rayburn	

National Achievement Semifinalist

Mark Kinney Erica Schoonover

National Merit Commended Students

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Adam Cohen	Diane Ryu
Jamal Dillman-Hasso	Thomas Scholl
Victoria Fydrich	Robin Su
Trent Gramlich	Joshua Tallman
Isaac Hoffman	Evan Tuttle
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Mary Lou: A Step Above the Rest

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Wilkes Booth, which contributed to the assassin's resolve to make a name for himself.

Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788 by Pauline Maier. Simon & Schuster, 2010. This is a wide-ranging, masterful account of the debates over the Constitution's ratification by the states, showing how the arguments were shaped by each state's peculiar history and by the leading politicians of the era, including the immensely influential George Washington.

Three Armies on the Somme: The First Battle of the Twentieth Century by William Philpott. Knopf Publishing Group, 2010. On July 1, 1916, British and French armies launched an offensive against the German army in the department of the Somme. By the end of the day, British forces had suffered 60,000 casualties, and by battle's end, on November 18, 1916, total casu-

alties for all three armies exceeded 1.5 million.

Poetry Back In the Woods

The Library's poetry series continues this winter with readings by three poets, Meredith Holmes, Martin Kohn, and Lou Suarez, at 7 pm Tuesday, December 14 at Woods Branch.

Meredith Holmes is a Cleveland Heights-based freelance writer and editor. She was part of Big Mama, a poetry theater group that performed nationally in the 1970s and has published two collections of poetry. In 2003, Pond Road Press published *Shubad's Crown*. Her poems also appear in Garrison Keillor's anthology, *Good Poems for Bad Times – Cleveland in Prose and Poetry*, edited by Bonnie Jacobson, and in *Awake at the End*, published by Heights Arts and Bottom Dog Press. Holmes served as the first Poet Laureate of Cleveland Heights, writ-

ing poems for various public, civic, and arts-related occasions.

Martin Kohn is director of the program in Medical Humanities at the Cleveland Clinic's Center for Ethics, Humanities and Spiritual Care, as well as for the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He and Carol Donley of Hiram College are founding editors of the Literature and Medicine series at Kent State University Press that published 19 volumes from 1992-2009. His poetry has appeared in print and electronic journals including *Exquisite Corpse* and *Zeek: A Jewish Journal of Thought and Culture*.

Lou Suarez is the author of two book-length collections of poetry, *Ask and Traveler*, and three poetry chapbooks, *Losses of Moment*, *The Grape Painter*, and *On U.S. 6 to Providence*. He is currently professor emeritus at Lorain County Community College.

Free Computer Classes Offered at Main Library

'Tis the season to make resolutions to improve your computer skills. Classes range from basic mouse skills to PowerPoint and Excel. In-person, online, or telephone registration begins two weeks before each class. For more information, call 216-991-2030 ext.3185.

MOUSE CLASS

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

This 90-minute class is designed to help beginning computer users become comfortable using the mouse, the basic tool that allows people to use software, surf the net, and play games on the computer.

INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL®

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

7-8:30 PM MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Learn the basics of spreadsheet construction, including formatting and design, printing options, creating and using basic

"My kids loved camp so much, over the weekends, they were counting the days until they could go back."

Ali K., camp parent

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formulas. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: GOOGLE DOCUMENTS™

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

3-4:30 PM SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

With just a web browser, work on documents, spreadsheets, and databases over the Internet. Invite others to edit the documents and work collaboratively. Participants must have basic Internet skills and be able to use the mouse. Some familiarity with productivity software is helpful.

INTERNET

7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

Discover how to find and use a wide variety of online resources using Internet Explorer. Learn how to "surf" the web to find sites of interest, and ways to search for information. Participants must be able to use the mouse to click, drag and highlight.

CHARTS AND GRAPHS IN EXCEL®

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

7-8:30 PM MONDAY, JANUARY 24

Explore the ways that Excel can display data as charts and graphs. Learn the basic ways data can be charted, and review chart types to understand how they are used and with what kind of data. Some familiarity with Excel spreadsheets is expected.

WORKING WITH WINDOWS®

3-4:30 PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Learn how Windows works! This class is designed for those who can navigate the Internet and work with programs, but are not comfortable using multiple windows. Topics include opening, moving, resizing and arranging windows, copying and pasting, as well as tips and tricks for using the keyboard to make some activities easier. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS:

ONLINE JOB HUNTING

7-8:30 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

This class is designed to help job seekers develop Internet and computer skills needed for online job hunting. Discover websites that can help create resumes and get an overview of local online resources and tips for investigating local companies. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

Teen Scene

THE TEEN CENTER (ages 12-17)

Main Library Second Floor.

3:30-8 pm Monday–Thursday.

TEEN CENTER WINTER BREAK HOURS: 1–6 pm.

Monday, December 20–Thursday, December 23.

Monday, December 27–Thursday, December 30.

CREATE A CANDY HOUSE! IN THE TEEN CENTER (Ages 12-17).

Ever dream of eating a house made from candy? Join us in the Teen Center to build (and EAT!) your very own candy house using graham crackers, frosting, and other treats. This event is sure to satisfy any sweet tooth!

4:15 pm Wednesday, December 8.

In-person, phone, and online registration began November 24.

TAB MEETING AT

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSTORE

Members meet at Barnes & Noble Eton Collection to choose book titles for the teen collection.

7:30-8:15 pm Tuesday, December 14.

WATCH TOY STORY 3!

IN THE TEEN CENTER (Ages 12-17).

It's Winter Break! Come spend the afternoon watching a movie, drinking hot chocolate and making yourself a s'more.

2 pm Wednesday, December 22.

Register in person, online, or by phone beginning Wednesday, December 8.

MAKE A 2010 MEMORY TIME CAPSULE AT WOODS BRANCH (Grades 6 and up).

Bring some memories, photos, and souvenirs from the past year and create your own personal time capsule to take home.

2-3 pm Thursday, December 30.

Register in person, online, or by phone beginning Thursday, December 16.

TAB MEETING AT MAIN LIBRARY

Regular meeting for 2010-2011 Teen Advisory Board members.

7:30-8:15 pm Tuesday, January 18.

LUAU AT THE LIBRARY! IN THE TEEN CENTER (Ages 12-17)

Aloha! Beat the winter blues and join us in the Teen Center for beach-themed food, crafts, games, prizes, music, and fun!

4:15 pm Wednesday, January 19.

Register in person, online, or by phone beginning Wednesday, January 5.

WEB EMAIL

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Learn to access a web email account and to send, receive, reply, and forward messages, as well as how to delete, file, move, and print them. Participants must be able to use the mouse, to navigate websites, and to type URLs.

INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT®

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5

Put some power in your presentations. Learn to create a slide show with text and graphics, edit slides, and add sound and animation. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

OPENOFFICE.ORG

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY JANUARY 27

Can't afford the high cost of software? Try OpenOffice.org, a free suite of software with features and functions much like the others. Some familiarity with word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software is helpful.

GRAPHICS IN POWERPOINT®

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Learn to create effective PowerPoint presentations by inserting clip art, Word Art, digital pictures, and text boxes into slides. Basic familiarity with creating slides and slideshows is expected.

WINWAY RESUME WRITING

7-8:30 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

Learn to create a professional looking resume with Winway Resume Deluxe 11. This program offers video segments for learning, a manager for contacts and job leads, and search functions that gather resources into a single page. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

SOCIAL NETWORKING:**MYSPACE, FACEBOOK, LINKEDIN**

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Social networking sites are used by millions and are among the most visited on the web. Watch a demonstration to see why they are so popular, and discuss their joys and perils.

BASIC WORD PROCESSING

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

Learn how to format documents using Microsoft Word software. Topics to be covered include: formatting text and paragraphs, text alignment, the use of toolbars, menus, and context-sensitive menus. Participants must be comfortable using the mouse.

ANIMATION IN POWERPOINT®

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

Everything in a slide can be animated. Learn the important objects that can be added to a slide and the menus that control them. Participants should be familiar with the basics of creating a slide show, including adding new slides and using graphics. Using the mouse and searching on the Internet are required skills.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS:**GOOGLEMANIA™**

3-4:30 PM SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Learn advanced Internet searching strategies using the Google™ search engine, including tips and tricks for finding better information more quickly and efficiently. Topics include Google Advanced Search, Settings and Preferences, Google Maps, Google Books, and many other services. Participants must have basic Internet skills and be able to use the mouse.

Video Gaming for Girls

Calling all girls from 8 to 108! Learn to play Wii and Sony Playstation 3 games

or improve your skills at this program for girls only. Games include: Wii Sports, Super Smash Bros. Brawl and PS3's LittleBigPlanet. Bring your mom, girl friend, or your grandmother for gaming fun from 4-5:30 pm Thursdays, December 30 and January 20. Gamers can register in person, online or by phone.

End Notes

- The **Library Board of Trustees** meets at 6:30 pm Tuesdays, December 14 and January 18 in the Main Library Board Room.

- **Friends of the Shaker Library** meets at 7 pm Tuesday, January 18 at Main Library.

- **English In Action**, a free program for those seeking to learn to speak English, meets at 7 pm every Tuesday in a meeting room on the second floor of the Main Library.

- **Main Library and Bertram Woods Branch** will delay opening until 10 am Friday, December 17 for a staff development meeting.

- **Knit Nights** are held from 7-8:45 pm Thursday evenings, December 9 and January 13 in the Dietz Room at Bertram Woods Branch. Socialize with other knitters and get help on your projects at this creative evening moderated by experienced knitter, Fern Braverman.

Library Closings

- Both libraries will be closed December 24, 25, and 26 and January 1.

- Both libraries will be closed and staff furloughed on Friday, December 31.

- Both libraries will be closed Monday, January 17 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.





let it snow

Many Shaker homeowners are fortunate to have fireplaces as architecturally interesting and unique as the homes themselves. BY NANCY O'CONNOR PHOTOS BY GREEN STREET STUDIO



Previous page: Shaker Schools Foundation Director of Development Sue Starrett and her husband Jerry Smith with their detailed stone hearth in Onaway. **Above:** Interior designer Judy Kushner at her Shaker home.

Winter's long dark nights, frigid temps, and festive holidays have a way of drawing family and friends to the hearth. What goes unused and often unnoticed eight months of the year now gets everyone's full attention. All eyes are drawn to your fireplace.

Whether graced with a grand floor-to-ceiling brick façade, or framed in elegant marble or hand-carved stone, every fireplace serves as a focal point, especially this time of year.

