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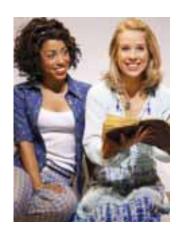
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Special lease and finance rates are available for new 2009 BMW's through BMW Financial Services.

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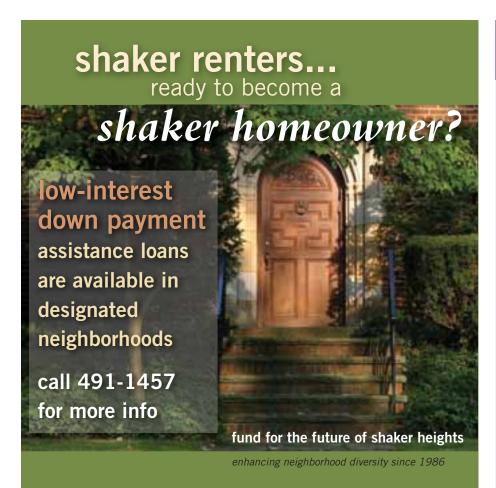
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shaker life

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Letters may be edited for publication.

STORY SUBMISSIONS:

Shaker Life does not accept unsolicited editorial material, but story suggestions from residents are welcome. Send suggestions by email or letter. Please do not call. We cannot respond to every suggestion but each will be given consideration.

Freelancers: Please email the editor for guidelines

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For general City information, call (216) 491-1400 or EMAIL: city.hall@shakeronline.com

ADA NOTICE: Upon request, the City can provide published materials in alternative formats to accommodate a person with a visual impairment.

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city news

Warrensville/Van Aken Project Receives \$500,000 in Federal Funding

The City of Shaker Heights has been awarded \$500,000 in the 2010 Omnibus Appropriations Act, sponsored by Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge and Senator Sherrod Brown. The funding allows the City to move forward in reconfiguring an intersection that has long bedeviled pedestrians and motorists. The six-legged intersection at Chagrin Boulevard, Van Aken Boulevard, and Warrensville Center Road will become a standard four-way intersection, paving the way for a major redevelopment of the area. Plans call for the 60-acre commercial district to become a vibrant mixed-use, retail and residential destination. Construction of the roads is slated to begin in 2012, after completion of environmental and engineering impact studies.

To date, the City has secured \$11.5 million in funds for roads, having previously received a \$4 million safety grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation, \$4.2 million in NOACA funding, and \$500,000 from the Cuyahoga County Engineer. In addition, City Council has authorized matching funds of \$2.3 million from the City's economic develop-

ment fund. Funding for the roads is just one piece of the puzzle needed to create the transit oriented mixed use district.

Mayor Earl Leiken commented, "We are deeply grateful to Congresswoman Fudge and Senator Brown for their leadership in securing these funds, which will help launch redevelopment of this district. This project, which will ultimately include the updated road pattern, a state of the art transit station, and a short extension of the rapid transit, will serve as a catalyst for economic revitalization in our area."

For updates on the project and to see a summary of input and design suggestions gathered at a public meeting last January, visit shakeronline.com.

City Discontinues Special Pickups, Expands Large Item Drop Off

In a continuing effort to save operating costs, the City will discontinue special pickups effective April 1. The City will save money by not having to maintain a dedicated truck for this purpose. Elimination of special pickups will also allow City workers to respond more quickly to daily customer service needs and other requests, such as nuisance grass cutting.

continued on page 4



WvA intersection.

MyCom Receives MLK Human Relations Award

The Human Relations Commission presented its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Human Relations to the MyCom South Shaker Youth Initiative Team at a public observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday last month.

The award was presented in recognition of MyCom's volunteering and community service aimed at helping Shaker youth and building Shaker neighborhoods so that all youth and families in Shaker Heights have the opportunity to participate in positive and engaging activities.

The MyCom South Shaker Youth Initiative Team's actions focus on achieving the same goals that Dr. King professed throughout his life; peace, nonviolence, equality, brotherhood, and social inclusion. The actions of every team member and every youth program are focused on educating and uplifting the spirit, mind, body, and intellect of all youth program participants.

Accepting the award for MyCom were John Lisy, executive director of the Shaker Heights Youth Center, Dr. Scott Frank, director of the Shaker Heights Health Department, Luren Dickinson, director of the Shaker Heights Public Library, and James J. Paces, executive director of curriculum for the Shaker schools.

The annual awards ceremony was held at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building where residents gathered to hear Felton Thomas, director of the Cleveland Public Library and to enjoy a performance by the Shaker Community Band led by Luiz Coelho.

city news

Special Pickups Discontinued/ Large Item Drop Off Expanded

continued from page 3

The City is compiling a list of qualified contractors who can provide pickup service at a comparable cost, and will make the list available to residents after the service is discontinued. The last day residents may call to schedule a pickup is March 29.

Large item drop off will now be available year-round, beginning April 1. Residents may bring large items to the Service Center on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Proof of residency is required. Residents should bring a driver's license and current utility bill (within 90 days) or vehicle registration. Acceptable items include appliances, furniture, building materials, and household items. Items that cannot be accepted include paint, computers, insecticides/pesticides, yard or lawn waste, rocks, bricks, or recyclables. The City offers computer and hazardous waste round-ups twice during the year; visit shakeronline.com for a schedule or for more information.

Shaker Historical Society Appoints New Executive Director

The Shaker Historical Society named John Klassen as its new executive director last November. Klassen was executive director of the Massillon Museum from 1980-2003, where he initiated corporate sponsorships and a major endowment campaign. During his tenure, Klassen led a \$1.9 million renovation to house the Massillon Museum's major collections of photography, costumes, textiles, china, glass, and pottery. He served two terms as chair of the board of trustees of the Ohio Museums Association, and has won many awards during his career for service, design, and education.

Known for his creativity, Klassen has been curator for critically acclaimed exhibitions for local, national, and international artists. "John has a profound understanding of the curatorial process and embraces the important role of a museum in enriching the quality of life in the community," said Ann Cicarella, SHS Board President.

Commenting on his vision for the Shaker Historical Society, Klassen said, "I am in the process of taking a close look at the collections, and I plan to re-install the exhibits to give them a fresh look." He also intends to re-vamp the SHS website, possibly drawing upon the help of volunteers through a college internship program. An avid gardener, Klassen is also interested in establishing a Shaker-style vegetable garden on the museum's extensive grounds.

"I am very interested in making connections with local organizations, and would love to hear suggestions from the community at large," he says. Klassen can be contacted at the Shaker Historical Society, 216-921-1201, or at johnklassen@ To ha shakerhistory.com.



SHAC Presents Three "Ways of Looking"

This February, join the Shaker Arts Council for a program called "Ways of Looking," three conversations focused on different ways of looking at our world. The program is similar in nature to a popular program the Council presented last year, called "Ways of Telling," in which three representatives from the local community presented their experiences through words and images.

The program takes place at the Hanna Perkins Center, 19910 Malvern Road, on Monday evenings, February 8, 15, and 22, at 7 pm.

Ticket prices are \$25 for the series, or \$10 per individual lecture (students with valid ID: \$7.50 per lecture.) For more information visit www.shakerartscouncil.org or call 216-464 -8109.

RITA E-filing is "Fast, Simple, Secure, and Free"

The Regional Income Tax Agency wants residents to know that filing and paying their municipal income tax is as simple as click and send – and it's fast, safe, and free. RITA encourages online filing and payment, because it reduces paper and processing costs, saving taxpayers money.

To file RITA taxes electronically, you will need the following:

- Social Security numbers for you and your spouse
- W-2 forms from all employers
- 1099 forms and Federal Schedules C, E, & F
- Date of move for residents who moved in 2009
- Bank routing number and account number – for fast refund or to pay electronically

To have a RITA payment electronically debited from a checking or savings account, all that is required is the bank routing number and account number found at the bottom of your checks. Credit cards are also accepted.

For more information, visit www. ritaohio.com or call 800-860-7482.

Shaker Organizations Receive Cultural Grants

The trustees of Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC) have awarded funding to 63 cultural institutions, three of which are based in Shaker Heights: the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, the Shaker Historical Society and Museum, and Verlezza Dance. The countywide source of public funds for arts and cultural organizations awarded nearly \$15 million in General Operating Support grants this year. The Nature Center received \$86,162, the Shaker Historical Society received \$19,847, and Verlezza Dance received \$12,597.

CAC is funded by proceeds from Issue 18, a cigarette tax levy that was passed in 2006. According to Shaker resident Meg Harris, interim executive director of CAC,



proceeds from the levy generated more than \$16 million in 2009. The majority of those funds are used to support General Operating Support grants for cultural organizations. In the past three years, CAC has awarded nearly \$45 million in GOS

Steven A. Minter, president of CAC's five-member board and a long-time Shaker resident, commented, "The current economic climate has dealt profound challenges to organizations and institutions that are integral to this community's identity. With the establishment of CAC, the citizens of Cuyahoga County have made an incredibly sound investment one whose impacts we are only beginning to realize."

Significant grants were also awarded to some of Cleveland's finest cultural gems, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Museum of Art, PlayhouseSquare Foundation, and Ideastream.

Local cultural organizations are encouraged to visit the CAC website for information on additional funding opportunities, at www.cacgrants.org.



New Location for Shaker's "Black Tie Block Party"

The Shaker Schools Foundation's annual fundraiser, A Night for the Red and White, will be held this year at the Executive Caterers at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights on Saturday, March 13. Each year the celebration brings together parents, faculty members, and community leaders to benefit students in the Shaker Schools. Now in its 18th year, the benefit has raised over \$1.7 million for educational enrichment opportunities focusing on the arts, technology, health, and fitness. For event information, contact Christine Auginas, Executive Director of the Shaker Schools Foundation, at 216-295-4325, or auginas c@shaker.org.

Business News

Lebanese Grill Coming Soon to Chagrin Boulevard

Shaker residents can look forward to savoring the Middle Eastern cuisine of The Lebanese Grill, an authentic, familyowned restaurant that once was located in downtown Cleveland. Its proposed new location is 20126 Chagrin Boulevard the former site of Matsu Restaurant. City Council approved a \$10,000 job creation grant from the City's economic development fund to help subsidize a projected \$12,000 worth of exterior improvements and \$75,000 in interior remodeling costs.

Lee George, the proprietor, is an experienced chef and restaurateur. He promises gourmet Lebanese cuisine, using creative recipes most Clevelanders have not yet experienced. Matt Wolf, of Wolf Maison – Architecture and Design, plans to create a Bauhaus-inspired interior, with granite tables, ergonomic leather and steel chairs, and modular art paneled walls. Mayor Earl Leiken commented, "The Lebanese Grill is a quality restaurant, with the potential to be a really good asset to the City."

Shaker News Briefs

 The International Mediation Institute (IMI), as part of the American Arbitration Association, has designated Shaker resident Deborah A. Coleman as a Certified Mediator. Coleman is a partner with Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, where she specializes in complex commercial litigation, particularly with regard to antitrust and intellectual property issues.

"We are pleased to see Deborah, a longtime leader in the field of mediation, earn this significant designation," said Lawrence E. Oscar, Managing Partner and CEO of the firm. Coleman was named the first woman partner of Hahn Loeser in 1984. She frequently serves as

a mediator for complex business disputes throughout the country and also provides counsel and representation on issues involving professional ethics.

• Mayor Earl Leiken appointed William S. Gaskill to serve on the Civil Service Commission for a six-year term, beginning January of 2010. During his long career in public service, he has served as city manager of East Cleveland, director of public utilities for the City of Cleveland, executive assistant to the deputy mayor for the District of Columbia, county administrator of Cuyahoga County, and executive director for the Federation for Community Planning.

He joined Jones Day in 1980 as firm director of administration, retiring in 2009. He has been a trustee and officer of the MetroHealth System since 1980, and currently serves as its chairperson. Gaskill is also a member of the Cleveland State University Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs Visiting Committee and is Past President of the Citizens League of Greater Cleveland.

 The American String Teachers Association (ASTA) announced that Daniel **Zhou** was one of three recipients of the 2009 Potter's Violins Instrument Awards, a program that grants promising young stringed instrument players with highquality instruments. Zhou is a senior at Shaker Heights High School and an accomplished violinist. The value of the three instruments awarded totals nearly \$10,000.

The Potter Violin Company is the largest purveyor of fine stringed instruments in the Mid-Atlantic region, and donates Heinrich Lutiger violins, violas, or cellos annually for the ASTA competition. ASTA is the largest membership organization for string and orchestra teachers and players across the country.

Seasonal Reminders

Bicycle Licensing: Licenses will be sold from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, February 6, March 6 & 27 in the Police Depart-

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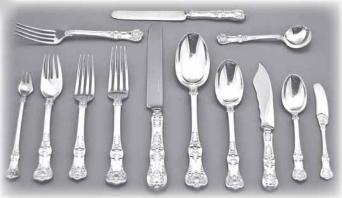


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city news 💸



ment 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. 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.