So how do you decorate to maximize the beauty of your fireplace? Shaker Life asked two residents and interior decorators, Judy Kushner and Jan Hunt, to share some ideas.

Make the Most of Your Mantel

"The fireplace mantel is a great place to pull together the overall design of the

room, but it is often a challenge for homeowners," says Judy Kushner. "It's best to decorate it in a way that sets the tone for the room, whether that is traditional, casual, vintage, or modern."

She likes arrangements of a single type of object on the mantel, such as candlesticks, identically framed photographs, ceramic objects, botanical prints, or vintage figurines. "Architectural pieces have a greater impact and are more interesting to look at than a jumble of unrelated items."

Neither decorator likes to see family photos on the mantel. "I love photos, and have lots of them, but I see the fireplace mantle as part of design, not a display area," says Hunt.

Whatever you arrange on the mantel, "Balance and proportion are key," notes Kushner. "Symmetrical placement of objects will balance the room and sets a tone

of calm and order. Asymmetrical design is more creative and edgy – less balanced and more eclectic.”

Hunt cautions that “too many small objects look insignificant and objects that are too large will shrink the important focal point, which is the fireplace.”

If you are lucky enough to have electrical outlets on the mantel, she adds, “perfectly proportioned identical lamps flanking a beautifully framed mirror or piece of art is very inviting and draws you into the room.”

Should your fireplace feature an ornate, highly carved mantle, Kushner suggests leaning “a single piece of contemporary art on it. It looks more interesting.” If your fireplace has little or no mantle to serve as a ledge, she recommends hanging a series of framed wall art, “perhaps three

rows of three prints hung in a grid to the ceiling. This design makes the plainest fireplaces look more important.”

What about the Walls?

Hunt advises readers who are decorating or redecorating their fireplace to “plan the whole wall. The entire fireplace wall is part of the room’s interior design – consider it so, when you think of the space around it.”

The wall space above the mantel, Kushner says, “is a natural display area for a great piece of art that takes up a big percentage of the space.” She recommends installing a ceiling art light.

“The artwork will look amazing in the evening when all the room lights are dimmed and the light is focused on the

This page: Jan and Richard Hunt in their Sussex Courts living room. The room’s fireplace is pictured on the cover.

Following pages: Simple splendor on Weybridge Road in Boulevard. Lisa and Mark Gerteis’ bedroom was a ballroom addition in the 1930s. The house was built in 1918.









Above: An early fall fire next to the pool at the Gerteis home on Weybridge. **Opposite page:** A Shaker Boulevard interior designed around the fireplace.

Fireplace Pointers

There are few things more mesmerizing than a crackling fire, or more delicious than a marshmallow roasted over an open flame. But ensuring fireplace safety and longevity also calls for taking care of what's going on inside and outside the fireplace as well.

- Place a chimney cap on the top of the chimney to prevent water damage, nesting animals, and debris that may block the chimney. Blockages can cause dangerous carbon monoxide to flow into your home.
- Replace lost mortar on the chimney and regularly check the flashing to avoid water damage.
- Have your interior firebox cleaned and the chimney swept at least once a year, or more often if you enjoy frequent fires.
- Get damaged bricks in the firebox repaired and missing mortar replaced as needed.

Courtesy of Anthony DeFrancesco of DeFrancesco & Sons and Joe Lallo of Lallo Masonry.

piece, drawing your eye to it."

Mirrors hung above a fireplace mantel are traditional and beautiful to look at, and especially useful when the goal is to make the room seem bigger. But whether hanging a mirror or framed art, Hunt says, keep spatial considerations in mind. "I've seen a lot of people make the mistake of putting art above the fireplace that is too small, or they hang too many small things. Art is fine, but it must be large enough to fill the space."

Hunt faced a daunting decorating challenge when she and her husband moved to Shaker eight years ago and bought a Sussex Courts townhome pre-construction. The plans called for a two-story, 18-foot living room fireplace. She took advantage of the opportunity to work with the builders to design a decorating solution.

"I've always loved arches, so we asked for arches in several hallways and custom

designed an arch into the fireplace. We also had a vertical mirror built into the façade to accentuate the room's vertical design. The mirror reflects the art hanging on the walls, our three rice goddesses from Thailand, and the plant that sits at the opening of the loft. It's fun."

Because her fireplace wall is so tall, Hunt knew she needed tall pieces on either side of the firepit "to help the eye travel up." She uses two tall, antique Chinese cabinets, which are complemented by two red Chinese porcelain pieces on the mantel.

During the winter holidays, she places garland on the fireplace mantel to bring warmth to the whole room and add holiday spirit. She uses faux garland because of her allergies, "but from a distance, you can't tell." She also arranges electric or battery-operated candles in the garland: "There are wonderful options now avail-

able that you can set to turn on at a certain time in the evening."

Decorative Extras

Wrought iron or brass fireplace tools are practical, and a great accent for any fireplace. "Add a large basket filled with logs and an appropriately scaled fireplace screen and you will make the fireplace look functional," Kushner says. "A fireplace should look like it works and has a purpose, even if the owner chooses never to light it."

Many homeowners add a glass door to the fireplace for safety and a contemporary look. Finally, arrange the furniture to create an intimate area in front of the fireplace that will encourage people to sit and chat by the fire...and revel in your beautiful mantel décor, of course.





shaker dances



Whether it's students taking lessons or a company of professionals rehearsing for an upcoming performance, there is plenty of dancing in Shaker Heights. We are home to two of the region's most popular companies, Verlezza Dance and Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble, and also to Dr. Margaret Carlson, director of Cleveland's Verb Ballets. Their work is helping the spirit of dance thrive throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond.

BY DIANA SIMEON

PHOTOS BY KEVIN G. REEVES

Verlezza Dance

A tradition of modern dance

It's a Monday evening at the First Unitarian Church. In a studio on the second floor, a group of six dancers is working with longtime Shaker resident Sabatino Verlezza. "One, two and three and back, two and three and turn, two and three and . . .," he chants, while beating rhythmically on a drum. The dancers move across the room, keeping pace with Sabatino's voice. This diverse group of varying ages includes Shaker High graduate Amara Romano, who glides through the exercises in her wheelchair.

Welcome to Verlezza Dance, which since 2003 has been based in Shaker Heights, where Sabatino and his wife and Verlezza Dance co-director Barbara Allegra Verlezza have made their home for more than 15 years.

Tonight's dancers are part of an advanced class, one of several classes offered by Verlezza Dance at the Unitarian Church. But Verlezza Dance

This page and overleaf: Sabatino Verlezza with dancers with Amara Romano, and Tracy Pattison.



is primarily a company of professional dancers, which performs throughout the region, including most recently at E.J. Thomas Hall at the University of Akron.

Sabatino and Barbara met at the University of Michigan, where they both earned a master of fine arts in dance. After graduation, they moved to New York City and danced with the May O'Donnell Dance Company from 1979 until the company closed in 1988. (They married in 1986.)

Verlezza Dance's connection to May O'Donnell is important to understanding where Sabatino and Barbara come from as artists and teachers. O'Donnell ranks among the pioneers of American modern dance. She was a principal dancer with the legendary Martha Graham and also choreographed more than 50 works of her own, including the now classic 1943

"Suspension." She died in 2004 at the age of 97.

O'Donnell took elements of Martha Graham's philosophy and developed them into her own technique, the hallmarks of which are a "strong torso, high release of the chest, and quick foot work," explains Barbara. "Coming from that legacy, Sabatino and I are among a handful of people who still teach the technique full-time." The company has the rights to stage O'Donnell's work.

When O'Donnell's company folded, Sabatino, who had also been choreographing for O'Donnell and a number of other dance companies – and teaching throughout the city – decide to found his own company. As a choreographer, he had developed his own style and technique. Barbara danced with the company as well as for the choreographers Sophie

Maslow, Norman Walker and others, and the couple had two children.

Then in 1994, Sabatino and Barbara were recruited by the Cleveland-based Dancing Wheels – a company with dancers with and without disabilities, then a part of Cleveland Ballet. The couple moved to Shaker Heights.

“We were looking for a diverse community that had good schools and Shaker just kept coming up,” says Barbara, who is now also an associate professor at the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. “We wanted to have close proximity to downtown Cleveland and commuting was an important issue

for us also. We relied on public transportation to get downtown.”

They purchased a home in Shaker’s Lomond neighborhood and their children attended Shaker Schools. Today, their son Sabatino is studying dance at Kent and daughter Allegra is a junior at Shaker High. She also dances and is involved in theater.

In 2003, Sabatino and Barbara left Dancing Wheels. Barbara joined the faculty at Kent, while Sabatino decided the time had come to revive Verlezza Dance, which had been idle for almost a decade. Today, the company has eight dancers in its professional ensemble and it offers

Edna Duffy, center, with students from left to right: Malia Hughes, Kyndi Oliver, Marlana Kendricks, Kamela Abdulrazzaq, Lauren Reese, and Lynette Grair.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble

January 8-9

Cleveland Playhouse

This two-day Festival of Faiths will feature performances by DuffyLit and the Cleveland-based Wings Over Jordan choir. More information at www.duffylit.org

Verb Ballets

February 11

Breen Center for the Performing Arts,

St. Ignatius High School

This performance will feature the company premier of a work by Alwin Nikolais and a world premier of a dance by artist-in-residence Terence Greene. More information at www.verbballets.org

Verlezza Dance

Winter 2011

Dobama Theater

Performance date to be determined. More information at www.verlezzadance.org

Les Délices

February 13

Herr Chapel at Plymouth Church

La Guitarre Royale features works by the guitar masters at the court of Louis XIV. Toronto-based guest Lucas Harris (theorbo and baroque guitar) will join Debra Nagy (baroque oboe) and Les Delices regulars Scott Metcalf (violin) and Emily Walhout (viola da gamba). More information at www.lesdelices.org



Patricia Nelson, Diane Watts, Brenda Spicer, and Edna Duffy.

a variety of classes and summer camps throughout the year in its Shaker studio.

Attend a performance of Verlezza Dance and you will experience a series of lovely and thought-provoking modern dance works, and you will also immediately notice the company's commitment to including dancers with physical challenges. "We believe that everyone should have a chance to explore dance," says Sabatino, who also fills the role of artistic director of Verlezza Dance. "We make inclusiveness part of the professional company."

Adds Shaker resident Tracy Pattison, principal dancer and assistant artistic director: "The O'Donnell technique is adaptable to all different kinds of bodies, and opening that door of possibility is so exciting."