Nominations for Customer Service:

The City appreciates nominations from residents for outstanding customer service - above and beyond expectations provided by City employees. Nominations are accepted all year long for recognition in the spring of 2010. Instructions can be found in the Human Resources section of the City website, shakeronline.com as well as at the reception areas of City Hall, Shaker Community Building, Court, Police, Fire, Public Works and Thornton Park.

Contractors: While the City cannot recommend contractors, lists of contractors registered with the City can be viewed at shakeronline.com. Lists are updated regularly.

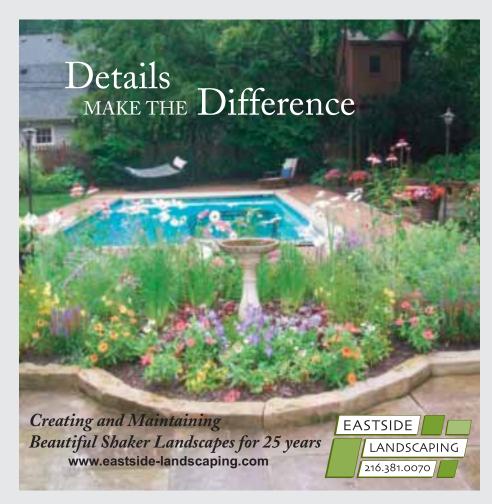
E-News Updates: Don't miss a thing! Sign up to receive emailed news about your community. Visit the homepage of shakeronline.com and enter your email to select the information you wish to receive.

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

Parking Ban: There is no parking permitted on Shaker streets between 2 and 6 am.

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

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





health news

The Mysterious Meaning of "Very"

In a spring 2009 survey of Shaker Heights High School students conducted by the Shaker Prevention Coalition, more than 27 percent of students said that they had been to a party during the past month at which parents permitted teen alcohol use.

As a parent, you cannot legally give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21, under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.

Further, you cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

The good news is that nearly threequarters of our high school students said they had not attended such a party. This is important since some parents (and some teens) would have you believe it is usual to hold or to attend alcohol parties. It is not.

In 2009, about 38 percent of Shaker High School students reported drinking at least once in the previous month. This is significantly fewer than the 46 percent drinking across Ohio in 2009 and the 48 percent drinking in Shaker in 2004. Perhaps more importantly, "only" 17 percent of Shaker teens report binge drinking (at least five drinks in an episode during the previous month) in 2009, significantly fewer than the rest of Ohio (26 percent) and fewer than were binge drinking in Shaker in 2004 (26 percent).

One reason there is less alcohol use in Shaker Heights now than there was in 2004 may relate to the efforts of the Shaker Prevention Coalition (SPC). Since the initiation of the SPC in 2002, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, designed by the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, has been conducted to help identify problem areas among Shaker teens.

Among the most telling of the information gathered relates to a question asked of Middle School and High School students: "How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example vodka, whiskey, or gin) regularly?" Teens are given the option of responding "very wrong; wrong; a little wrong; or not wrong at all."

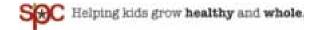
By far, most teens believe their parents think that drinking alcohol is very wrong (High School 65 percent, Middle School 84 percent) or wrong (High School 20 percent, Middle School nine percent). But a meaningful minority of teens believes their parents consider underage drinking a little wrong (High School 12 percent, Middle School five percent) or not wrong at all (High School four percent, Middle School 2.5 percent).

The fallacy of parental permissiveness is the belief that teens will restrict themselves to the behaviors their parents have sanctioned. When parents do not communicate effectively that alcohol for teens is *very wrong*, their children are far more likely to become lifetime drinkers (89 percent vs. 61 percent) and current drinkers (63 percent vs. 28 percent). Teens with parents who communicate lower levels of disapproval about teen alcohol are more likely to binge drink (31 percent vs. 11 percent), drive with a drinker (63 percent vs. 23 percent), drive drunk (19 percent vs. six percent), drink at school (7.5 percent vs. two percent), and begin drinking before the age of 13 years (22 percent vs. 13 percent).

When a teen perceives parental ambivalence about alcohol use, he or she may escalate risky behavior to demonstrate defiance. And it is not just alcohol. Teens with parents who have more permissive attitudes about alcohol are also more likely to smoke cigarettes (16 percent vs. nine percent), use marijuana (34 percent vs. 16 percent), and to be sexually active (42 percent vs. 28 percent).

Surprising? After all, these findings are based on a simple teen perception, perhaps even a misperception. The difference in teen choices based on the word *very* being associated with the word *wrong* is remarkable. *Very wrong* does not guarantee teens will make healthy choices, but it certainly does improve the odds.

Shaker MAPS (Maintaining the Adult Protective Shield) is a program sponsored by the SPC to encourage parents and the adult community to have a greater awareness of the impact of parental permissiveness on our teens. Membership in Shaker MAPS is confirmation that parents in this household will not knowingly allow teen alcohol, drug use, or sexual activity to occur in their home, and will not deliberately look the other way so that they can claim they did not know. Shaker MAPS parents do not allow teens to gather in their home without adult supervision; they welcome calls from other parents to check on the nature of teen gatherings at their home; and they encourage and support other parents who are likewise committed. For information visit shakerprevention.org or contact Shaker MAPS at (216) 491-1409.

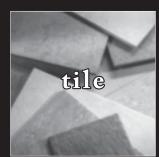


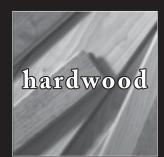












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real estate news



REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between August 1 and September 30, 2009 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	2009 SALE PRICE	PRIOR SALE PRICE
3323 ABERDEEN ROAD	\$200,000	\$218,000 (2004)
21176 CLAYTHORNE ROAD	\$395,000	\$375,000 (2000)
3385 DALEFORD ROAD	\$286,000	\$265,000 (2001)
23877 DUFFIELD ROAD	\$186,000	\$239,900 (2000)
22130 FAIRMOUNT BLVD	\$214,000	\$187,500 (2006)
2894 FONTENAY ROAD	\$535,000	\$630,000 (2001)
2674 GREEN ROAD	\$65,000	\$ 53,334 (2009)
3344 GRENWAY ROAD	\$183,000	\$288,750 (2006)
3365 GRENWAY ROAD	\$247,000	\$268,350 (2000)
22826 HOLMWOOD ROAD	\$275,000	\$265,000 (2006)
3725 LATIMORE ROAD	\$40,000	\$ 51,176 (2008)
18222 LYNTON ROAD	\$240,000	\$260,000 (1999)
18508 LYNTON ROAD	\$325,000	\$194,000 (2008)
3592 LYTLE ROAD	\$193,000	\$200,000 (2003)
3340 MILVERTON ROAD	\$82,000	\$ 25,500 (2008)
21899 RYE ROAD	\$171,500	\$205,000 (2003)
22599 RYE ROAD	\$234,000	\$249,000 (2008)
14410 SHAKER BLVD	\$407,500	\$559,900 (2003)
23300 SHAKER BLVD	\$145,235	\$195,000 (2007)
3632 SUTHERLAND ROAD	\$179,000	\$217,000 (2006)
3655 TRAVER ROAD	\$186,000	\$191,500 (2003)
2977 WARRENSVILLE	\$118,000	\$160,000 (2004)
2983 WARRENSVILLE	\$118,000	\$170,000 (2004)
3072 WARRINGTON ROAD	\$239,900	\$227,500 (2000)
3131 WARRINGTON ROAD	\$208,200	\$ 95,595 (2008)

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

22132 BYRON ROAD	\$170,000	\$215,000 (1998)
2700 CHESTERTON ROAD	\$791,480	\$805,000 (1998)
21925 PARNELL ROAD	\$540,000	\$443,000 (1994)

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

3573 NORMANDY ROAD	\$134,900	\$106,000 (1989)
20050 SHAKER BLVD	\$725,000	\$280,000 (1991)

Information Source: First American Real Estate Solutions

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:

3680 Norwood Road Norwood Apartments Owner: Robert Jacops Certified 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009

19606-36 Van Aken Blvd The Courtyards Owner: Joe Alberino Certified 2009

Rental Homes:

3559 Gridley Road, Owners: Bruce & Karen Altchouler Certified 2003, 2004, 2009

3683 Lindholm Road Owner: Christine Harkness Certified 2009

real estate news

22650 Westchester Road Owner: Ruth Feig Certified 2009

18419 Winslow Road Owners: David & Diana Chrien Certfied 2006, 2009

19411 Winslow Road Owner: John K. Livingston Certified 2009

Send in Nominations for Landmark Awards

The Landmark Commission is now seeking nominations for the 2010 Preservation Awards program. Exterior projects completed within the last two years are eligible. Those projects meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation will be recognized. The Standards for Rehabilitation are basic

principles created to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs.

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

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, April 30 to the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission. Nomination forms are available at shakeronline.com. You may also write a letter explaining why the property is being nominated. Include your name and telephone number, as well as the nominee's name, address, and telephone number. A high quality, color photograph of the property is required.

Please note that submission photos become the property of the City and will not be returned.

Contact Ann Klavora at 216-291-1436 or ann.klavora@shakeronline.com for additional information.

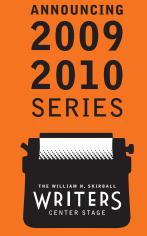
The (Building) Doctor Is In!

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has selected Shaker Heights as one of seven communities statewide to host a "2010 Building Doctor Clinic." Each two-day clinic begins with a free seminar on topics like roof repair, windows, wood repair, masonry, and other maintenance issues of interest to owners of buildings more than 50 years old. On the second day, the "doctors" will make rounds of ailing buildings in the area to examine problems and prescribe cures. Look for announcements regarding upcoming dates, or visit shakeronline.com for more information.



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April 13, 2010
Poet Mary OLIVER (born in Maple Heights, Ohio, in 1935) is the author of more than a dozen books of poetry and prose, including American Primitive (winner of a Pulitzer Prize), New and Selected Poems (a National Book Award winner) and House of Light (winner of

the Christopher Award and the L. L. Winship/PEN New England Award). Her most recent poetry collection, *Evidence*, was released in April of 2009.



May 11, 2010
JHUMPA LAHIRI, author of the Pulitzer Prizewinning collection of short stories, Interpreter of Maladies, and the critically acclaimed novel, The Namesake, an international bestseller. Lahiri's second collection of short stories, Unaccustomed Earth,

debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and earned the author the prestigious 2009 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book.



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To purchase Single Author Program tickets, call **216.241.6000** or visit **writerscenterstage.org.**All programs will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Ohio Theatre at PlayhouseSquare, 1511 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. Each program will be followed by a book signing in the lobby.

SPONSORS: Cuyahoga County Public Library; Bostwick Design Partnership; Dominion Foundation; Eaton Corporation; Margaret Wong & Assoc. CO., LPA; Roetzel & Andress; Ulmer & Berne LLP

PARTNERS: Joseph-Beth Booksellers; PlayhouseSquare and The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland



library news

Five-Star Library

The stars have aligned again for the Library as it received a 5-star ranking by the Library Journal Index. This is the second year in a row the Library has been so honored, and it places Shaker Library among the best public libraries in the nation. According to Library Board president Donna Whyte, "This is an amazing accomplishment and high compliment to the staff and community who continue to make Shaker's library so outstanding."

Shaker Library earned the highest score of any library in Cuyahoga County, the second highest of any library our size or larger in Ohio, and the third highest score of all libraries our size or larger in the United States. In terms of the numbers of material checked out on a per capita basis, the Library is fourth in the country and third in Ohio among multibranch systems, and fifth in the nation for all libraries serving a population of 30,000 or more.

The 2010 ratings were based upon per capita statistics reported in 2007.

Library Helps Customers SCORE

Need help writing a business plan? Searching for financing? Want solutions for small business concerns? Sign up for SCORE at the Library and get help from the experts. Both profit and non-profit ventures are welcome.

In 2005, as an outgrowth of its business program series, the Library formed a partnership with Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). This partnership has helped business people seeking advice on topics such as business start ups, marketing, accounting, and human resources. It connects them to retired SCORE executives who offer free counseling and business advice.

The Shaker Library-SCORE partner-ship provides an important one-to-one mentoring link for small or home-based businesses. Residents seeking information on business plans or business development issues can complete a contact form, which is available at either Library. The form is sent to SCORE, which then matches the clients to the counselors with their particular expertise, who contact them to schedule a meeting. Most consultations are conveniently scheduled at Main Library at agreeable times.

SCORE's Cleveland Chapter secretary, Mike Weissman, says the SCORE program with Shaker Library is the most successful ongoing outreach program for the group. According to Adult Services librarian Ed Rossman, "The success of the program is largely due to library displays and staff efforts in promoting the free service to its community and its library visitors."

Following the free consultation, librarians are available to help find business resources. In addition, Main Library has a Computer Center, which offers the full Microsoft Office software package, including word processing, and spreadsheet and database-building software.

Recently the SCORE at the Library program held its 300th consultation. Among these consultations, 51 percent were for advice about home-based businesses and 41 percent were for business people seeking advice on ways to improve or grow their businesses.

The program has provided business advice on starting a childcare operation, an entertainment business, home improvement and remodeling services, cosmetology, janitorial services, and catering.

A new emphasis for SCORE and the Small Business Association is the Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative. continued on page 15



Recap of Caps for Kids 2009

In December, more than 200 knitted or crocheted caps and scarves were delivered to Project Act and distributed to homeless children in the Cleveland Public School System. Library staff members and participants in the Library's Knit Night generously gave their time and talents to benefit the children. Pictured are Dr. Marcia Zashin, Director of Project Act, and Fern Braverman, Shaker Library's Knit Night moderator, admiring some of the many caps.

Corner

MAIN LIBRARY • 16500 VAN AKEN BOULEVARD • 216-991-2030 BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH • 20600 FAYETTE ROAD • 216-991-2421

PLAY AND LEARN 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.

PLAY AND LEARN BABIES

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

10 am-noon Thursdays & Saturdays *No registration required.*

PLAY AND LEARN STATION FOR CAREGIVERS

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

10 am-noon Wednesdays

One-time registration is required; call Family Connections: 216 921-2030.

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

SATURDAY PRESCHOOL STORIES IN THE PLAY AND LEARN STATION

Stories and fun for preschoolers 11 am Saturdays Main Library No registration necessary.

NESTLINGS

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

Spring Session: March 16–May 5 (Must be target age by March 15.) 9:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch 9:30 am Wednesdays at Main Library (This class is held on the 2nd floor in Meeting Room B.)

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Monday, March 1.

(No programs the week of March 29–April 3.)

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.

Spring Session: March 16–May 5 (Must be target age by March 15.) 10:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch 10:30 am Wednesdays at Main Library (The class is held on the 2nd floor in Meeting Room B.)

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Monday, March 1. (No programs the week of March 29–April 3.)

TERRIFIC TWOS

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

Spring session: March 15–May 6 (Must be 2 years old by March 15.) 10 am Mondays or Wednesdays at Woods Branch

10 am Tuesdays or Thursdays at Main Library

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Monday, March 1.

(No programs the week of March 29–April 3.)

PRESCHOOL STORIES

Stories, rhymes, and fun for children 3 through 5 years.

Winter Session: January 5-March 25 1:30 pm Tuesdays & 10 am Thursdays at Woods Branch

10 am Wednesdays at Main Library No registration required; groups must make special arrangements.

(No programs the week of March 29–April 3.)

PAJAMA STORIES

AT WOODS BRANCH

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

7:15 pm Mondays, February 15 and March 15

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning 2 weeks before the story time.

THE WRITERS CLUB

AT MAIN LIBRARY (Grades 2-4)

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

Spring Session: March 16–May 4 4:15 pm Tuesdays

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning March 2. (No program the week of March 29–April 3.)

AFTER-SCHOOL ADVENTURES

(Grades K and up)

Looking for something to do after school? Drop by Bertram Woods Branch or the Main Library for stories, crafts, games, and more. Fun guaranteed! *No reservations required.* 4:15 pm Mondays at Woods Branch 4:15 pm Thursdays at Main Library Winter session ends March 4.



MEET AMERICAN GIRL DOLL REBECCA (Grades 1-5)

Meet the newest American Girl Doll. Listen to a passage from the first book in the doll's series, play a game, make a

craft and enjoy a snack from Rebecca's

2-3:30 pm Saturday, February 6 at Woods Branch

Registration began Saturday, January 23. 2-3:30 pm Saturday, March 6 at Main

Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Saturday, February 20.

PAWS FOR READING AT MAIN LIBRARY

(Grades K and up)

Spend some time with man's best friend. Practice your reading skills or just enjoy reading aloud to dogs from Northcoast Therapaws. Bring your favorite book to read or borrow one from the library. 2-4 pm Saturday, February 20 Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Saturday, February 6.

BASEBALL CARD ADVENTURE AT WOODS BRANCH

(Grades 1 and up)

Learn about some historic baseball players and the times in which they lived. Listen to a chapter from one of Dan Gutman's Baseball Card Adventure books, make a baseball craft, sample a ballpark-style snack, and bring baseball cards to share or trade.

4:15-5:15 pm Monday, March 15 Register in person, by phone, or online beginning Monday, March 1.

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.

4-6:30 pm Mondays & Wednesdays in Main Library Meeting Room F

An adult must be present to register the student at the first visit. Students must be picked up by 6:30 pm. (The Homework Center will be closed Monday, March 29 & Wednesday, March 31 & Monday, April 5 for Spring Recess.)

The Homework Center is funded by MyCom.

Library Helps Customers SCORE

continued from page 13

This is for veterans and members of the military community and their spouses who want to start or expand a small busi-

Information on this resource, as well as the SCORE at the Library service, is available at the Information Desks at both Libraries.

This year, SCORE will also offer a monthly series of free business programs on Tuesday evenings at the Main Library.

7 pm Tuesday February 23, SCORE will present The ABCs of Starting a Business. Whether you are just formulating a concept, or ready to start a business and don't know what questions to ask, this program is for you. The speaker will provide a general overview of the questions you must business.

7 pm Tuesday, March 23, SCORE presents Writing the Business Plan. This session will provide small business owners with the information needed to complete a business plan, that can be used to help manage the business, or to present to a bank for financing.

All programs are free; however, reservations are requested by calling 216-991-2030.

Library Offers Job Seeker Programs

Looking for work in this economy is challenging. Shaker Library offers two afternoon programs for job seekers, featuring Giannoula Harris from the Cleveland Chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management.

Harris works for Staffing Solutions Enterprises and is the on-site workforce manager for the STERIS Corporation, where she manages the temporary and temp-to-hire staffing. She also assists with the recruitment of specialized permanent positions. Prior to her employment with Staffing Solutions, she worked as a Human Resources Generalist for a medical service company. Harris received her bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in Business Administration, from Ohio University.

2 pm Wednesday, February 17, Harris ness and need small business loans to do presents Getting Your Foot in the Door when she will offer tips on how to reach prospective employers. She will suggest some job search strategies and talk about how to network, and how to write cover letters and resumes.

> 2 pm Wednesday, March 10, Harris will discuss Excelling at Interviews when she will talk about what applicants should and should not do in job interviews.

> The programs are free; however, registration is requested by calling 216-991-2030.

Poetry Back in the Woods

ask yourself and answer to start a small February's poetry performance is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, at Bertram Woods Branch and will feature regional poets Ari Lesser and Nina Freedlander Gibans reading from their recent writings. Tuesday, March 23, arts advocate Kathleen Cerveney will perform her poetry.

> The programs are sponsored by Friends of the Shaker Library and begin at 7 pm.

> > continued on next page

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Ari Lesser is a spoken-word artist from Cleveland Heights. He performs



Lesser

a mixture of poetry, hiphop, and song, with subject matter ranging from politics, to love, to the Torah. He is the son of Ray Lesser and Susan Wolpert, publish-

ers and editors of The Funny Times.

Nina Freedlander Gibans is a well-known arts advocate, author, and teacher. She lived, wrote and read in San Francisco during the Beat Era and has read at museums, libraries,



Gibans

and bookstores in the Cleveland area. Her publications include 18 Gardeners and their Gardens, Silver Apples of the Moon: Art & Poetry, and

Creative Essence 1900-2000. She coedited Cleveland Poetry Scenes and helped to develop a companion website. In 2009, The LIT (Cleveland's Literary Center) honored her for her service to the writing community. Gibans will read from her new book, And So I Must Imagine.

Kathleen Cerveny is the arts program director for the Cleveland Foundation.



Cerveny

A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, she has taught art at the high school and University levels, maintained a ceramic studio, and helped launch

the New Organization for the Visual Arts (NOVA). She is a past President of Ohio Designer Craftsmen, and was WCPN's first producer and broadcast journalist for the arts. She

library news

joined the Cleveland Foundation in 1991. She has overseen all of its arts grantmaking, including several major initiatives, one of which led to the development of the 2006 Issue 18 campaign for local public support for the arts. In 2008, she was named a Distinguished Educator by the Northeast Ohio Arts Education Association. Also in 2008, she launched the arts initiative Creative Fusion.

Poetry is Kathleen's latest mode of creative expression. She works and reads with Take Nine, a group of local women poets, and has been published in Tributaries, a journal of nature writing, and by Luna Press. One of her poems was published on RTA bus cards as part of The LIT's Moving Minds poetry project and she is as of this writing, the reigning Haiku Death Match Champion of Cleveland.

Shaker Art Gallery at Main Library

Got the winter blahs? Brighten your spirits with the local art exhibit, Winter Blues to Winter Hues. The exhibit of two-dimensional works will be on display through March 11 in the Shaker Art Gallery located on the Main Library second floor. Featured artists are Bonnie Dolin, Marti Higgins, Jodie Kantor, Anne Kibbe, Beth Marken, Eddie Mitchell, Lisa Schonberg, and Bobby Zamora.

All art is available for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits the Art Gallery. Shaker Art Gallery is a new collaboration of the Shaker Library and Shaker Arts Council.

For additional information please contact Margaret Simon at 216-991-2030 ex. 3005 or msimon@shakerlibrary.org or Leslye Arian at 216-470-9104 or larian@ roadrunner.com.





The Bookshelf:

Recommended Read-Alouds for Bedtime or Anytime

The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. The ten original stories in this collection "rooted in African American history and the oral storytelling tradition" make good, spooky read-alouds for families with older children in grades 4 and up.

Heidi by Johanna Spyri, illustrated by Jessie Wilcox Smith. William Morrow and Company, 1996. This children's classic is the tale of orphan Heidi, as she moves from her grandfather's rural home in the Swiss Alps to the city of Frankfurt to be a companion to a crippled girl named

I Need a Lunch Box by Jeannette Caines, illustrated by Pat Cummings. HarperCollins, 1988. A boy wants a lunch box just like his sister's, but Mom says "No, not until you start school." He dreams of different lunch boxes, what they would look like, and what he would carry in them. The surprise ending will make listeners of all ages smile.

The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001. This is the story of two girls, one black and one white, and the fence that separates their houses. Told in the engaging voice of a child, and beautifully illustrated, it acknowledges the existence of racial tensions, even as it shows children devising their own ways of bridging barriers.

Sideways Stories From Wayside School by Louis Sachar, illustrated by Julie Brinckloe. Morrow Junior Books, 1998. These laugh-

out-loud stories about an unusual school filled with an odd assortment of teachers and students will delight both boys and girls and those who have the pleasure of reading to them.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson, illustrated by John Lawrence. Candlewick Press, 2009. Intricately crafted hand colored engravings bring to life young Jim Hawkins' perilous adventures with pirates at sea and on land as he follows a treasure map that leads to a fortune in pirate's gold. The swashbuckling adventure will keep the whole family on the edge of their seats!

The Trolls by Polly Horvath. Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1999. When Mr. And Mrs. Anderson's babysitter calls off just before their trip to Paris, eccentric Aunt Sally arrives from Canada to stay with the three Anderson children. Her colorful personality and hilarious family stories make it a week to remember and give the children insight into how one cruel deed can change lives.

Truckery Rhymes (Jon Scieszka's Trucktown) by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by David Shannon, Loren Long and David Gordon. Simon & Schuster, 2009. This clever, entertaining, fun-filled collection of truck rhymes, with words that replace the words of twentytwo of the most familiar Mother Goose rhymes, is a wonderful book to read or sing aloud - in fact, the more, the merrier!

What! Cried Granny An Almost Bedtime Story by Kate Lum, illustrated by Adrian Johnson. Puffin Books, 1998. Patrick's first-time sleepover at Granny's develops into the hilarious realization that all the things that he needs in order to go to bed, Granny must make for him. A bed, a pillow, a blanket, and a teddy bear take all night to make. Finally, when Patrick has what he needs, it's morning! The engaging repetition and charming illustrations will have

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- Mindi A., camp parent

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everyone begging to hear it again and

 Wolf by Becky Bloom, illustrated by Pascal Biet. Orchard Books, 1999. While Wolf struggles with his reading, just like a normal kid, he soon becomes an impressive reader. Now, instead of wanting to eat the "educated" animals, they want him to read to them! Lush, colorful cartoon-like illustrations will enchant all readers.