It's an approach that Verlezza Dance also brings to its various community outreach programs. It has collaborated with the Euclid Adult Training Center through the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Cleveland Clinic's Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation. It also works in area schools to provide students with a dance experi-

ence, this year partnering with both Hathaway Brown School and The Ratner School. In year's past, Sabatino and Barbara have served as artists-in-residence at Fernway Elementary School, where Barbara has also placed some of her Kent students as student-teachers with physical education teacher Sean Morris.

"When you are here long enough, you can make these connections," says Barbara. "At the end of the day, I'm delighted that we have been able to do that."

For more information, visit www.verlezzadance.org.

Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble

Preserving the American Negro spiritual

When Edna Duffy was growing up in rural Arkansas, she was surrounded by the music that has come to be formally known as the American Negro spiritual. "We sang these songs at church and we sang them at home," says Duffy. "My father was a great singer and our entertainment was to sit around and sing."

After attending college in Arkansas, Duffy moved to Cleveland and began teaching in Shaker Heights. She also

studied voice at the Cleveland Institute of Music and became interested in performing the spirituals she had grown up with.

"I asked my teachers if they would start a choir to do this music specifically, but no one wanted to do it. I remember my mother had always said, 'If you want something done, you have to do it yourself,' so I did it myself."

She started with four singers, but Duffy's approach to the spiritual had a twist. She wasn't interested in performing in the "staid concert style I had been taught." Instead, Duffy decided to choreograph the music, presenting a combined program of song and dance. "Because the spirituals were based on what the people who created the songs were doing when they created them, I felt we

ought to be moving."

And so began the Shaker-based Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble (or DuffyLit), which last year celebrated its 25th anniversary. DuffyLit's adult ensemble now has eight dancers and twelve singers. It performs throughout Cleveland and has traveled to France, Spain, Australia, and Africa, and has even taken the stage at Carnegie Hall.

These days, DuffyLit includes a teen dance ensemble and a children's choir, and offers a wide variety of classes and a summer camp in its studio on Chagrin Boulevard.

The primary goal for Duffy and her ensemble is to help preserve the spiritual as a distinctly American musical art, created by African slaves out of their



Above: Margaret Carlson, director of Verb Ballets (see page 53). **Below:** Verb performs The Cleveland Flats Suite at the Breen Center for the Performing Arts in October at St. Ignatius High School. The dancer is Katie Gnagy. **PHOTOS BY STEVEN M. HALE**





Verb dancer Antwon Duncan performs in *The Myth and the Madness of Edgar Allan Poe*. **PHOTO BY STEVEN M. HALE**

experiences in bondage in the United States. Well-known examples include "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands," and "Wade in the Water." There are thousands. They are religious in nature but contain other meanings as well.

"The spirituals were vehicles of communication for the community," says Duffy, who has now lived in Shaker for many years. "There are codes in the songs. Some might be about slipping away to the Underground Railroad, while others were about things the people might not feel free to talk about in front of their owners."

continued on page 53

Music: Onward and Upward With ArtsPlymouth

Over the years, Shaker's Plymouth Church has played host to a wide variety of musical events, ranging from performances in the Cleveland Museum of Art's Viva and Gala Around Town Series to Cleveland Institute of Music recitals, not to mention the church's own choir and organ concerts.

This is all thanks to the church's ArtsPlymouth organization, which was founded in 1996 with the mission of promoting the arts to Plymouth's congregation and the wider community.

Last year, ArtsPlymouth decided to take its support for the arts a step further by establishing an artist-in-residence program. It's inaugural artist: the Cleveland-based early-music ensemble, Les Délices.

By all accounts, it's been a harmonious relationship. Les Délices is now in its second year as Plymouth's artist in residence. The ensemble, which specializes in French Baroque music, will play three concerts at the church during its 2010-11 season.

"What attracted us to Les Délices was that they were a new, up-and-coming group," says James Riggs, minister of music and the arts at Plymouth. "Part of our mission is to offer our space to these types of organizations, so it's a win-win on both sides."

In return for using the church's performance venue, the Herr Memorial Chapel, Les Délices' founder and director Debra Nagy (a Baroque oboist) and other members of the ensemble occasionally play at Plymouth's Sunday worship services.

"This kind of support from the church, from the point of view of providing rehearsal space and as a performing venue, it's just unmatched," says Nagy, who is on the faculty of Case Western and regularly plays with Baroque orchestras across the country, including Cleveland's Apollo's Fire.

The Chapel was renovated after the sudden death of long-time minister of music John Herr in 1993. The church removed curtains and drapes, installed air conditioning and a new floor, and purchased an historic organ for the balcony.

"But the great thing is that they removed all the pews and so the room is really flexible," explains Riggs. "It's an intimate space, but we can still seat 200 people."

Since its founding in 2006, Les Délices has received considerable acclaim, in Cleveland and beyond. In 2009, it was named one of the year's "top-ten early-music discoveries" by National Public Radio. This May, the group will perform in the prestigious concert series at New York City's Frick Collection.

Part of what has attracted audiences to Les Délices is its focus on the French Baroque, a period of high culture marked by the reign of Louis the XIV. It's rare to hear this music played in concert, as Baroque musicians tend to favor better-known Italian and German composers, such as Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi.

In its upcoming concerts at Plymouth, Les Délices will present *La Guitar Royale*, featuring works by guitar masters from Louis XIV's court, and *Myths & Allegories*, with cantatas by the French composers Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre and Thomas-Louis Bourgeois.

In addition to Les Délices, in the coming months ArtsPlymouth will use the Chapel for performances by Verlezza Dance, the church's Chancel Choir, and The Jupiter String Quartet.



(Alternative) Power Plays

"Alternative energy is a 'next-generation' business and falls into one of the sectors outlined in Shaker's new Economic Development plan. Shaker's emphasis on energy efficiency, historic preservation, and design standards will enable our community to benefit from the tens of thousands of new jobs in the next-generation business sectors over the next 30 years."

– Shaker Heights Economic Development Director Tania Menesse

Solar energy entrepreneurs shine brightly in Shaker

COMPANY PROFILES BY JENNIFER COILEY DIAL AND CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON

PHOTOS BY CAYDIE HELLER

Carbon Vision

Long-time Shaker resident Michael Shaut and his partner, Jon Utech, founded Carbon Vision, the largest of Shaker's alternative energy companies, in 2008. Essentially, Carbon Vision works to help clients reduce their carbon footprints by assessing a company's impact on the environment and helping to determine a client's best renewable energy solutions. It manages all aspects of the project, including grant proposals.

"It becomes feasible for companies to turn to renewable energy when there are federal and state incentives that can pay up to 75 percent of the cost," says Shaut, who lives in the Malvern neighborhood with Terrese Tuchscher and their three sons, who attend Shaker schools.

Shaut, Carbon Vision's chief executive officer and president, began his career as an environmental attorney. Prior to starting Carbon Vision, he was the CEO of an education lending group where he implemented energy efficiencies and green data (paperless) initiatives. Utech, the chief financial officer and executive vice president, has worked with many Fortune 500 companies mapping carbon footprints, implementing eco-friendly product packaging, and benchmarking corporate sustainability programs.

The company's offices are on the 11th floor of Tower East in the Warrensville/Van Aken district. While Carbon Vision is a full-service alternative energy company, Utech says "at least 90 percent of our business these days is in solar projects. That's what our clients are looking for."

Solar clients include cities and educational institutions all over Northeast Ohio. Carbon Vision currently has solar installation projects underway at Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights and for the City of Geneva, Ohio, and will install a 20,000-square-foot solar roof on the Scot Center at the College of Wooster, a recreation and athletic facility. The installation will be the largest on any college roof in America.

"This project is emblematic of how new campus facilities should be built in the 21st



century,” Shaut says. “Working with educational institutions gives us an opportunity to help teach the next generation about sustainability,” says Utech.

Anaerobic biodigestion, another option available to clients, is a process in which microorganisms break down organic material in the absence of oxygen. This produces a gas composed of methane (a potent greenhouse gas) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). When manure and food waste are processed with an industrial anaerobic biodigestion system, these gases are captured and burned to generate electricity. Carbon Vision’s biodigester can process expired milk, beer, cream, waste grease from food manufacturing plants, and manure.

This method of environmental recycling has financial benefits for the client, creates jobs, and replaces fossil fuels with a renewable fuel source, reduces methane emissions from landfills, and reduces landfill space.

Carbon Vision also buys and sells carbon credits and renewable energy credits (RECs) for clients. Carbon credits are certified reductions in CO₂ equivalent emissions. If a company’s carbon emissions fall below a set allowance, that company can sell the difference, in the form of credits, to companies that exceed their carbon emission limits.

RECs are commodities that certify that the owner of the REC has purchased renewable energy (anaerobic biodigestion, solar, wind). Carbon-based energy suppliers such as coal-burning utilities are required to buy a percentage of their energy from renewable sources. In short, RECs serve as incentives for the growth of renewable energy initiatives.

In 2008, Ohio Senate Bill 221 was signed into law, which requires that there be a 22 percent reduction in energy demand by 2025 and that 25 percent of electricity sold in Ohio must be generated from alternative energy sources.

“Ohio is positioning itself as a leader in alternate energy initiatives,” says Utech. Carbon Vision in turn is positioning itself for that future.

Sunflower Solutions

If you’re going to open a new business incubator such as Shaker LaunchHouse, you might as well secure an industry-changing start-up company like Sunflower Solutions, LLC. The innovative venture designs and sells the world’s first and only manually operated solar panel tracking system.

Panels with tracking systems offer a 45 percent increase in power output over stationary panels. Sunflower’s manual system, however, eliminates the expensive and complicated moving and breakable components of automatic systems that represent potential maintenance problems and costs. More affordable and easier to maintain, the manual system is ideal for construction projects in developing nations.

“We designed the system specifically for international applications, places such as Africa, Asia, India, South America, where there’s a lot of development and international aid work going on — and usually no reliable source of electricity,” says Christopher Clark.

The energetic entrepreneur and 2008 graduate of Miami University founded the company in January 2009 and moved into LaunchHouse shortly before it relocated from University Circle to Shaker Heights in September.

Commenting on the exciting success of Sunflower Solutions, LaunchHouse co-





Brett Jones

founder and managing partner Todd Goldstein says, "In a matter of 18 months, with less than about \$50,000 invested in his company, Chris has gone from an idea to a product that's now in five countries on three continents."

As for his title of Solar EmPowerer, Clark explains: "There's nothing traditional about what we do, so traditional titles just don't fit."