Shaker "History Works in Progress" Series

In celebration of Bertram Woods Branch's impending 50th anniversary, the Library has scheduled a series for and about local authors who are in the process of writing the history of our town. Learn what books are in the making and offer your historical perspectives to the authors at evening programs at Bertram Woods Branch.

7 PM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 Sabine Kretzschmar, former Executive Director of the Shaker Historical Society, speaks about the Clark-Lee Freeway struggle and the birth of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

7 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 16 John Carroll University professor, Marian J. Morton, speaks about the congregations of faith in Shaker Heights.

The programs are free; however reservations are requested by calling 216-991-2421.

Free Computer Classes at Main Library

Warm up your computer skills at the Library. Classes last one and a half hours and range from the baises of how to set up and use an email account to job searching online and how to use PowerPoint® and Excel® programs to your best advantage.

The classes are free; however registration is required and begins two weeks before the class. Call the Computer Center at Main Library for more information: 216-991-2030 ex. 3185. If you reach the library's automated attendant, dial 8 to reach the Computer Center.

INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT®

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

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

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: ONLINE JOB HUNTING

7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Mouse skills are required for this class designed to help job seekers develop Internet and computer skills needed in online job hunting. Discover websites that can help create resumes and get an overview of local online resources and tips for investigating local companies.

INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL®

10-11:30 AM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3 Learn the basics of spreadsheet construction, including formatting and design, printing options, and using basic formulas. Participants must be able to use the mouse.



MOUSE CLASS

3-4:30 PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 7-8:30 PM MONDAY, MARCH 8 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.

WINWAY RESUME WRITING

7-8:30 PM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 7-8:30 PM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 9 3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 18 Learn to create a professional looking resume with Winway Resume Deluxe 11. Participants must be comfortable using the mouse.

INTERNET CLASS

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 4 Discover how to find and use a wide variety of online resources and learn to "surf" the web.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: GOOGLE DOCUMENTS™

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 With just a web browser, work on documents, spreadsheets, and databases over the Internet and invite others to edit the documents and work collaboratively.

ANIMATION IN POWERPOINT®

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 Everything in a slide can be animated to some extent. Learn the 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.

CHARTS AND GRAPHS IN EXCEL®

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 7-8:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 Explore ways to use Excel to display data as charts and graphs. Some familiarity with Excel spreadsheets is expected.

WEB EMAIL

3-4:30 PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 11 Learn to create and access a web email account and to send and receive messages. Participants must be able to use the mouse, navigate websites, and type

BASIC WORD PROCESSING

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 Learn how to format documents using Microsoft Word software. Topics to be covered include: formatting text and paragraphs, aligning text, and using toolbars, menus, and context-sensitive menus. Participants must be comfortable using the mouse.

WORKING WITH WINDOWS®

10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 16 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 certain activities easier. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: GOOGLEMANIA™

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 3-4:30 PM SATURDAY, MARCH 6 Learn searching strategies, tips and tricks for finding better information using the Google[™] search engine.

🍠 library news

Recent Contributions to the Library

The Library has received an unrestricted contribution from Melissa Hintz and James Trapp and a contribution to the Bertram Woods Branch Fund from George Dent. Randy Kammer contributed funds in memory of Eida Rothstein, Eddie Cantor, Mike Young, and Wayne Ennis along with contributions to honor Margaret Prejean, Kathy Osterer, Elizabeth McKee, Paul Cohn, and Toni Rittmaster.

Joseph Lang of GRG Trucking donated two large map cabinets to the Library's Local History collection.

Book Discussions at the Main Library

It's winter. Time to curl up with a good book and then discuss it with others. The choices are varied for the months of

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February and March. Choose to join in one or all of the discussions. Books can be picked up at the Main Library.

10 AM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Book Buzz: The Help by Kathryn Stockett Set in Jackson, Mississippi in the early 1960s, this compelling first novel is the story of three women on opposite sides of the racial divide, who prove that ordinary women can be heroic.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 Mystery Book Discussion: Little Scarlet by Walter Mosley

Set during the 1965 Watts riots, private investigator/school custodian Easy Rawlins is recruited by the LAPD to identify the murderer of a young black woman, who had sheltered an unidentified white man during the riots.

NOON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 Reflections Book Discussion: The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy

A successful, respected governmental figure is haunted by one past, pivotal night when he got drunk, got mad, and sold his wife and child at a country fair.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 Tuesday Evening Book Discussion: Les Miserables by Victor Hugo Hugo's classic tale is set amid the politi-

cal upheaval in 19th century France.

10 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Book Buzz: Emma by Jane Austen

Emma Woodhouse is a matchmaker who meets with the most unexpected results in this 19th century comedy of manners often deemed to be Austen's best work.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 9 Mystery Book Discussion: The Last Kashmiri Rose by Barbara Cleverly In the 1920s, a serial killer targets the wives of Britons attached to a military unit near Calcutta. Disguised as accidents, the murders go undetected until the purported suicide of a young wife finally attracts the attention of investigator Joseph Sandilands.

NOON SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Reflections Book Discussion: Saving Fish From Drowning by Amy Tan

This political satire recounts the adventures of a group of American tourists lost in the Burmese jungle, bumbling along the notorious Burma Road.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion: A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson

After living in England for 20 years, the author decides to reacquaint himself with America by walking the 200-mile Appalachian Trail. Along the way, he meets several humorous and memorable characters.

7:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Business Book Discussion: Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America by Thomas

The author of The World Is Flat, helped millions of readers view globalization in a new way. In his latest book, he discusses the crises of destabilizing climate change and the rising competition for energy.

Teen Scene

ALTERED BOOKS AT WOODS BRANCH

(Grades 6 and up)

6:30-7:30 pm Tuesday, February 9 We're breaking all the rules! Craft Specialist Brenna Friesner will show you how to rip, tear, glue, and decorate old books transforming them into amazing recycled art. Register in person, by phone,

library news

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? CANDY-MAKING IN THE TEEN CENTER

(Ages 12-17)

4:30-6:30 pm Thursday, February 11 Looking for a sweet gift for Valentine's Day? Make your own candy and show the special people in your life that you care. Bring a container to take home your tasty treats. *Register in person, by phone, or online.*

FREE SAT PRACTICE TEST & STRATEGY SESSION FROM PRINCETON REVIEW AT MAIN LIBRARY

(Grades 10-12)

9:15 am-2:45 pm Saturday, February 20 Take a full length SAT Practice Test including Essay Writing that will be professionally scored.

9:15–11 am Saturday, March 6 Learn insider tips and strategies to help raise your score.

The SAT Strategy Session is automatically included with your SAT Practice Test Registration. *Register in person, online at www.shakerlibrary.org or call 216 991-2030 beginning February 6.* You must be registered to take the test and no late arrivals will be admitted. Bring two # 2 pencils, a snack, and a calculator. To see if yours is acceptable, go to www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/testday/calc.html

TAB II MEETINGS AT MAIN LIBRARY

7:30-8:15 pm Tuesdays, February 23 & March 9

Regular meetings for Teen Advisory Board members.

CANDY-MAKING & DESSERTS

AT WOODS BRANCH (Grades 6 and up) 2:15-3:15 pm Saturday, March 13
Bring your sweet tooth and learn to make fancy specialty candies and delicious no-bake desserts.
Register in person, online at www.shaker library.org, or call: 216 991-2421 beginning February 27.

Make your home more energy efficient and start saving money today with a GreenStreet Home Energy Audit.

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Boys & Girls ages 3 – 14



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Spring: March 22nd – April 2nd

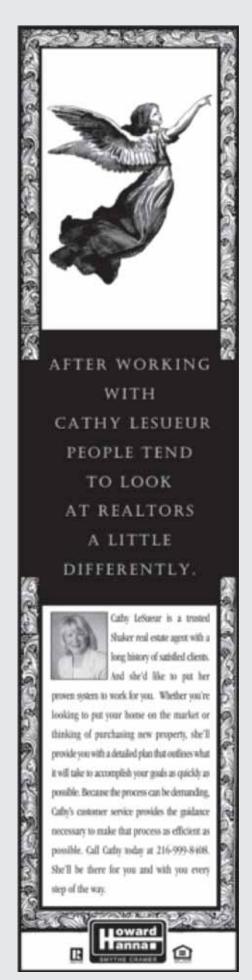
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FOR MORE INFO:

Siva Grossman Program Director 216.320.8085

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library news

RATE THAT PIZZA AT WOODS BRANCH

(Grades 6 and up)

2:15-3 pm Saturday, April 10

Sample pizzas from different area restaurants and then rate which has the best sauce, which has the best crust and more! Register in person, online at www. shakerlibrary.org, or call: 216 991-2030 beginning March 27.



RATE THAT PIZZA IN THE TEEN

CENTER (Ages 12-17)

5 pm Wednesday, April 13

Sample pizzas from different area restaurants then rate which has the best sauce, which has the best crust and more!

Register in person, online at www.shaker-library.org, or by phone, 216 991-2030 beginning March 31.

Gaming for Seniors and Game Girlz Make Use of Grant-Funded Games

The Library continues its Wii for Seniors gaming programs from 2 to 3 pm Wednesdays, February 3 and 17, and March 3 and 17, at the Main Library. The Wii Sports bundle is a collection of video games that blends attention, memory and physical activity into a challenging game.

Space is limited and reservations are required by calling 216-991-2030 ex. 3180.

Game Girlz is a new gaming program for girls from 8 to 108. It offers an opportunity to learn to play Wii and Sony Playstation 3 games and to improve your skills. Bring your mom, best friend, or your grandmother to play Wii Sports, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, and PS3's LittleBigPlanet from 4 to 5:30 pm Thursdays, February 18 and March 25 at the Main Library. The winner won't have to make dinner!

Databases of the Month

Your CLEVNET public library card provides 24/7 access to online database resources that can help answer all sorts of questions. Research your question online and get reliable, high-quality answers, right in your home or office, any time of day or night. It's free to anyone with a CLEVNET library card. Two featured sites and what to find there:

NetWellness

www.netwellness.org

This consumer health database provides information on topics ranging from chronic diseases to exercise and healthy eating. All materials on the site were created and evaluated by faculty at the medical schools at Case Western Reserve University, The Ohio State University, and The University of Cincinnati. Users can even submit questions to more than 500 health professionals and get an answer within days.

Discovering Collection-U.S. and World History

http://find.galegroup.com/srcx/start.do?prod Id=DC&userGroupName=clevnet_sh
This multi-subject database provides an in-depth opportunity to research topics in science and the liberal arts with a focus on U.S. and world history and culture. Users can search from more than 250,000 entries for information on the people and places that have shaped our world.

Library Seeks Entries for 11th Annual Barbara Luton Art Contest

Artists interested in entering the Library's 11th annual Barbara Luton Art Competition are encouraged to pick up an entry form at the circulation desks at either Library. The contest is named in honor of Barbara Luton, the

director who oversaw the renovation of Moreland School into the current Main Library.

Entries will be accepted from 2 to 5 pm Friday, March 5 and from 10 am to 2 pm Saturday, March 6. A non-refundable entry fee of \$25 for up to two pieces is required at the time of entry.

Past winners' works include Gary Williams's pastel and fabric collage, Tishauna 7.1, Horace Reese's graphite drawing, Ethiopian, Terry Sciko's The Fourth of October, John Harmon's Interspace, Johnine Byrne's Lanterns, Jerome White's Quality Time, David Brichford's Man Eater, Daniel George's 220 Stories, Mary Ryan's Doan Brook and Amy Lewandowski's A Very Good Breakfast. They are part of the library's permanent art collection.

The awards include a purchase award not to exceed \$1,000 for the Best of Show, \$200 for First Place, \$100 for Second Place, \$50 for Third Place, and certificates for honorable mention. Awards will be presented at the Gallery opening reception from 2-4 pm Sunday, March 28. The exhibit will continue through May 7.

For more information about the art contest, call the Library at 216-991-2030.

Friends Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary with an **Ambitious Membership** Campaign

Friends of the Shaker Library is a volunteer organization that supports the library's programs and services. Its revenue comes from book sales, merchandise, and memberships. In its 30th anniversary year, Friends has set an ambitious goal to reach \$30,000 in memberships.

Friends president Sharon Heslin says, "There are about 30,000 residents in the city of Shaker Heights, and the Shaker Library has more than 30,000 registered library card holders. Imagine how wonderful it would be to have 30,000 Friends or \$30,000 in membership contributions in our 30th year. And, imagine what we could do for our 5-star library with Day. \$30,000."

Evans has created a large sign for both Libraries that will measure the increasing Friends membership dollars. According to Evans, "There is strength in numbers and Friends is on a body-building campaign." Membership applications and remittance envelopes are available on the display signs, along with a list of the perks of Friends membership.