Solar Impact Company

Brett Jones is all about the nontraditional, too. His firm, Solar Impact Company, which he operates out of the Shaker home he grew up in, designs and creates custom application solar power systems to provide electricity in unexpected places, as well as for commercial and industrial facilities. This fall Solar Impact installed photovoltaic panels to power the bus shelters in Cleveland Heights, enabling the city to provide lights, heat, or wireless access for computers.

The future-oriented firm is already prepared to furnish the battery-recharging infrastructure that will be necessary to support the anticipated popularity of electric cars.

"Everyone thinks of solar power as large solar farms and solar panels that you might see on homes and office buildings or schools," says Jones, who founded his company in 2001, a year after graduating from The Ohio State University. "But we think that solar-powered stand-alone infrastructure is the future – things like bus shelters and other nonconventional structures and locations."



The Path To A Greener Future

Environment Ohio, an environmental advocacy organization based in Columbus, held a press conference at Shaker LaunchHouse in October asking for support of an initiative to extend the state's Advanced Energy Fund. LaunchHouse is the incubator for Sunflower Solutions, a solar energy startup.

The Advanced Energy Fund is administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Energy Resources Division. It has been funded since 2006 through fees on the electric bills of customers of Ohio's investor-owned utilities: American Electric Power, Dayton Power & Light, Duke Energy, and FirstEnergy. It is set to expire on December 31, 2010.

Craig Willert, a state field associate with Environment Ohio, said at the press conference that much of the growth in Ohio's solar industry has been made possible by the fund.

"The program has put Ohio on the path to a cleaner, greener future," he said. "Renewal of the fund is essential to the continuing success of solar and all other renewable energy sectors. I urge Ohio's state legislature to make it a top priority to renew the Advanced Energy Fund and work to pass long term policies to support renewable energy."

Brett Jones, owner of the home-based Solar Impact Company in Shaker, concurs with Willert. "The solar energy industry in Ohio needs state support," Jones told Shaker Life. "The cost of the Advanced Energy Fund to electricity users is only about nine cents a month." Jones said he intended to apply to the fund before the deadline.

For more on the fund, go to Development.Ohio.gov/Energy/Incentives/AdvancedEnergyFundGrants.htm

For more on Environment Ohio, go to environmentohio.org

Shaker residents can contact 25th district State Senator Nina Turner at SD25@maild.sen.state.oh.us and 8th district State Representative Armond Budish at district08@ohr.state.oh.us



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the language of economics

The opportunity to apply theory to real-world situations makes the economics electives at Shaker High appealing and worthwhile to students. **BY NANCY O'CONNOR PHOTOS BY CAYDIE HELLER**

Feelings were hurt all over Northeast Ohio when LeBron James announced in July that he was giving up his Cleveland Cavaliers jersey. But it was the economic impact his departure would have on the team and the City of Cleveland that most interested Shaker High students Oren Kodish and Stephen Shapero.

Two months earlier, the Advanced Placement (AP) microeconomics students had researched "LeBronomics" for their final class project.

"We knew LeBron's decision could have huge implications not only for sports, but on the economy, too," says Oren. "We studied his impact on attendance at Cavs games, on business at area hotels and restaurants, and on the overall value of the franchise."

Using the Marginal Revenue Product formula learned in class, they evaluated the validity of LeBron's potentially huge salary and identified the economic incentive strategy Cavs management had tied to the sale of playoff tickets to boost sales of full season tickets.

"Oren and Stephen put together a complete and entertaining look at the economic value of sports stars and franchises," says their teacher, Liz Plautz, who also teaches the AP macroeconomics class offered during the first semester. The AP classes are part of a trio of economics courses offered to juniors and seniors through the Social Studies department. The third option is a year-long, Honors-level comparative economics class taught by Kim Owens.

It's the opportunity to apply theory to real-world situations that makes the economics electives at Shaker so appealing and worthwhile.

"The value is in coming to understand what's going on in the real world, if for no other reason than to become a literate citizen in our society," Plautz says. "Knowledge is power. Understanding macroeconomics helps you navigate in our society and understand it; understanding microeconomics is important because every student is going to be a worker someday, or an entrepreneur – it's important they know what those are, what their opportunities are, and how to maximize those opportunities."

"Studying economics also teaches people to think a little differently," Kim



AP Economics teacher Liz Plautz and her class discuss business cycles in unemployment.



Owens adds. "Our students learn a new language that enables them to understand more of what's happening in our country and around the world. Economics crosses a lot of fields, and I believe a lot of people don't speak the language of economics very well."

What economics is not, both stress, is personal finance. "They are very different subjects," says Owens. "Economics is truly a social science. It's closer to political science than finance. It's about process, how we think, how we interpret. Why do people make decisions that they make? What is rational thinking? How do you explain behavior in an economic way? That's what our students are learning."

(Shaker High does offer a personal finance class and is infusing financial literacy into the Social Studies curriculum for all students, in accordance with a new Ohio graduation requirement.)

Many students first formally encounter economic principles in their global studies and U.S. history classes. "But as soon as you have a dollar in your hand and you use it to buy something, you're involved in the economy," Plautz says. "Some kids also have a good innate sense of supply and demand – 'I want to buy something cheaply, but someone wants to sell it to me at an expensive price' – they understand the concept, they just don't know it's 'economics.'"

Plautz and Owens inherited their classes from Diana Jones, and feel fortunate to have worked with the highly regarded instructor before her retirement in 2009. But each brings her own impressive credentials to the classroom.

Plautz holds an MBA in finance and a master's in curriculum and instruction, and once worked in the Economic Analysis Group at the U.S. General Accounting Office. She is coauthor of a book,

The Federal Reserve: Lender of Last Resort. After taking a hiatus to raise three sons, she worked as a business consultant and taught at Mentor High before joining the Shaker faculty in 2009. In addition to the economics classes, she teaches AP U.S. History and U.S. History.

Owens graduated from the University of Michigan with double majors in economics and history, and taught in Washington, D.C. and in an International Baccalaureate program in Ecuador before coming to Shaker High in 2001. She teaches AP and college prep Government in addition to Comparative Economics, in which her students study the American economy and how it compares to those of Japan, developing nations, and the "transitional" economies of China and Russia.

Earlier this year, Owens's students read a biography of an American entrepreneur of their choice. "They then paired up to

create a dialogue between the entrepreneurs," Owens says, "to discuss the creation of the product or service, what the entrepreneurs went through, obstacles they overcame, and their impact."

During the second semester, each student will create an economically viable development plan for an underdeveloped country, taking into account the country's culture, health issues, trade issues, property issues, and their impact on the economy.

For senior Nicole Blatchford, taking comparative economics last year sparked a "huge interest" in economics that led her to participate in an Economics for Leaders program last June. "I don't even have the words to describe how great it was," she says of the week-long program sponsored by the Foundation for Teaching Economics, which aims to introduce young people to "an economic way of



Students Kai Kyles, left, and Nicole Blatchford, participated in the Economics for Leaders program last summer. Comparative Economics teacher Kim Owens, center, sparked their interest.



thinking” about national and international issues.

Nicole attended the program hosted at the College of Wooster; classmate Kai Kyles participated in the same program at Cornell University in August. The students learned of the opportunity through Owens, whom Nicole describes as “a phenomenal teacher. She found really fun ways to teach everything, and I think what we learned will be useful once we’re out of high school.”

Owens enjoys seeing her students grasp a new approach to thinking about current events. “After they’ve learned economic fundamentals during the first half of the year,” she says, “we can pull out the Wall Street Journal and analyze a situation and why it’s happening. We can start using terms even adults don’t understand. And the students can not only understand the economic situation, but also the potential impact of the proposals presented to fix it. It’s a pretty amazing jump.”

It’s more challenging for Liz Plautz to integrate current events into her lessons because she has to cover a substantial amount of foundational content briskly to prepare students for the AP exam. Her macroeconomics students study concepts such as Gross Domestic Product, inflation, interest rates, monetary policy, fiscal policy, and recession. In microeconomics, they focus on the actions of individual firms, industries, or individuals, and cover concepts such as supply and demand, monopoly, competition, wages, and costs.

“Today’s economy becomes very interesting when we begin talking about how the government responds to economic crises,” she says. “We’re going to be talking a lot about recession – how do we deal with it? Then we can bring in the stimulus package – how does it impact recession? At the micro level, it’s very easy to bring in the real world because we can talk about companies that the students know.”

Plautz uses homework assignments tied to her Moodle website to stimulate discussions on current topics. “What are



the positive effects of the BP oil spill in the Gulf?” “How does the locavore movement to eat local produce not make economic sense?” “Why is college so expensive?” Her AP students must respond to these kinds of provocative prompts posted on Moodle, using the economic concepts and vocabulary taught in class.

Last spring, all but one of Plautz’s students took the AP exams, and 89 percent of them passed both the AP macro and AP micro tests with scores of 3 or higher out of a possible 5. An impressive 40 percent of them earned a perfect score. “The props go to the students, whose performance was marvelous,” she says, and consistent with previous years’ results.

Oren, who scored a 5 on both AP exams, believes Plautz prepared him very well. “She definitely got the job done. I felt pretty confident going into the exams. Mrs. Plautz is a good teacher.” Depending on the college he attends, Oren’s scores could exempt him from having to take introductory-level economics classes should he decide to pursue the subject. He recommends the AP economics courses to fellow students, he says, “because economics is good to know for life in general, and the teacher really prepares you for the exam.”

The relevance of the subject matter, the quality of the instructors, and in the case of the AP courses, the opportunity to earn college credit make Shaker High’s economics classes an especially sound investment.



Kristofer Jackson, left, and **Michael Bellamy** during Liz Plautz’s AP Economics class. **Above:** **Danae Rock**, left, and **Dhruval Patel** in Kim Owens’ Comparative Economics class.





The Plautz Family: Stuck on Shaker

Gregory and Liz Plautz and their three sons first moved to Shaker in 1994 when Greg, a physician, accepted a position at The Cleveland Clinic. The family settled happily into the Boulevard neighborhood and there they expected to stay.

But in 2000, an opportunity for Greg at the Yale Medical Center took the family to Connecticut. "I'm a New Yorker, and was excited about moving to New England," Liz admits. "And it was nice. But we didn't feel the school system offered our children what we wanted for them. We made the choice to return to Shaker. This is a great place to raise a family and we love it here."