On December 9, Friends of the Shaker Library received the 2009 Friends of the Library Recognition Award from the Ohio Library Council. The honored recipients: Martha Sivertson, President 2007-09; Nikki Evans, President 2005-07; Sharon Heslin, President 2009-10 pose with Doug Evans, OLC Executive Director.

Friends-Raising Fun: A February Feast-ival of Chocolate

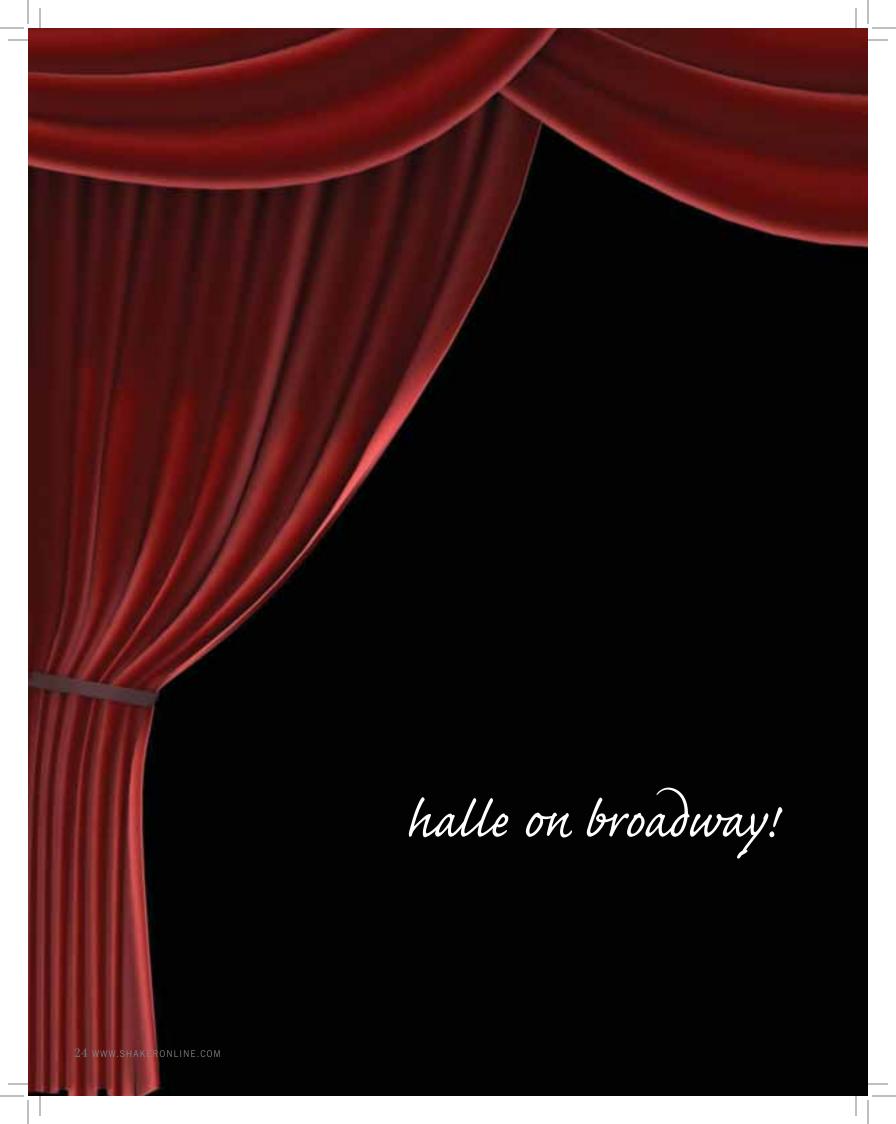
Calling all friendly chocoholics! Do you have a chocolate recipe to share? Friends will host a Feast-ival of Chocolate from 7 to 8:45 pm Thursday, February 4, at the Main Library

Residents can participate by bringing a baked, cooked, or frozen chocolate goodie cut into bite-sized pieces to share with at least 30 people. Recipes will be tastetested by others and could win a prize. Volunteers are needed to submit their chocolate concoctions with recipes and volunteers are needed to eat them. Local chocolate shops will be on hand to offer samples and an order form with special discounts - just in time for Valentine's

You don't need to be a Friend to come, Friends membership chair Nikki but you do need to be a Friend to enter to win some fabulous door prizes, including a gift basket of chocolates from Fresh Market. Be a Friend. Bring a friend.

End Notes

- Knit Nights are held at 7 pm Thursdays, February 11 and March 11, at Woods Branch.
- The Library Board meets at 6:30 pm Tuesdays, February 9, at Main Library and March 9 at Bertram Woods Branch.
- Friends of the Shaker Library meets at 7 pm Tuesdays, February 16 and March 16 at the Main Library.
- Both Libraries will have a one-hour delayed opening at 10 am on Friday, March 12 for staff professional develop-
- In response to budget cuts, the Library Board approved closing the library and furloughing staff for four days in 2010: April 2, September 9, November 26, and December 31.





The 23-year-old Shaker native is rocking New York in MAMMA MIA! (Her parents will never be the same....)

BY NANCY O'CONNOR

The lights on Broadway have been shining brighter since September 22, 2009, when one of Shaker's own burst on stage at the Winter Garden Theater in Manhattan for the opening number of Mamma Mia!

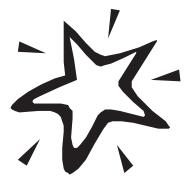
The twirling, dancing, five-foot-two ball of energy playing best friend "Lisa" and belting out "Honey, Honey" was none other than 2005 Shaker High graduate Halle Morse. That night marked Halle's first performance as a bonafide Broadway actress. Her parents, Evan and Randi Morse, sister Natalie, and boyfriend Anthony were there for her debut, along with numerous high school and college friends.

"As the curtain went up, Evan and I looked at each other with tears in our eyes," says Randi. "Hand in hand, we witnessed the dream come true – Halle on Broadway! We couldn't be more proud. She was outstanding. What a thrill!"

"Never have I been more nervous for anything in my entire life," Halle recalls of that opening night. "But it was also exhilarating." Nearly as nerve-wracking was her audition five months earlier. "When all you've ever wanted is to be on Broadway, and you're there auditioning but know that what happens next is mostly out of your hands, it's tough. You have to be 100 percent committed, but realistic at the same time."

Realistically, she couldn't expect to land a Broadway role just weeks after earning a degree in Musical Theater from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). A part with a national touring company, maybe, and she was in fact offered a role in Hairspray in Chicago. But her talent, timing, and nearly 22 years of "rehearsal" managed to make the nearly impossible happen for her after that audition: Casting director Eric Woodall





shared Halle's opinion that she was a natural for Mamma Mia!

"It's one of the so-called young shows on Broadway right now, and my character, Lisa, is a good personality fit for me — she's an energetic, fun, bubbly party girl," says Halle, who turned 23 in December. "The role is also a 'perfect triple' for someone who sings, dances, and acts. I really felt I could nail it if I had the opportunity."

She's now nailing it eight times a week in a production that continues to pack the house in its ninth year. Mamma Mia! is a lighthearted tale of a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father on the eve of her wedding. Halle performs or sings backup on 27 of the show's 28 songs, which include "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes It All," "Take a Chance on Me," and other 1970s hits from the Swedish pop group ABBA.

As delighted as Halle's family, friends, and former teachers are for her swift success, few are surprised. "As early as age five, Halle used to sit us down in the living room and put on little plays and musicals with her friends, complete with costume and hairstyle changes," says her mother. "We realized that she was a born performer."

At Shaker Middle School, her English teacher, Eric Hutchinson, nicknamed her Hallewood.

"She really shone creatively during class presentations," says Hutchinson, now an assistant principal at the high school. "Halle also has a smile that lights up the room and an electric personality. I loved her energy."

Classmates at Shaker High surely saw stardom coming when they voted her Most Likely to Win an Oscar and Most Likely to Win American Idol. And all those who caught the school's December 2004 production of Pippin are probably not surprised either.

Her stellar performance in the musical cemented her place on Music Department Chair Robert Schneider's short list of those who might make it to Broadway.

A star is born: Halle Morse in SHHS productions Our Town (top right) and Pippin (below right). PHOTOS COURTESY SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL.

**

Halle used to sit us down in the living room and put on little plays and musicals with her friends, complete with costume and hairstyle changes," says her mother. "We realized that she was a born performer."











"Halle had the difficult, demanding role of the Leading Player," he says. "This character tells the story and ties the whole show together. It is challenging theatrically, but also has high musical demands with a wide range. Halle and I wrestled with the score to make it best fit her voice, as it is often sung by a man. She was always so receptive to coaching and a joy to direct. She was concerned about her role, but also about the success of the entire production."

Halle was playing a part made famous by Ben Vereen on Broadway and in Shaker by former student Michael McElroy, who himself has gone on to Broadway fame [Shaker Life, April/May 2007]. "Halle gave the performance of a lifetime," says her father. "We still run into people who remember her in that role and how, for such a young person, she commanded the presence needed to pull it off."

It was Halle's presence and professionalism that convinced Christine McBurney, chair of Shaker High's Theater Arts Department, of Halle's very real potential.

"It's about the work, and separating the everyday concerns from rehearsal," says McBurney. "She has a combination of drive and focus and maturity that is very rare."

McBurney saw that potential play out again during Halle's senior year of college. "I went to see her one-woman cabaret at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights, just before her move to New York. She talked and sang about her vision of making it to Broadway, and she made it happen."

<mark>Ju</mark>st A Hobby, At First

Halle first stepped into the world of musical theater when she was six years old, as a member of the Peanuts Gang in the Heights Youth Theater's production of

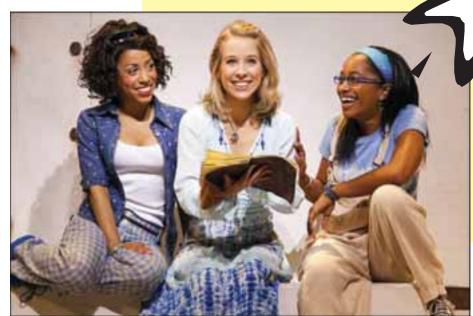


continued on page 52











Day Camps

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Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho, It's Off to Camp They Go!

STORIES BY JENNIFER PROE

PHOTOS COURTESY CAMP ROBIN HOOD

Despite the frigid temperatures, families everywhere already are poring over camp brochures and perusing camp websites, happily planning the summer months for their children. Whether you're choosing a day camp or an overnight camp, there are plenty of resources available to help you find the right fit for your own camper.

New trends

The American Camp Association, a national organization that accredits day camps and overnight camps, provides a wealth of information online to help families with the selection process at www.acacamps.org.

The association also tracks new trends in camping, such as programs geared toward challenging and adventurous activities: ropes courses, climbing walls, zip lines, mountain biking, and cave exploring. Many camps now include a service component, such as community clean-up efforts, food drives, recycling programs, and volunteering with seniors and hospital patients.

Technology has also come to the forefront, with most camps now offering online registration and program scheduling.

Traditional camps typically offer hiking, swimming, sports, arts and crafts, and nature activities. Families can also find a wide variety of specialty camps, including programs for families, seniors, campers with cancer, gifted and talented children, youth at risk, or persons with disabilities, to name just a few. However, many camps now prefer to mainstream children with disabilities for a more inclusive experience.

Choosing an overnight camp

For families who have decided upon overnight camp, the National Camp Association offers plenty of guidance. Its website, www.summercamp.org, provides a list of questions to help parents determine what type of camp may provide the best experience for their camper, including:

- * What is the philosophy regarding competition?
- * Which activities are required, and which are elective?
- * How structured is the program?
- * Will the counselors encourage my child to try new things?
- * Is there an emphasis on one particular activity or sport?

The website also offers a list of 20 questions for parents to ask the camp director, such as:

- * What is the camper-counselor ratio?
- * What is the food like?
- * What is the policy about letters, packages, and visits?
- * What medical facilities and staff are available?

For further advice, parents can look to Jamie and David Cole, Shaker residents and owners of Robin Hood Camp in New Hampshire. Jamie tells parents, "The decision of whether or not to go to overnight camp is too big for a child to make. Parents should make the determination if their child is ready. However, the child absolutely should be involved in choosing where to go."

She recommends that parents and children make a list together of what is important. "Should it be same sex or co-ed? Sports-oriented? Should it have a pool or a lake, or both? How rustic should it be? These are just some of the criteria that should be considered," she says.

She also notes that while parents may be tempted to send their child to camp with a group of friends, campers tend to have a richer experience if they attend solo or perhaps with just one particular friend. "The fewer friends you go to camp with, the more friends you end up making," she says.

Day Camp Options

Families choosing a day camp can find plenty of choices close to home, for every interest and budget.

Shaker Community Life Department Camps

For children grades K-2, the traditional camp includes creative arts and sports, such as swimming, t-ball, soccer, and basketball. Children Grades 3-8 are able to design their own camp day, choosing from a multitude of fun activities such as chess, arts & crafts, cartooning, hiking, science, scrapbooking, volleyball, golf, soccer, and floor hockey. Field trips are part of the schedule for both age groups.

Shaker also offers the following sports camps: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, fencing, flag football, golf, lacrosse, field hockey, roller hockey, skateboarding, soccer, and tennis. Specialty camps include: art, dance, drawing, math, nature studies, science, Spanish, and computer camps (through Funutation Tekademy.) Also offered: Safety Town, Safety Town Counselor-in-Training, Script-to Screen Film Camp, Teens Learning to Connect (community-service oriented activities), Shaker Summer Theater, Shaker on Stage, Strike Up The Band, and Lifeguard Training Camp.

Preschool in the Park is a program focused on literacy and physical activity for preschoolers 3-5 years, accompanied by an adult caregiver. The program will be held at Chelton Park in the Moreland neighborhood, as well as in the Ludlow neighborhood. For information contact: Rhonda Miller, 216-491-2583.

A camps brochure will be mailed to all residents of the Shaker Heights School District along with the Spring/Summer recreation brochure. Schedules will also be available at Thornton Park, the Community Life Building, City Hall, and the Shaker Heights Public Libraries. For more information, contact the Community Life Department, 216-491-1295, or shakeronline. com.

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Camps

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes offers outdoor adventure day camps for children 4-13 years old and week long overnight camps for children 11-17 years old. Camps run from June 21-August 18. Registration begins January 11 for members and January 25 for non-members. For more information contact Beverly Barr, 216-321-5935, or www.shakerlakes.org.



Preschool Camps

Early Childhood Enrichment Center (ECEC) – Located at the Shaker Family Center, offers full-time Summer School Age Camp (SSAC) which spans the 10 weeks that Shaker Schools are not in session. The camp is open to children 6-8 years of age and includes swimming lessons at Thornton Park, visiting specialists, cooking, and nature activities. Space is limited. For information contact Michele Block or Lynn Prange, 216-991-9761.

Hanna Perkins Center's Reinberger Parent/Child Resource Center offers theme based summer camps for children ages 4-12. Camp themes include woodworking, creative arts, roller-skating, cooking, and robotics. For in-

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formation contact Karen Goulandris, 216-929-0201, or www. hannaperkins.org.

Summer Adventure Camp, located at Heights Christian Church preschool, offers two 2-week sessions with different themes. This year's themes are Beach Camp and Around the World. The program is open to ages 3 to K-bound, and offers music, crafts, science, and outside play. For more information, contact Simone Nielsen, 216-751-2593 or 216-991-7552, or by email at csniels@earthlink.net.

Independent School Camps

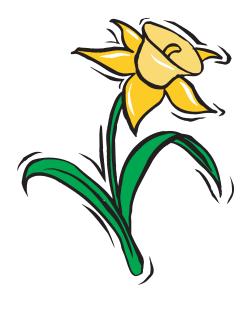
Hathaway Brown's Broad Horizons for Beginners is for boys and girls who have begun or are about to begin preschool. There is also a Broad Horizons camp for girls, where campers experience learning and socialization through a variety of classes and activities. Dates for that program will be June 21– July 29. HB

also offers a spring vacation camp, March 22–April 2 for boys and girls ages 3-14, and an August vacation camp, August 2–20, for boys and girls ages 3-14. For information contact Siva Grossman, 216-320-8085, or www.hb.edu.

Laurel School's Summer at Laurel 2010 (June 14-August 13) features recreational, leadership, theater, technology, sports, and academic camps for children from prekindergarten-grade 12. New camps this year include Gator Train Camp at the Shaker campus for the youngest campers and, at Butler Campus in Russell Township, the Daring Camp for Girls and Boys in grades 3 and 4. Summer at Laurel favorites — the Magic Tree House Camp, Shakespeare Rocks, and the weekly science camps designed and led by the Great Lakes Science Center — are among those returning. The Laurel Summer Institute offers academic courses for full or partial credit to high school students. Register online at www.LaurelSchool.org/Summer by May 1 and get a five percent discount. For more information, contact Melissa Curtis at 216-455-0154 or Summer@LaurelSchool.org

University School offers co-ed and all-boys summer sports





camps, day camps, and academic enrichment programs for boys and girls entering grades K-12. Camps are held at the US campuses in Shaker Heights and Hunting Valley. Offerings for all ages include Soccer Camp, Football Speed Camp, Biz Wiz Young Entrepreneurship Camp, and High School Prep for middle school boys. Spaces are limited. Register today at www. us.edu. For more information, contact Debbie Linich at 216-831-1984.

Shaker Campers Take to "the Realm"

When summer rolls around, Shaker loses dozens of its citizens to a place they fondly call "the Realm," better known as Camp Robin Hood.

Located in the tiny town of Freedom, New Hampshire, this traditional overnight camp draws campers from all over the world, including several generations of campers from Shaker families.

David Cole first went to the camp at age ten, following in the footsteps of his father, Richard Cole, and his uncle, Bob Gries. He returned every summer, first as a camper, then as a counselor, and finally as an alumnus at reunions.

In 2003, the camp's owner retired and offered David a unique opportunity: to return to Camp Robin Hood as the new owner. At the time, David was working in commercial real estate, and his wife, Jamie, was employed as a marketing executive.

"We asked ourselves what kind of

legacy we wanted to leave behind and envisioned the impact we could have in children's lives," said Jamie. They took the leap, and never looked back.

While camp business consumes much of their time throughout the year, they still work in their respective fields during the off-season. But every summer without fail, David, Jamie and their two daughters, Lauren and Elizabeth, pack up and head to camp. They are not the only Shaker family to spend their summer together at the camp.

Jody Podl, an English teacher at Shaker Heights High School, is the camp's program director, while her husband Tod serves as medical director — a position Jody's father used to hold. Paula Klausner, a nurse at Boulevard School, takes her husband, their two sons, and their dogs, so that she can serve on the camp's medical staff. Paula's husband, Jonathan Gordon, teaches law at Case Western Reserve, which gives him the summers free to coach baseball and football at camp.

"The adults have just as much fun at camp as the kids do," says Paula. When not on duty, the adults are free to go mountain biking, take a swim, or hang out at the craft shack to make jewelry.

They also participate in all-camp activities like "Color War," where the camp divides into two teams for a weeklong competition. "One year, I helped my team win the Geography Bee," said Paula. "It turns out most kids don't know what city holds the Masters Golf Tournament."



A Note from the Camp Nurse

Last year, H1N1 was an unwelcome visitor to some camps, adding one more concern to parents' lists. Paula Klausner is a nurse at Boulevard Elementary School who also attends Camp Robin Hood every summer as part of the camp's medical staff.

She recommends: "Ask the camp director about their protocol for dealing with an epidemic. Make sure that there is medical staff on duty 24 hours a day, and that they have an overnight care facility. And if your child has any particular medical needs, be sure to establish a rapport with one particular care giver who will follow your child's wellbeing closely." At Camp Robin Hood, she notes, they were able to contain an early outbreak of H1N1 by following a strict protocol at the first sign of illness.

shaker preschools

Allemas Childcare and Enrichment Center

16500 Chagrin Blvd.

Email: tyrawlsallemas@sbcglobal.net

Carol Nursery Schoo

19824 Sussex Rd 216-991-3449

ages: 3-5 yrs.; 2½ with parent

Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities

19824 Sussex Rd. 216-761-7624 www.ccbmrdd.org

ages: 0-3 vrs. (special needs only)

Early Childhood Enrichment Center

19824 Sussex Rd. 216-991-9761

Email: Iprangeecec@sbcglobal.net

Pre-K Early Intervention Class Shaker Heights City School District

Onaway Elementary Scho 3115 Woodbury Rd. 216-295-4080

Email: morrow_n@shaker.org ages: 3-5 yrs. (special needs only)

CEOGC Plymouth Head Star

2860 Coventry R 216-991-8754 www.ceogc.org ages: 3-5 yrs.

(income eligibility guidelines)

Cooperative Nursery School at Heights Christian Church

17300 Van Aken Blvd 216-751-2593 ages: 2½-5 vrs.

Children's Center of First Baptist Church

3630 Fairmount Blvd. 216-371-9394 www.firstbaptistcleveland.org

Hanna Perkins School

19910 Malvern Rd. 216-991-4472 www.hannaperkins.org ages: 15 mos -7 yrs

Hathaway Brown Early Childhood Program

19600 North Park Blvd. 216-320-8098 www.hb.edu ages: 2½-5 yrs.

Nana Ella's Day Care

3685 Lee Rd. 216-991-6139 ages: 18 mos.-5 yrs.

JDN Early Childhood Center

22201 Fairmount Blvd. 216-320-8489 Email: weavers@bellefairejcb.or

Laurel School

1 Lyman Circle 216-464-0946 Email: jdurdle@laurelschool.org www.laurelschool.org ages: 3-5 vrs.

Parent's Day Out at Plymouth Church

216-991-1961 Email: jalbrecht@plymouthchurch

Tree of Life Learning Center

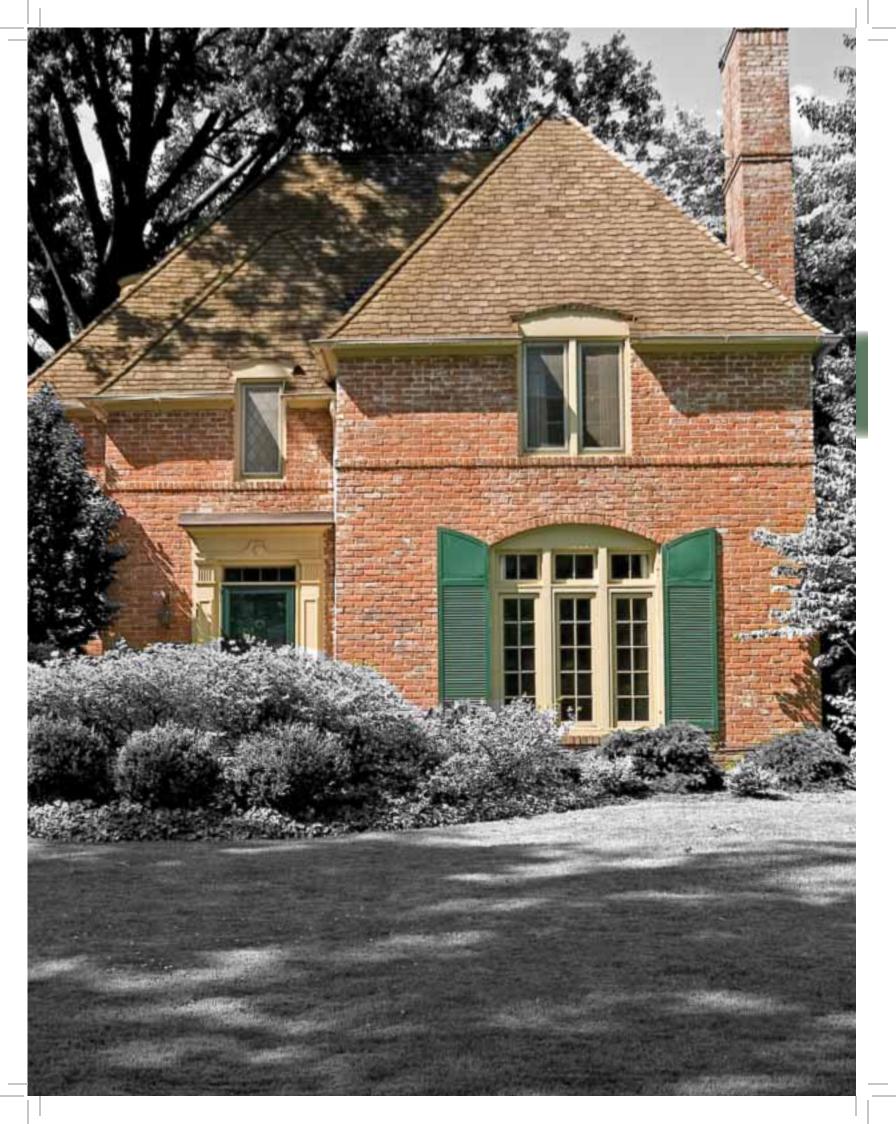
216-752-6922 ages: 6 weeks-12 yrs

Home Field Advantage

As a member of the Shaker Heights community for over 40 years, I am well aware of the many amenities our community has to offer. I am also well versed in our local real estate market and would welcome the opportunity to counsel you during your next real estate transaction. I am proud to be a REALTOR® in Shaker Heights, and look forward to showing others why our community is the best place to call home.









Taking Stock in Spring

It's not too early in the year to start your home maintenance and repair work. Herein, some tips from the pros.