The family moved back in 2002, with Greg returning to the Clinic, where he is now the chair of the pediatric oncology department, and the boys returning to the Shaker public schools. Jason graduated from Shaker High in 2005, attended Northwestern University, and is now a journalist in Washington, D.C. Twins Kevin and Brian graduated in 2010. Kevin is studying at Cornell University, and Brian is a student at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

"This school is outstanding," Liz says of Shaker High, "and the opportunities that all three of my children have had here have just been phenomenal." The Plautz family's journey back to Shaker isn't unique – according to Liz, "There's a secret handshake between those who left and have come back."

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Why a “Jewish Guy from the



East Side" Attends Mass

Q&A Marc Nathanson

BY SUE STARRETT PHOTOS BY CAYDIE HELLER

From for-profit to non-profit; from Shaker Heights to Florida and back, including trips to El Salvador and Nepal; and from John Carroll to St. Vincent's Charity Hospital – Marc Nathanson has taken an improbable life journey.

The 1965 Shaker High graduate did not heed the call to a life of service until his own life unraveled. The very skills that made him successful in sales – networking, nurturing relationships, making and capitalizing on opportunities – enabled his transformation.

As a consequence, many of Greater Cleveland's disenfranchised have found jobs, housing, and hope.

Nathanson's transition from selling jewelry to serving the needy was diligent and deliberate. He worked for Jewish Family Services, taught at Fairmount Temple and Suburban Temple, trained as a hospital chaplain, and learned fundraising. In 2002 he became director of development for New Life Community, which provides transitional services for homeless and jobless families. After five years, he was hired as executive director of the Old Stone Education Center, an organization that helps young mothers complete their GEDs. His current position, as executive director of the West Side Catholic Center, appears to be tailor-made.

The West Side Catholic Center provides food, clothing, shelter, and advocacy to its clients. Last year the Center served more than 60,000 meals, and distributed about the same number of bags of clothing. The West Side Catholic Center employs case workers and youth advocates and relies on hundreds of volunteers. It is funded by government and foundation grants, as well as contributions from individuals, corporations, and religious organizations. It is independent of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and Catholic Charities.

Shaker resident Marc Nathanson at his office.



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"One thing that has never changed in this community is the importance of the family and the schools."



Did your early years in Shaker Heights influence what you are doing now?

I lived on Rye Road, attended Mercer and Byron, and graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1965. (My sons, Josh and Peter, attended the same schools and graduated in 1989 and 1992.) Growing up in Shaker, I was politically liberal. I would have followed Robert F. Kennedy anywhere. I wrote him to offer my services on his campaign, but that was not meant to be. Instead, I finished college and went to work in sales. This need to serve others was dormant. When the situation changed, it was expressed.

How do you feel about living in Shaker now?

I just love Shaker. I love the diversity, the beauty, the families, the children of Shaker. One thing that has never changed in this community is the importance of the family and the importance of the schools.

You spent many years in the costume jewelry business. How did that come about?

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from John Carroll University, but it was happenstance that I went into jewelry. One day while I was playing golf, my partner suggested that if I helped him with his game, he'd teach me jewelry. So I started with Trifari, and my wife and I moved to Florida.

We returned to Shaker Heights in the

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early 1970s, when I began working for Monet. I kept getting promoted and eventually became vice president of sales and marketing. It was great. I traveled all over the country and presented to major department stores. But during my 25 years in sales, just about everything about the jewelry business changed, and I ended up leaving.

What led you to your career in human services?

A personal disaster – divorce. I went through a spiritual and life transformation. I decided to take the time to explore what I really wanted to do, and began working with a person who helped me to identify my interests. I eventually became a chaplain at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital, and it was a beautiful experience. I wanted to make that my work, but it didn't pay enough to support my three modest wishes – to live in an apartment, have a car, and play golf. So I started look-

ing in the non-profit world, where I believed my business experience could support my passion for service.

Through networking, I met New Life Community's director, who had been an executive at TRW. Although she first said "no" when I applied for the position of director of development, I ended up being hired. I was there for five years, because I was attracted to New Life's mission.

New Life Community is near Shaker. Tell our readers what it's all about.

It's a transitional housing facility for homeless families, who receive support and guidance to find jobs and housing. I particularly liked the way the staff and residents started every morning. Each of us shared something positive from the previous day. But then in 2007, Old Stone Education Center approached me to be their executive director, and the timing seemed right. I kept very busy in that new

position, but missed the connection with clients. My personal goal is to serve, not to find the next great job.

You had already connected with Father Tom Fanta at St. Dominic by then. He's been integral to your career lately.

When I was at New Life Community, St. Dominic Church was looking for a service project, and I was looking for a congregation that would provide support. In 2008, I went on a church-sponsored medical mission to El Salvador. Father Tom and I played with the children while the medical people did their work. We saw joy in the children's eyes, joy that we cared enough to help them. I still wear a bracelet from that trip: to love is to serve.

How is Father Tom responsible for your current position?

He's on the advisory board of the West Side Catholic Center, and earlier this year invited me to apply for executive direc-



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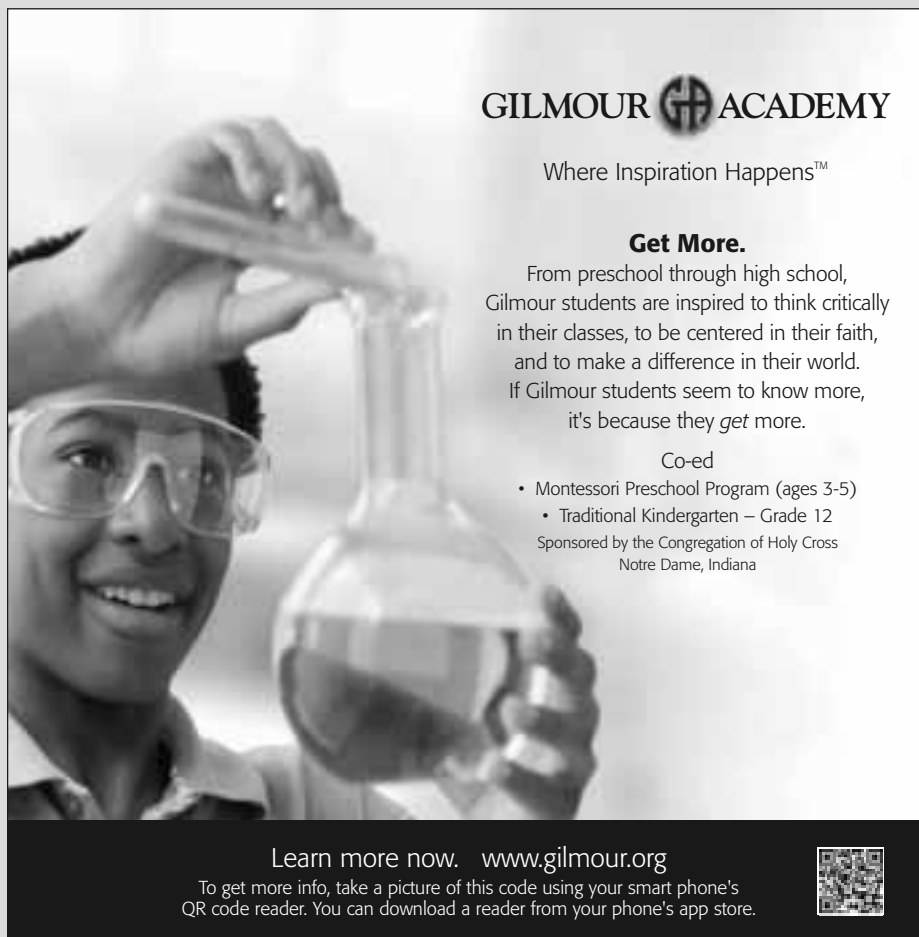
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tor. It looked ideal, to lead an institution that serves as many people as possible. After completing surveys, writing essays, and being interviewed a number of times, I got the job. They really stepped out of the box to hire a Jewish guy from the East Side.

Before I started there in August, I spent two weeks in Nepal with 17 other Clevelanders. We visited an orphanage run by an American; he has rescued 150 children, ages 5 to 16, who otherwise would have been sold into slavery or prostitution. My experiences in Nepal reaffirmed my life and my dedication to what I'm doing. It was perfect for starting my new position, the perfect segue into the next part of my journey.

What distinguishes West Side Catholic Center from other area organizations?

We are similar to the City Mission, but no one does the extent of what we do from our little campus on West 32nd and Lorain. We want our clients to feel safe, secure, and loved. We offer our services with as much dignity as possible, treat everyone with respect, and believe that everything we do is grounded in faith. I cannot wait to get up each morning and be touched by the people who are standing in line at our Center. It's an amazing place to be; it often takes me 45 minutes to move from that line to my office because of all the stories people tell me. I am so blessed. I was so fortunate to figure out where God wants me to be and to use the gifts I have been given to help others.

What role does religion play in your life?

I am a Reform Jew and a member of Fairmount Temple, but I know I have attended more masses in the last few years than services at my temple. We all live under the Golden Rule, and the beauty of service is that we aren't asked our religious beliefs.

What's next?

Right now I am living my next step. I am happy to be living in the present, and so blessed to be in this particular present.



Shaker Dances

continued from page 38

When Duffy choreographs this music, she considers what the slaves were experiencing. For example, when her dancers perform "Wade in the Water," the "basic steps in that are people going to be baptized and people going to get away. Water was a symbol of cleansing, but also of getting out of slavery and into freedom."

Duffy finds that by helping her students understand the background of these songs, they can connect more deeply with the music. "It affects them so positively," she says. "When they dance the Harriet Tubman Suite, for example, they carry it off much better once they know who Harriet Tubman was and her significance in the history of this country."

To learn more about DuffyLit visit www.duffylit.org.

Margaret Carlson

A life in dance

Longtime Shaker resident Margaret Carlson started dancing when she was three years old and never stopped. Her career has taken her from serving as a principal dancer with Cleveland Ballet to stints working in New York City and Asia and finally back home to lead one of Northeast Ohio's premiere dance companies, Verb Ballets.

Since 1992, she has lived in Shaker's Ludlow neighborhood. In fact, in honor of the City's upcoming centennial celebration, Verb Ballets will stage "The Shakers", a famous work choreographed in 1930 by Doris Humphrey, a luminary of American modern dance.

"It uses Shaker music, it uses Shaker dance forms, and it uses Shaker furniture," explains Carlson. Verb also plans to develop an outreach program around Humphrey's work for Shaker schools.