BY RITA KUEBER

Shaker Heights neighborhoods were built from west to east: the first from 1920-29, the next after World War II, and the last in the late '50s and '60s. So the average age of most houses on Shaker's west end is 80, and on the east end, 50.

The age impacts how home owners in Shaker should think about repairing and maintaining their vintage houses. Many of our classic beauties were created by old-school craftsmen – stonemasons, carpenters, plumbers, glaziers, plasterers, tilers – for families who could afford the best homes money could buy at the time. Given the age and pedigree of Shaker Heights homes, good stewardship (not so much ownership) demands a commitment to preserve the best features while repairing or replacing what's needed, inside and out.

As spring approaches, we offer our residents the opinions of knowledgeable professionals who are ready, willing, and able to talk about how to preserve, protect, and even promote the beauty and functions of our homes.

Repair or replace?

After 17 years of helping homeowners maintain their Shaker Heights houses, Jim Ziegler, the director of the City's Building Department, has a great deal of insight and a bit of general advice on refurbishing and renovation.

His most important piece of advice: Maybe repair isn't enough. "Too many people don't understand that sometimes it's no longer repair time for their house — it's rebuild time. You see so many front stoops with worn out railings, or an original roof, or masonry, trim, or shutters that have rotted, even light fixtures on the outside of the house — sometimes the item's useful life is over. To fix it is throwing good money after bad. It's 80 years old. It's time to replace it."

Another mistake people make with older homes is doing potential damage to the foundation by piling on the mulch. "Basements can start to leak because people add plants near the foundation, then put too much mulch around the plants. I've seen mulch piled all the way up to the wood. You can't see what's happening with moisture, rot, or pests.

"I know people use the mulch to make the yard look nice," Ziegler continues, "but in the real world, that's bringing the grade up. You want the grade to slope away from your house. Mulch should be no higher than eight inches below the wood because the old houses are porous."

Other simple preventive steps homeowners can take include cleaning gutters in the fall and spring, especially after spring seedlings fall from the trees. Inside, tune up the boiler or furnace.

"Flush the boiler in fall and spring to get rid of the rust and crud built up inside," Ziegler says. "Draining off the hot water tank — not while it's running — extends the life of the unit. Flush that system every three months so you're not wasting money heating up the water through inches of rust and sediment."

Outdoors, Ziegler recommends cleaning up debris left over from the previous fall, removing dead grass and inspecting for snow mold – places where the grass looks yellow, matted, and slimy. Leaf spot and mildew can winter over in mulch and affect spring growth. Ziegler advises treatment early – before buds appear on trees – with a fungicide to kill the spores in the soil. He also suggests thatching or aerating the lawn and giving it a shot of fertilizer before the growing season really begins.

Plenty of additional information on home maintenance and repair is available at no charge from the Shaker Heights building department on line at shakeron-line.com/dept/building/ or by calling 216-491-1460.

To 'air' is... divine

Despite the fact that February in Cleveland is usually freezing and March sometimes worse, around Valentine's Day is the time to start thinking about air conditioning. While homeowners can change filters themselves, they should call in a professional once a year to keep an aging HVAC system in the best possible shape.

"You wouldn't go a year without changing the oil in your car," says Gary Rosen, owner of Smylie One Heating and Air Conditioning. "Why would you go a year without servicing your air conditioner?"

Smylie One's service manager, Jim Gilcher, describes how often homeowners flip on the AC and hope for the best. "Most of the time they don't remember to call someone until it's too late – there's a leak in the refrigerant, or the drain's plugged and backs up. We've got some real horror stories."

Rosen and Gilcher point out that not all inspection and maintenance calls are equal. "We spend over an hour checking 30 system items," Gilcher says. "It makes a difference when the homeowner saves 10 to 30 percent on their energy bill. Plus, the average life of an AC system in NE Ohio is twelve years. We have clients whose systems are at 17 to 22 years old because of regular maintenance."

Rosen says it pays to hire a contractor who actually knows what's going on in the industry. As an example, he points to the current 2010 deadline for changing refrigerants. R22, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon typically used in residential and commercial air conditioners, is being phased out.

All new systems in the U.S. must switch to ozone-friendly R401A refrigerant this year. By 2020, R22 will be gone entirely. Rosen recommends hiring a contractor with North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certification, EPA certification, and who is licensed and bonded.

"We have no problems servicing a century home, which has a different set of requirements than a contemporary home," Rosen says. "We have a boiler expert on staff with over 40 years of experience and a plumbing staff that knows about older homes."

"The key to maintaining an older home is knowing what you can and cannot do," Gilcher says. "Newer homes have tighter construction with more air exchanges. Older homes can be drafty or stuffy, but we have remedies for that."





Brick by brick

After winter's freeze/thaw cycle, it's time to check on the stonework or bricks at the front or back stoop, chimney, and foundation.

"Homeowners should look for missing mortar joints, tuck points along the chimney, and look at the foundation inside and out," Anthony DiFrancesco says. His company, DiFrancesco and Sons, works extensively with stone, brick and concrete, and does much of that work on the older homes in Shaker.

"Look at the chimney. If you see brick spalling (flaking), you have water issues. Fix them right away," he says. "Check the tuck points on the chimney. Check the flashing." (Flashing is the material that keeps the area between chimney and roof watertight.) "Even slate roofs can gap. Be sure no water is getting in."

If your plow service pushes snow up against the foundation of your house or garage, the mortar joints will erode over time and DiFrancesco's company does a great deal of this kind of repair as well, carefully matching the right mortar — and the right color.

DiFrancesco also recommends looking at your front and back stoop. "So many pretty steps in the City," he says. "That's why I love working in Shaker. But steps age. The footers give out. If your stoop leans or tilts, replace it." He describes how he rebuilds steps using as much of the original stone as possible.

The company also lays concrete driveways, but doesn't work with asphalt. "Concrete has a lifespan of about 40 years," DiFrancesco says. "Asphalt about 12. Most driveways are just now reaching the upper limit of their age, which means it's time to replace the old driveway." DiFrancesco describes how he sees the same age-related problems in houses throughout the City. "Shaker houses were built pretty well, but they're approaching 100 years in age. Some things just have to be rebuilt," he says. "As soon as you have a problem, take care of it. Spending \$1,500 to \$2,000 bucks now will save you triple that in the end."

Trees and twigs

Shaker's abundant old-growth trees, including oaks, maples, sycamores, beeches, and elms, embellish schools and churches, enhance our streets, and decorate our yards. Dave Van Curen's company has been looking after trees in Shaker and beyond for more than 25 years, and he has a vision: He believes people should invest in their trees.

"The single most important thing to do for a tree is deep root feeding," he says. "The biggest bang for the buck is injecting a liquid fertilizer into the roots at 400 pounds per square inch."

Such an application should be done by a professional service, obviously. "Feeding a tree is the same as feeding a human body," he says. "It makes the tree healthier and it helps it fight off disease."

The second-most important thing for old-growth trees is trimming. Not only are dead branches the perfect environment for insects, they catch the force of a heavy wind. Much of the damage from the August 10, 2009 windstorm was due to untrimmed, top-heavy trees caught in the 70 mile per hour winds.

"A light, interior thinning makes the tree more efficient," Van Curen explains. "It's a big help to large shade trees, and from a distance you can't see the difference. Looking up through a big tree, you should see sort of a hollow ball. Thinning allows the wind to pass through the tree. An untrimmed tree acts like a sail."

Homeowners should also work to protect maples from four-footed vandals – squirrels. "The damage they do is horrible," Van Curen says. "They're looking for the sugar in the sap. They can kill the entire tree. The best thing you can do for a maple is to get rid of the squirrel."

Van Curen indicates that trees can be trimmed all year round, except for elm and beech, which should be trimmed in the dead of winter. "The best time to trim is very early spring, before the buds pop up, through the beginning of June," he says. "Even trees as young as five years old benefit from healthy pruning and trimming."

Putty, plaster, paint

Brothers Chris and Chuck St. John own the painting company their dad founded in 1976 – and decided to spell St. "Jon." The six-person company specializes in older homes such as those in Shaker – an entirely different proposition from painting newly constructed houses.

"The difference is the amount of prep work needed," Chris explains. "Before we paint, we have to repair the plaster, failing paint, and any paint that's popping off the woodwork, windows, or doors. We take the time to fill in, sand, re-plaster."

He recommends homeowners keep an eye out for peeling paint, which could indicate rotting wood. Look for gaps in the caulk around windows as well as any missing glazing. For exterior work he recommends using the best paint available: Sherwin Williams or Benjamin Moore. He's helped clients configure the color scheme for their vintage Shaker houses as well.

"Homes in Shaker need TLC all the time," St. John says. "Some of it is maintenance work, but sometimes you need to strip things completely. If you have an 80-year-old door that's been repainted over and over, it's time to strip it back to the bare wood. It's really restoration work. It takes time and it's more expensive.

"If you're looking for someone to 'slap a coat of paint' on your house, we're not your company," he continues. "In Shaker, you can't have a guy just show up with a spray gun. I understand about budgets, but we're going to approach a job the right way. We might work on your project for days, rather than hours. No matter who you hire, be sure they have experience working on older houses."

For more complex repair/restoration jobs, St. John recommends working with a general contractor familiar with Shaker Heights, such as Dan Dureiko or Jim Karlovec.

"Someone who's familiar only with new construction is going to get lost in your house. They won't be able to anticipate the problems," he says.

Watch those windows... and more

To freshen up the entire look of your Shaker Heights home, Pat McEntee has one word of advice: windows.

"Windows are the most dominant feature on your house," says McEntee, the owner of R. E. Majer. "Replacing windows is instant gratification." He explains that most houses in Shaker Heights more than 60 years old were built with weighted sash and double hung windows,





and how in the 1950s and 1960s many of those original windows were covered with screens and triple track aluminum storm windows that have been painted shut and are hard to clean.

"It's always been kind of a pre-conception that historically accurate window replacement is expensive, inconvenient, invasive, and dirty. It isn't," McEntee says.

In an industry dominated by vinyl window replacement companies, McEntee's approach is thoughtful and craftsman-like. He recommends homeowners take advantage of the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law last year, which allows a tax credit up to \$1,500 for replacing old windows with new ones that meet the government's energy efficiency standards.

"It's a very good time to do windows," McEntee says.

And that one weird window you have? McEntee has never met a window he couldn't replace. "I've done huge palladium windows on stairways, circle tops, custom sizes, you name it. The companies I work with have 20 to 30 standard colors, and we'll also match a custom color precisely."

"R. A. Majer was founded in the 1950s, and I'm the third owner," McEntee says. His other enterprise, Honey Do, focuses on smaller jobs, from minor repairs to stripping wallpaper, painting rooms, and refinishing hardwood floors. "Our Honey Do clients are often seniors alone in their home," he says.

"We do a lot of work in Shaker. We work with Shaker on point-of-sale violations. We work well with the City," McEntee says. "We know what they want. I love historically accurate window replacement, and I agree with what the City is looking for."



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THE OLD FAMILY HOME

BY JENNIFER PROE PHOTOS BY MARC GOLUE

Robert Frost wryly observed, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." The other side of the coin, of course, is what home."

More specifically, for some Shaker residents, there's no place like the old family home. Sometimes by chance, and sometimes by choice, they find themselves back where they started – living in the home of their youth. For some, the experience offers the opportunity to re-settle in Shaker Heights; some are drawn back by the chance to carry on family traditions. And for others, the home becomes the embodiment of a family legacy.

Mallory and Miguel Bendezu

New traditions for family gatherings

Mallory and Miguel Bendezu admit to having acted somewhat impulsively in their decision to leave the Washington D.C. area while planning a wedding, with no jobs lined up in the Cleveland area. Yet, they never wavered in their decision ing and minor renovations in the house. to return.

"We knew that we wanted to leave Northern Virginia," says Miguel, "because it was simply too expensive to live there. When my parents found out we were thinking about coming back to Northeast in."

It was an offer too good to refuse. Between May and August of last year, they moved into the house, Miguel landed a job at Shaker Middle School, and they planned a wedding for 75 guests, using only Shaker businesses. Mallory was amazed to find both a caterer (J. Pistone) and a florist (A.J. Heil) who were willing

to work within her very short time frame and are conveniently located next door to one another on Warrensville Center Road.

The couple was married at the Unitar-Dorothy believed: "There's no place like ian Church of Cleveland, where Miguel's family has long been active.

> Miguel's parents, Rafael and Eve Bendezu, are thrilled to have the couple back in Shaker, and are especially happy to see them settled in their Lomond area home. Several years ago Rafael and Eve downsized to an apartment on Van Aken, but kept the house, which has also served as a roosting place for Miguel's brothers over the years. (One brother now lives in Switzerland, the other is in San Francisco.)