Carlson is hoping that the coming year will also see Verb Ballets moving both its offices and dance studio to Shaker. "We have found a space we know can work, so now we're just waiting to see if all the ingredients can come together," she says. Her ultimate goal: to create a combined studio and so-called black-box theater in the City. A black-box theater is an intimate space in which the audience and the performers are in close proximity. "This would allow for a lot of our independent artists to present their works in a setting that is conducive to dance," she explains.

Carlson was born in Salt Lake City, but grew up in Northeast Ohio and began taking dance lessons when she was three years old. Her resume in dance is impressive and wide-ranging. At 16, she began dancing with Cleveland-based Karamu and was also hired as a back-up dancer for the Jackie Gleason Show. In the early 1970s, Carlson signed on as an original member of Cleveland Ballet and went on to serve as

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a principal dancer for the company from 1972 until 1983, when a diagnosis of hip dysplasia forced her into retirement, though she continued to perform in less strenuous roles for several more years.

She then served as director of the School of Dance at the University of Akron and, in 1993, took a position as the dean of the School of Dance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. She returned to Northeast Ohio in 1999 to work in the development office of Cleveland Ballet, which folded the following year.

Carlson next took a brief hiatus from the dance world to complete her doctorate in education from Durham University in England and then was on the road again, working for the New York City-based Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, which tours throughout the U.S., Europe, and South America. Finally, in 2001, Carlson returned to Ohio full-time to join the Repertory Project, which in 2003 was renamed Verb Ballets. Today, she serves as director of the organization.

"Verb Ballets is a "contemporary dance company, so we do modern dance, ballet and other forms of dance," explains Carlson. "But the focus is contemporary. And we have occasionally done some more ethnic-based works, but they are contemporized."

The company is comprised of 11 full-time dancers. This season Verb named Terence Greene, a faculty member at the Cleveland School of the Arts, as artist in residence. The company also runs several outreach programs, including one in the Cleveland Schools and also Verb Clicks, through which it hires talented local high school students to perform with the company during the summer.

"We cast larger works in the summer because we're working in larger venues, like parks and other settings, where thousands of people will come to see the show," says Carlson.

For more information, visit www.verb-ballets.org.



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Mad Men in Shaker?

PHOTO BY JANET CENTURY

Get into the spirit of the 1950s at the Shaker Historical Society and Museum's exhibit *Groovin' at Gruber's*. The restaurant was Greater Cleveland's hot spot during the "Mad Men" era, frequented by Hollywood stars and sports luminaries. The museum has recreated Gruber's dining room with artifacts from the restaurant, which was at the Van Aken Center in 1947 until 1961. The exhibit runs through January 3.

William M. Ondrey Gruber, chief legal counsel for the City of Shaker Heights, and Lynne Hutchinson, the museum's director of education – who bears a more-than-passing resemblance to *Mad Men* actress Elisabeth Moss (Peggy Olson) – here strike an elegant pose at the exhibit. Bill Gruber is the son of Roman Gruber, who owned the restaurant with his brother Maxwell.

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Ongoing Activities for Families

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Parent and Child Play Sessions, THE PATRICIA S. MEARNS FAMILY PLAYROOM AT SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. 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–noon OR Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 4-6 pm. Membership also includes use of gym and muscle room during specific hours. 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.

WEDNESDAYS: Play and Learn Station for Home Day Care Providers, 10 AM-NOON, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop in literacy-based 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 Raising Children 3-5 with Special Needs, 1-3 PM, PLAY AND LEARN STATION AT MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, facilitated playgroup for parents with children ages 3-5 with special needs. Special activities held on second, third, and fourth Friday of the month. INFO: 216-921-2023.

SATURDAYS: Make Room for Daddy, for Families Raising Children 3-5 with Special Needs, TWO SATURDAYS PER MONTH (December: 4, 18 & January: 8, 22) 9-11 AM, THE PATRICIA S. MEARNS FAMILY PLAYROOM AT SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Free, drop-in, facilitated playgroup for fathers with children ages 3-8 with special needs. Grandfathers or siblings under 5 are welcome. INFO: 216-921-2023.

SATURDAYS: Saturday Gym, 10 AM-NOON, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER pro-

vides a place for parents and children birth to 6 years old to climb, jump, ride tricycles, and play inside during the winter months. (No sessions December 25, January 1, 15, Feb. 19.) All children must be accompanied by an adult. FEES AND PASS INFO: 216-921-2023.

Ongoing Activities for Adults

MONDAYS: Pilates Class, 9:30-10:30 AM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Bring a mat and shape up. Fee: \$5 class. INFO: 216-921-3510.

TUESDAYS: Stone Oven Days, 2267 LEE RD. Stone Oven donates a percentage of the day's sales to the Nature Center programs. *Dine and donate!* Enjoy a great meal and support the Nature Center. INFO: 216-321-5935 www.shakerlakes.org.

TUESDAYS: Yoga, 6:15-7:30 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Beginners to advanced beginners class. *There's no place like ohm.* Fee: \$10/class. INFO: 216-921-3510.

continued on page 62

Calendar listings were correct at press time, but please call ahead to confirm.

Destinations...

BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH LIBRARY
20600 Fayette Road
216-991-2421

MAIN LIBRARY
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030

THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES
2600 South Park Boulevard
216-321-5935

**STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
COMMUNITY BUILDING /
COMMUNITY COLONNADE**
3450 Lee Road
216-491-1360

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS AT
SHAKER FAMILY CENTER**
19824 Sussex Road
216-921-2023

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
15911 Aldersyde Drive
216-295-4200

**SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& MUSEUM**
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201

SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
20600 Shaker Boulevard
216-295-4100

THORNTON PARK
3301 Warrensville Center Road
216-491-1295

December

highlights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Mary Zimmerman's Metamorphoses 11/30, 12/2-4 8 pm, Shaker High (p. 62)	DJ Skate 7:45 pm, Thornton Park Ice Arena. (p. 62)	Sugar Plum Workshop 9 am, Plymouth Church. (p. 62) Teddy Bear Tea 2 pm, Tubbs Jones Community Bldg. (p. 62)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Holiday CircleFest 1 pm, University Circle. (p. 66) Book Talk 2 pm, Shaker Historical Society. (p. 62)	Adoption Information Meeting 6:30 pm, Bellefaire JCB. (p. 62)	Toy Donation Drop-Off 12/6-7 9 am, Shaker Family Center. (p. 62)	International Winter Celebrations 4:15 pm, Bertram Woods. (p. 62) Used Toy Sale 6 pm, Shaker Family Center. (p. 62)	Knit Night 7 pm, Bertram Woods. (p. 62)	Dr MLK Student Writing Contest Deadline 6 pm, Main Library. (p. 63)	Our Town 12/3-4, 10, 11 7 pm, Wiley Middle School. (p. 66)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Annual Holiday Open House 2 pm, Shaker Historical Society and Museum. (p. 63)	Band Concert 7 pm, Shaker High.	Babes in Nature: Winter Wonderland 10 am, Nature Center. (p. 63) Thornton Park Hockey Tournament 12/14-19 (p. 63)	Holiday Dinner for Seniors 50+ 12:30 pm, Tubbs Jones Community Bldg. (p. 63) Winter Choir Alumni Concert 7:30 pm, Shaker High. (p. 63)	PNC Holiday Rainbow – Kwanzaa Celebration 10 am, Severance Hall. (p. 66)	Family Fun Fridays for Children with Special Needs Ongoing. 1 pm, Main Library. (p. 59)	Glassblowing with Bob Pozarski 12/11 and 18 Peninsula Art Academy. (p. 66)
		21	22	23	24	25
		Yoga Ongoing. 6:15 pm, Plymouth Church. (p. 59)	Toy Story 3 2 pm, Main Library Teen Center. (p. 64)	Play and Learn Station Ongoing. 10 am, Main Library (p. 59)		
		28	29	30	31	
		Stone Oven Days Ongoing. (p. 59)		Make a Time Capsule 2 pm, Bertram Woods. (p. 64)	Cleveland Pops New Year's Eve Concert & Dance 9 pm, Severance Hall. (p. 66)	

January

highlights

MAREN GUSE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Winter fun at Thornton Park</p>						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Pilates Class Ongoing. 9:30 am, Plymouth Church. (p. 59)	Stone Oven Days Ongoing. (p. 59)	Parent and Child Play Sessions Ongoing. Shaker Family Center (p. 59)		Concert in Dance 7 pm, Shaker High.	North Union Farmers Market Ongoing. 8 am, Shaker Square (p. 62)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Family Concert: The Firebird 2 pm, Severance Hall. (p. 66)	Big/Little: Strange Snow 10 am, Nature Center. (p. 64)	Babes in Nature: New Year's Nature 10 am, Nature Center. (p. 64) Mystery Book Discussion 7:30 pm, Main Library. (p. 64)		Knit Night 7 pm, Bertram Woods. (p. 64)	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat 7 pm, Wiley Middle School. (p. 66) DJ Skate 7:45 pm, Thornton Park Ice Arena. (p. 64)	Play and Learn Station Ongoing. 10 am, Main Library (p. 59)
16	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Schools, libraries, city offices closed.	17	18	19	20	21
			Luau at the Library 4:15 pm, Main Library Teen Center. (p. 64) Business Book Discussion 7 pm, Main Library. (p. 64)	SAY Parent Committee 11 am, Bellefaire JCB. (p. 64) Jazz Band Concert 7 pm, Shaker Middle School. (p. 64)	Zumba Fitness Ongoing. 9:30 am, Plymouth Church (p. 62)	Saturday Gym Ongoing. 10 am, Shaker Family Center. (p. 59)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Northeast Ohio Band Invitational VIII 2 pm, Severance Hall. (p. 66)		Tuesday Evening Book Discussion 7:30 pm, Main Library. (p. 64)	Summer Job Fair 3 pm, Shaker High. (p. 65)	Winter Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm, Shaker High.		Hike with a Friend Ongoing. 3:30 pm, Nature Center (p. 62)
30	31					
20th Annual Black Heritage Concert 4 pm, CIM. (p. 66)						

FRIDAYS: Zumba Fitness, 9:30-10:30 AM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Fee: \$3/class. INFO: 216-921-3510.

SATURDAYS: North Union Farmers Market, 8 AM-NOON, SHAKER SQUARE. Buy fresh and local all winter long. Beginning January 9, the market moves indoors from 9 am-noon at Shaker Square's Northeast Quadrant, just west of the CVS store. INFO: 216-751-7656.

SATURDAYS: Hike with a Friend, 3:30 PM, THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES. Bring a friend or hike with a new one at the Nature Center and share your knowledge and favorite spots around the Shaker Parklands. Free. INFO: 216-321-5935 WWW.shakerlakes.org.

Events for December

December 1: Hanukkah begins at sunset.

November 30, December 2, 3, & 4: Mary Zimmerman's Metamorphoses, 8 PM, SHAKER HIGH. Students perform the Tony-award winning show about love, loss, and transformation. Based on Greek myths, it has mature content. Friday and Saturday performances: 7 pm & 9:15 pm. Tickets: \$10/adults; \$5 students & seniors. INFO: 216-295-4287.

December 3: DJ Skate, 7:45-8:45 PM, THORNTON PARK ICE ARENA. Lights, music, and action on ice. \$3/resident; \$5.50/non-resident; \$2.50/skate rental. INFO: 216-491-1290.

December 4: Sugar Plum Workshop, 9-11:30 AM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Community

workshop for kids ages 2 & up to make gifts for their teachers, family and friends. Gift projects range in price from 50¢ to \$3.50. Crafts include key chains, candle making, cookie mix in a jar, etc. No registration required. INFO: 216-921-3510.

December 4: Gift for the Snow Birds Workshop, 10 AM-NOON, THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES, 2600 SOUTH PARK BLVD. Join Wild Birds Unlimited for a morning making gifts for the birds to enjoy all winter long. Birdseed and feeders will be available for purchase during the program. \$5/person. INFO: 216-321-5935 WWW.shakerlakes.org.

December 4: Teddy Bear Tea, 2-3:30 PM, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COMMUNITY BUILDING. Bring your teddy bear for tea and crumpets and stories told by Shaker librarians. Fee: \$5/family of four and \$2/additional person. Call 216-491-1360 to determine whether registrations are still being accepted.

December 5: Book Talk, 2 PM, SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Jim Wood, author of *Out and About with Winsor French*, will discuss his book to be published by Kent State University Press. Free. INFO: 216-921-1201.

December 6: Adoption Information Meeting, 6:30-8 PM, BELLEFAIRE JCB, 22001 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. Learn about Bellefaire JCB's Adoption Program. RSVP to Karen: 216-320-8589.

December 6 & 7: Toy Donation Drop-Off, 9 AM-5 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Tax-deductible toy donations (for children birth to 6 years) will be accepted in the Shaker Family Center gym. Donated items should be age appropriate, clean, in working condition with all

pieces and parts. Please include batteries for items that require them. Stuffed animals and car seats are NOT accepted. INFO: 216-921-2023.

December 7: How to Start a Nonprofit Before You Seek Funding, 7 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Tony Coletto from the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and David Holmes of the Foundation Center – Cleveland offer guidelines in nonprofit management. INFO: 216-991-2030.

December 8: Early Childhood Visitation Day, 9:30-10:30 AM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 N. PARK BLVD. Early Childhood Visitation Day for prospective families. INFO: 216-932-4214.

December 8: International Winter Celebrations, 4:15-5 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Make crafts, sample food, and have fun learning how children around the world celebrate winter. INFO: 216-991-2421.

December 8: Create a Candy House, 4:15 PM, MAIN LIBRARY TEEN CENTER. Build (and EAT!) your very own candy house using graham crackers, frosting, and other treats. INFO: 216-991-2030 EX. 3186.

December 8: Used Toy Sale, 6-8 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Buy children's toys in like-new condition for bargain prices to benefit Family Connections. Sale continues December 9 from 10 am-noon. INFO: 216-921-2023 OR WWW.FamilyConnections1.org.

December 9: Knit Night, 7-8:45 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Bring your Caps for Kids creations and start working on a new project.

December 10: Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest Deadline, 6 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Essays and poetry submissions from youth in grades 3-7 are due for judging for the 2011 contest. INFO: 216-991-2030.

December 12: Annual Holiday Open House, 2-5 PM, SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM. Enjoy refreshments, exhibits, and the sound of the choral group, Nightingales. Free. INFO: 216-991-1201.

December 13: Band Concert, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

December 14: Babes in Nature: Winter Wonderland, 10-10:45 AM, THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES. You're never too young to learn about nature. A variety of sensory experiences introduce babies age 2

months to 2 years and their caregivers to the natural world. \$5/members; \$7/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 www.shakerlakes.org.

December 14: Book Buzz, 10 AM, MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave. INFO: 216-991-2030.

December 14-19: Thornton Park Hockey Tournament, THORNTON PARK ICE ARENA. Watch mayhem on ice when area high school teams try to put the biscuit in the basket and win the holiday tournament. GAME TIMES AND OTHER INFO: 216-491-1290.

December 14: Mystery Book Discussion, 7:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Where Memories Lie* by Deborah Crombie. INFO: 216-991-2030.

December 14: Poetry Back in the Woods, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Meredith Holmes, Martin Kohn, and Lou Suarez read their poetry. INFO: 216-991-2421.

December 15: Winter Choir Alumni Concert, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH. Former and current members of Shaker High's A Cappella Choirs perform the Hallelujah Chorus.

December 15: Holiday Dinner for Seniors 50+, 12:30-2 PM, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COMMUNITY BUILDING. *Ho Ho Ho-liday* Dinner time for seniors' seasonal fun. Fee: \$6 due at reservation.



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December 16: SAY (Social Advocates for Youth) Parent Committee, 11 AM-NOON, BELLEFAIRE JCB, 22001 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. For parents concerned about how to help teens make healthy choices. RSVP TO NANCY: 216-320-8469.

December 20: Big/Little: Stay-at-Home Flyers, 10-11:30 AM, THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES. Many feathered friends fly away for winter, but some stay behind. Visit the Nature Center to discover what birds are hanging out for winter. \$8/ members; \$12/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 www.shakerlakes.org.

December 20: Pajama Stories, 7:15 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Take the kids to the library for stories before bedtime. INFO: 216-991-2421.

December 20-January 3: Winter Break. No school for Shaker schools.

December 22: Toy Story 3, 2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY TEEN CENTER. Curl up with a cup of hot chocolate, make a s'more, and watch a movie. INFO: 216-991-2030 EX. 3186.

December 30: Make a Time Capsule, 2-3 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Teens: Bring some memories, photos, and souvenirs from 2010 and create your own personal time capsule. INFO: 216-991-2421.

December 31: City Buildings and Libraries Closed.

Events for January

January 7: Concert in Dance, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

January 10: Big/Little: Strange Snow, 10-11:30 AM, THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES. Do you know how snow is made? Do you know why every snowflake is different? Put on your winter clothes and join us to explore all things snow! \$8/ members; \$12/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 www.shakerlakes.org.

January 11: Babes in Nature: New Year's Nature, 10-10:45 AM, THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES. You're never too young to learn about nature. A variety of sensory experiences will introduce babies age 2 months to 2 years and their caregivers to the natural world. \$5/ members; 7/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 www.shakerlakes.org.

January 11: Book Buzz, 10 AM, MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *The Vintage Caper* by Peter Mayle. INFO: 216-991-2030.

January 11: Mystery Book Discussion, 7:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley. INFO: 216-991-2030.

January 11: Back-to-School Library Orientation for Adult Learners, 8 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Take a quick tour of Main Library and learn about the resources available for students. INFO: 216-991-2030.

January 13: Knit Night, 7-8:45 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH.

January 14: MLK Student Essay Contest Awards Reception, 4:30 PM, SHAKER LIBRARY. Winners in the library's 13th annual contest read their affirming essays. INFO: 216-991-2030.

January 14: DJ Skate, 7:45-8:45 PM, THORNTON PARK ICE ARENA. Lights, music, and action on ice. \$3/ resident; \$5.50/non-resident; \$2.50/ skate rental. INFO: 216-491-1290.

January 17: Martin Luther King Day. Schools, libraries, and city offices closed.

January 19: Luau at the Library, 4:15 PM, MAIN LIBRARY TEEN CENTER. Aloha! Beat the winter blues and sample some beach-themed food, crafts, games, prizes, music, and fun! INFO: 216-991-2030 EX. 3186.

January 19: Business Book Discussion, 7 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *First, Break All the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently* by Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman. INFO: 216-991-2030.

January 20: SAY (Social Advocates for Youth) Parent Committee, 11 AM-NOON, BELLEFAIRE JCB, 22001 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. For parents concerned about how to help teens make healthy choices. RSVP TO NANCY: 216-320-8469.

January 20: Jazz Band Concert, 7 PM, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

January 21: Professional Day. No school for Shaker Schools grades 7-12.

January 24: Pajama Stories, 7:15 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Take the kids to the library for stories before bedtime. INFO: 216-991-2421.

January 25: Tuesday Evening Book Discussion, 7:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. INFO: 216-991-2030.

January 26: Summer Job Fair, 3 PM, SHAKER HIGH. It's never too soon to look for a summer job! Students can meet and greet potential employers. INFO: 216-295-4200.

January 27: Winter Orchestra Concert, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH.


In the Circle and Beyond

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Tri-C® Student Massotherapy Clinic. CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, EASTERN CAMPUS, 4250 RICHMOND RD. EAST STUDENT SERVICES (ESS) BUILDING, ROOM 2502. Massages by student massotherapists under the supervision of a licensed massotherapist. \$25/general; \$20/seniors. CALL FOR APPOINTMENT: 216-987-2417.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS: The Rink, NOON-7 PM, WADE OVAL IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE. Lace up your skates and glide over The Rink's unique polymer surface, which feels just like real ice. Then warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or coffee. Sundays: noon-5 pm. Admission free; \$3/skate rental. INFO: 216-707-5033.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS: Afternoon Tea, NOON-3 PM, THE RITZ-CARLTON, 1515 WEST THIRD ST. Experience an elegant afternoon tea that will become a treasured memory. INFO: 216-623-1300.

THRU DECEMBER 18: AAWR Annual Holiday Members Show and Sale. ARTISTS ARCHIVES OF THE WESTERN RESERVE GALLERY, 1834 EAST 123RD ST. IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE. This festive presentation reflects the diverse styles of local artists, and showcases the breadth of talent among the AAWR's membership. GALLERY HOURS & INFO: 216-721-9020.



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THRU DECEMBER 30: Annual Gingerbread House Display, THE RITZ-CARLTON, 1515 WEST THIRD ST. A Ritz-Carlton Cleveland tradition, this year's oversized intricate gingerbread house is not to be missed! Visit the lobby on level 6 and see for yourself why this holiday favorite has become a part of many family memories. INFO: 216-623-1300.

DECEMBER 2-19: Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant, 7 PM, CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE, 6415 DETROIT AVE. Hailed as "dinner theatre of the absurd" by *The New York Times*, this unique theatrical-culinary establishment includes crazy cabaret, improv comedy, death, violence, and a five-course meal. Tickets: \$50. INFO: 216-631-2727 EX. 501.

DECEMBER 3, 4, 10, & 11: Our Town, 7 PM, WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 2181 MIRAMAR BLVD. Heights Youth Theatre presents Thornton Wilder's classic. Matinee at 2 pm December 12. Tickets: \$9/general admission; \$8/seniors & children under 6. INFO: 216-780-2235 OR www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

DECEMBER 4: 11th Annual Reindeer Run 5 K, 9 AM, LAKEWOOD PARK, 14532 LAKE RD. Register at 7:30 pm and receive a long sleeve shirt, jingle bells for your shoes, D-tag computer timing chip, and every 100th runner receives a \$20 gift certificate to Dick's Sporting Goods. Plus post race food and drinks. \$22/person. INFO: 216-623-9933.

DECEMBER 4: Holiday Program of Music and Lights, 1 PM & 4 PM, LAKE VIEW CEMETERY, 12316 EUCLID AVE. 16th Annual Holiday Program in Wade Chapel with music, bright candles,

in the peaceful chapel surroundings. Free, but reservations required. INFO: 216-421-2665.

DECEMBER 5: Holiday CircleFest, 1-7 PM, UNIVERSITY CIRCLE. Free admission to all the cultural institutions in the Circle. Enjoy music, exhibits, shopping, food, holiday cheer, and hands-on activities. INFO: 216-707-5033.

DECEMBER 8: CityMusic Cleveland, 7:30 PM, FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2757 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. Joel Smirnoff conducts Kyung Sun Lee, violin; Chabrelle Williams, soprano. Antonio Vivaldi Four Seasons (Le quattro stagioni), Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Serenade for strings, Op.48, and Mozart. Reservations REQUIRED for free childcare services. INFO: 216-321-5800.

DECEMBER 11 & 18: Glassblowing with Bob Pozarski, 10 AM-3 PM, PENINSULA ART ACADEMY, 1600 WEST MILL ST. Glass artist Bob Pozarski helps beginning glassblowers create two or three one-of-a-kind pieces using a variety of colors and tools. Registration required a week in advance. Special dates may be arranged. Contact the instructor to select dates at 330-836-6758. \$100/student; \$80/PAA members. INFO: 330-657-2248.

DECEMBER 16: PNC Holiday Rainbow - Kwanzaa Celebration, 10 AM, Severance Hall Reinberger Chamber Hall. Take the children, ages 3-9, for a musical celebration of Kwanzaa featuring Barbara Eady, storyteller; William C. Marshall III, bass; Mell Csicsila, percussion; Andrew Pongracz, percussion, and Maryann Nagel, host. \$7/person. INFO: 216-231-1111.

DECEMBER 31: Cleveland Pops New Year's Eve Concert & Dance, 9 PM, SEVERANCE HALL, 11001 EUCLID AVE. 15th Annual concert features sopranos, Erin Mackey and Stephenie J. Block, award-winning witches of Broadway's *Wicked*. Social dancing follows concert. Tickets: \$44-\$104. INFO: 216-231-1111.

JANUARY 14, 21 & 28: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, 7 PM, WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 2181 MIRAMAR BLVD. Heights Youth Theatre presents the biblical story in pop music and dance. 2 pm matinees January 15, 22, 23, & 29. Tickets: \$9/general admission; \$8/seniors and children under 6. INFO: 216-780-2235 OR www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

JANUARY 9: Family Concert: The Firebird, 2 PM, SEVERANCE HALL. James Feddeck, conducts The Cleveland Orchestra, and Academy Trainees of The Joffrey Ballet and Cleveland School of Dance perform the Russian folktale. Tickets: \$15-\$22. INFO: 216-231-1111.

JANUARY 23: Northeast Ohio Band Invitational VIII, 2 PM, SEVERANCE HALL. Symphonic bands feature high school, college, and community ensembles. Tickets: \$10/general admission. INFO: 216-231-1111.

JANUARY 30: 20th Annual Black Heritage Concert, 4 PM, CIM, KULAS HALL. William B. Woods directs the R. Nathaniel Dett Concert Choir and Dianna Richardson directs the Chamber Orchestra. Concert features ensembles from the Cleveland School of the Arts. Free. INFO: 216-791-5000, EXT. 411.



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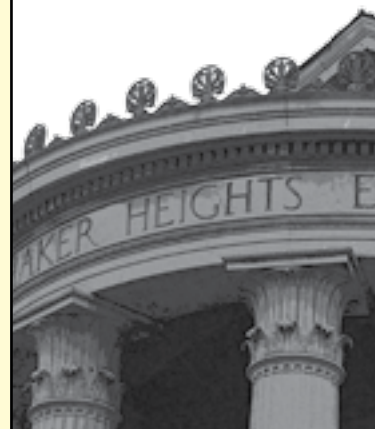
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Man vs. House

BY JOHN R. BRANDT

Newly single in midlife, Shaker Man has discovered that along with freedom come new responsibilities, i.e. taking care of his house and teenaged children by himself. You, like him, might think that a half-century of experience would have prepared him for this experience, but then you, like him, would be wrong, in at least three ways:

The Laundry: The first thing our hero notices upon descending into the basement laundry room is that A) there seem to be a lot more knobs and settings on these machines than he remembers from the college Laundromat, and B) there seem to be thousands of boxes, jugs, and spray-bottles of powder, liquids, etc. related to the task. He calls his ex, his mother, and his new girlfriend for advice, and immediately learns that he should ALWAYS use:

- Brand-name detergents/stain removers/bleaches, except when it doesn't matter;
- Softener, except when he shouldn't, because it will de-fluff (or something) the towels;
- Special Dark Detergent for darks (but only when they're *really* dark), and Super-Expensive Lingerie Powder for teenage-girl unmentionables (i.e., bras, just to mention them);
- Vast Dipping Buckets (think vats) of Shout for all teenage-boy clothing, unmentionable or otherwise;
- Little sheets to catch excess color in the washer, or excess stinkiness and electricity in the dryer.

"Got it," he says to all three women, then tosses in an enormous

mixed load, seasoning it like a crazy chef with a little of everything in the laundry area before slamming the lid. "*Bon appétit.*"

Shaker Man's children are justifiably skeptical. His 18-year-old daughter, for instance, asks him, *sotto voce*: "Do you know how to wash bras?"

"Yes," he whispers back, "I do."

"No, Dad," she replies, narrowing her eyes, "I mean, do you *really* know how to wash them?"

After reciting the secret launch sequence — *cold, delicate, mesh bag, mild hypoallergenic detergent, rack-dry* — he can't resist asking: "Sweetie, those neatly folded unmentionables you found on your bed... did you think the Bra Fairy left them?"

"You never know."

The Dishwasher: Shaker Man's hypothesis (unproven in the real world) is that two healthy, intelligent teenagers should, on occasion, be able to put their own dishes into the dishwasher, without being threatened by death or, even worse, the loss of electronic privileges. Unfortunately, three common phrases prevent this:

1. "That's not my dish."
2. "I don't like to touch other people's food."
3. "Oh, yeah, I forgot [for the 5,732nd time]."

Cue Thunder: "If I only took care of the things in this house that were mine—"

"Then everything would fall down, the world would end, etc., etc.," says his 14-year-old son. "I've seen this movie before. We'll clean it up,

OK?"

"But—"

"OK?"

"^ %\$!"

The Yard: It seemed simple enough: 18 and 14 would alternate cutting the lawn, with other chores allocated as needed. Except:

"I don't like cutting the lawn," says 18. "How about I take care of the flowers?"

"How come she gets to take care of the flowers?" says 14. "Just because she's a girl? That's sexist, Dad."

"But I *hate* cutting the lawn," says 18.

"Me, too," says 14.

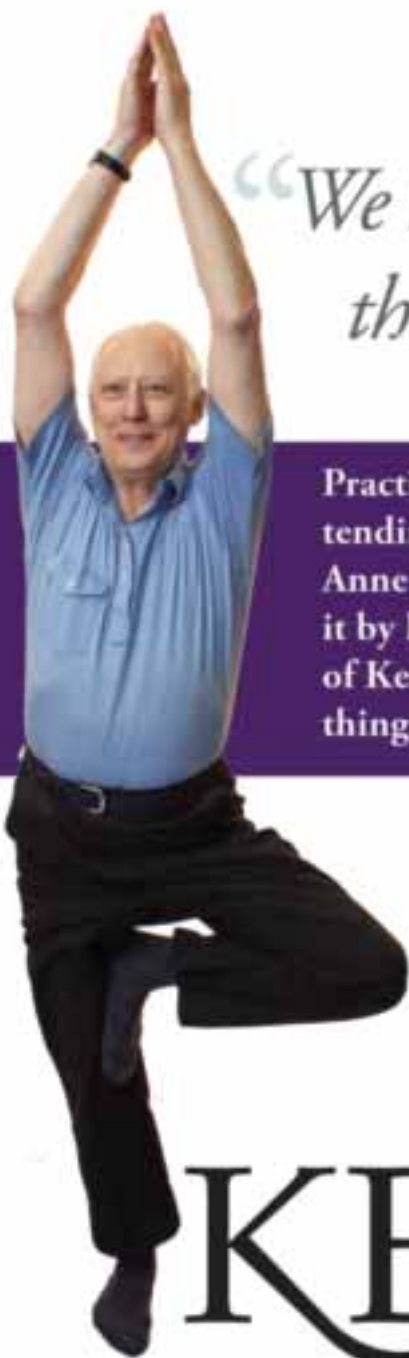
Tense negotiations ensue, not unlike those on NFL Draft Day. Fourteen eventually agrees to accept his half of the lawn-cutting in exchange for exclusive rights to a new, turbo-charged leaf blower, along with a videogame to be named later. Eighteen assumes all flower responsibilities, but trades lawn-mowing duties to Shaker Man in return for certain laundry obligations (i.e., folding and ironing in alternate weeks). All three shake hands, pleased that they've reached a new, adult accommodation. Shaker Man is particularly self-congratulatory, patting himself on the back all day for a parenting job well done, at least until he arrives back home that evening to find that the grass is still waving, the flowers are still thirsty, and the laundry is still piled 16 feet high next to the ironing board.

"Guys—," he says.


"Oh yeah," comes the reply in unison. "We forgot."

"^ %\$!"





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