> Miguel loves being able to ride his bike to the Middle School, where he works as an Intervention Specialist. He also has enjoyed rediscovering the "small town feel" of his youth.

> "Trick or treat in our neighborhood was amazing," he says. "We practically needed velvet ropes to manage the crowd." Mallory, a native of Massachusetts, has taken advantage of the time off to do some paint-

> "I love Shaker Hardware," she says, "because they really understand old houses." She also praises the Shaker Library as a wonderful resource for books and movies, and for her job search.

Living in the family home has inspired Ohio, they offered us their house to live Mallory to create new traditions for family gatherings, blending some of her New England favorites with the Peruvian dishes she is learning to cook.

> "My father is Peruvian," explains Miguel, "and food has always been an essential part of our family celebrations." It's not surprising to learn that the dining room is considered the heart of their home, having hosted countless Thanksgiving and Christmas meals over the years. Consequently, some of Miguel's family members have strong feelings about keep

ing the dining room the same warm, red color it has always been.

"We've made some changes to the house, but that's one room we probably won't touch," says Mallory. They also keep Miguel's grandmother's pie-hutch in its place of honor near the front door, a fitting tribute to the Bendezu's food-centered family gatherings.

Jon and Erika Leiken

Some negotiations were required

For Jon and Erika Leiken, the opportunity to raise their children closer to family was a powerful draw. Both Jon's parents (Shaker Mayor Earl Leiken and his wife, Ellen) and Erika's parents (Avery and Betsey Friedman) have long-standing ties to Shaker.

Having gone to Shaker Schools, Jon, now a partner with the law firm Jones Day, and Erika wanted that opportunity for their children as well. But as Jon points out, "I was working as a federal prosecutor in New York City, and Erika had left her job as a Legal Aid attorney to stay home with our kids. We had very little nest egg with which to buy a house."

When Jon's grandfather, Manny Leiken, passed away in 2004, Jon's family facilitated the purchase of his home from the estate.

The 1950s split-level on Shaker Boulevard did not fit squarely with Erika's vision for the family. "The style of Jon's grandparents' house was not what I had always pictured for us," she says. "I had envisioned a charming, center-hall colonial on a quiet side street."

"There were some negotiations required," says Jon.

The couple agreed on several renovations to help make the home their own. By removing a wall between the kitchen and dining room, and converting an unheated Florida room into a family room,



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they now have a light, airy, and open floor plan they would not likely have found in a more traditional colonial home. They updated the kitchen, installed hardwood floors throughout, and created a child-friendly play area in the basement. However, Jon did have a sentimental attachment to two things he insisted they not change.

One was the doorbell chimes, which are original to the house. The other sacred cow was actually more of a sacred donkey. A ceramic donkey, to be more precise, which had been a housewarming gift to his grandparents, and resides in the backyard.

"My brother and I both have fond memories of visiting that donkey every time we came to see our grandparents." Jon is happy to see that their children, Caleigh, Jaren, and Sascha, have developed a similar fondness for the donkey. "There is no way we could part with it now," he grins.

Having a more spacious home allowed

Erika to reunite with a treasured item from her childhood, as well.

"My parents had been storing a desk that was willed to me by a relative, named Ida Treat, who was an author. I'm so happy to finally have a place for this family heirloom," she says. Moving back to Shaker also allowed Erika and Jon to pursue their passions. For Jon, it's musical theater.

"I was always involved in music and theater all the way through Shaker and even in college and law school." Now, not only can he finally have a full size piano, he also can put his talents on stage at an annual benefit he established for the Great Lakes Theatre Festival. Erika rediscovered the joys of Thornton Park ice rink, where she spent much of her youth figure skating. She also launched a boutique called Strollermama, which sells strollers and products for young children at a location in Beachwood and on the Internet.

But most importantly, the couple found that moving back to Shaker brought both of their families closer together. Their large backyard has once again become the site of family and neighborhood gatherings. A particular favorite is their annual Fourth of July extravaganza, a backyard barbeque for over 100 friends and family members that culminates with a short walk to the Middle School for the fireworks display.

"I have such vivid memories of this event from my childhood," says Jon, "and now we can continue the tradition."

Lisa Klausner

Not everything's a museum piece

Lisa Klausner initially thought of herself as someone who would never move back to Northeast Ohio. After college, she lived in Miami Beach and then New York City, where she worked as a photographer. Her work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine and is in the permanent collection at the Cleveland Museum of Art. In 1983, her father passed away, and in the 1990s, her mother's health declined.

"I started spending more and more

The Leiken family. Above, their home's airy kitchen.



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time here, helping my mother and looking after the house I grew up in," says Lisa. "I was not conscious of having any attachment to the house or to the area, but when my mother passed away in 2002, I decided to stay here."

She rates spending time with family as the best benefit of her decision. Lisa's sister, Paula, lives in the Fernway neighborhood with her husband and two sons. Many cousins, aunts, and uncles live in the area as well.

Living in the family home brought Lisa back in touch with her family's roots, which she describes as "the prototypical immigrant story."

Her grandfather, Ben Klausner, immigrated to the Cleveland area from the Ukraine and worked alongside his father and brother selling barrels. In the 1920s, they formed Klausner Cooperage and began manufacturing their own barrels.

Their hard work paid off, and in 1936 Lisa's grandparents built the beautiful Onaway neighborhood home that was later passed on to Lisa's parents.

"My grandparents were very traditional people," says Lisa, as evidenced by the classic brick Georgian home they designed, with a large Palladian window gracing the front.

The task of sorting through the multitude of items left by her parents and grandparents has been difficult at times, but Lisa has managed to artfully combine family pieces with some of her own favorites to make the house more reflective of her style.

Her searches have also yielded priceless treasures, such as her grandfather's citizenship certificate and her grandparents' ketubah (a Jewish marriage contract), both of which she was able to preserve for posterity. She also discovered a goldmine of vintage fabrics in the attic, which she uses to create unique decorative pillows.

"Not everything has to be treated as a

Lisa Klausner (seated) with her sister Paula.



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museum piece," she observes.

Perhaps the biggest surprise for Lisa has been discovering a love for gardening. "Having lived in New York and Miami, I never owned a house before, let alone a garden," she says.

Lisa's mother, an avid gardener, had been a big supporter of the North Union Farmer's Market at Shaker Square. "She was a customer there from day one, and developed relationships with every vendor," says Lisa, who also became an active supporter of the organization and served on their board of trustees for four years.

After her mother died, she found solace working in her mother's garden. She re-purposed several vintage items from the house to lend the garden a whimsical touch, and added a patio where she can entertain. Lisa sees her joy of gardening as a wonderful legacy from her mother. "It started as a way of mourning her passing; I felt like I was channeling her spirit. But now," she acknowledges, "I've really made this garden my own."

Living with Crohn's

BY BETH FRIEDMAN-ROMELL

Like most Shaker parents, Winslow Historic District resident Tocombamaria Murphy wears many hats — mother, office worker, nursing student, volunteer. But her decade-long struggle with a debilitating illness, Crohn's Disease, has led to one of her most fulfilling roles, as a national Crohn's Advocate.

Crohn's Disease is a chronic illness that causes inflammation of the digestive tract. Its cause remains unknown, but researchers believe that the immune system of Crohn's patients is triggered to attack healthy cells in the gastrointestinal tract. Environmental and genetic factors may contribute to the onset of the disease, which usually occurs in people between the ages of 15 and 35.

There is no cure, but many treatment options are available, including medication and surgery. About 500,000 Americans suffer from Crohn's Disease (including the author of this story). It is more common among whites, but the incidence is rising in the African-American population.

Tocomba (the short form of her name) now travels the country, speaking at forums about her own experiences and helping other patients and their families cope. Tocomba recently took time out of her VERY busy schedule to chat with Shaker Life about living, working, and parenting with Crohn's.

To learn more, visit: www.crohnsadvocate.com or www.ccfa.org

What is the origin and meaning of your unusual name? My mom combined two names. "Tocomba" (the "b" is silent) is Native American, and means "one who walks on water." "Maria," well, she just liked the name, and felt the need to stick them together. She knew she was going to call me "Tocomba" because it sounds like the city.

Are you from the Cleveland area? I grew up in Beachwood. I've been in Shaker about 11 years now. My oldest son, Eric, is a junior at Shaker High, my middle son, Kobe, is at Mercer, and my daughter, Tristan, is at Lomond.

When did you begin experiencing symptoms of Crohn's, and when was the diagnosis confirmed? It was at least 10 years ago. I would go to the doctor for a physical, they would tell me to take vitamins. About six years ago, the symptoms converged all at once. Ironically, I was working in a health care facility, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON). I thought I was catching things from the patients. Then one day, I felt like someone was punching me in the stomach. I was doubled over, I couldn't work.

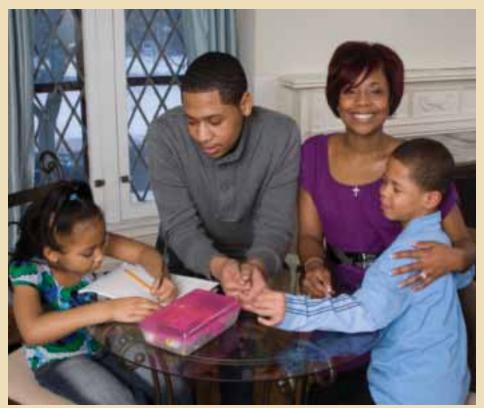
Until then, I never believed there had been anything really wrong with me. My younger son had been critically ill in the hospital for ten months. For me, that was sickness.



Well, I had a colonoscopy. It was the first time I had any sort of procedure like that. All I was given from the nurse was homegoing instructions. I turned the paper over, and found out my diagnosis – "ulcerative colitis: follow up in 30 days." I felt like I had to start doing the legwork on my own.

What happened at the follow-up? The doctor showed me a picture of the colon, indicating where my disease was. She gave me a prescription and the visit was over. I asked her what the cure was. She patted me on the back and sort of laughed. "The only cure is if we take your colon out." Then she walked away.

There I was, standing in the hallway with the appointment clerk. I didn't know what that meant for me. "Can you even live without a colon?" I was thinking all sorts of crazy things.



Tristan, Eric, Tocomba, and Kobe at home.

Anyway, it never got any better. I was losing weight, going through a divorce, and ended up back in the E.R. They put me on intravenous steroids and kept me for two weeks. We finally found out I didn't have ulcerative colitis at all. I have Crohn's.

Did anybody warn you what the side effects of the steroids might be? Well, they sent in a nurse who had had surgery for Crohn's, and she talked to me about aggression and mood swings. They didn't tell me about the weight gain. The steroids helped for a little bit, but I was horribly mean and my moods were erratic. I still wasn't feeling normal. I couldn't keep pace with my job in a really busy clinic, and rather than get fired, I resigned.

So you lost your health insurance? After a year and a half on COBRA, I had no doctor and no medicine, and ended up in the hospital. At that point, I met Dr. Mario Kamionkowski, who specializes in Crohn's disease. He treated me free until my county insurance came through, and then referred me to Dr. Jeffrey Katz at

University Hospitals.

At that point, things really turned around for me. Dr. Katz has searched tirelessly to find something that will work for me. I've been on just about every treatment there is, including surgery.

How have your children coped? I recall Christmas Day in 2008, which was my last flare, I mustered up enough strength to watch the kids open presents, and got back into bed for the next two days. My oldest son didn't even hesitate – he took care of the little ones, made them food, helped them dress. I'd hear them knock on my door, and he'd say, "Come here, let's do this, Mommy doesn't feel good."

I had a temporary ileostomy for two years. [That means doctors bypassed Tocomba's colon with a stoma (opening) connected to an external bag to collect I live with every day. waste.] It was hard to take. It changes everything about how you look, how you feel as a woman. I woke up from the surgery bawling. But before long, it was sec-

My friends and family took the surgery

really well. My daughter really wanted to see it. She looked at it, kind of said, "Oh." We gave it a name - Stomamaria! It had its own little life. Sometimes they're loud, or gassy. My daughter would ask, "Is Stoma okay today?" With kids, the more you let them in on it, the better off you are. As long as they know you're not going to die, everything else is okay.

How did you finally achieve remission? Dr. Katz felt I needed to try a new drug called Cimzia. I have been in clinical remission for almost a year. I give myself two injections once a month. This is really the first time where a medication has really and truly put me into remission. I feel like a normal person for the first time in so many years.

And that led to your becoming a Crohn's Advocate? I was at Dr. Katz' office and noticed a poster on his door advertising an academic scholarship for those suffering from Crohn's, sponsored by UCB Pharma [the company that makes Cimzia]. It had always been my dream to become a doctor, but my family came first. As I got older, I decided that I wanted to be a nurse practitioner, but every time I went back to school, I would flare or my finances were bad. I had been out of school for 17 years. I had to get my transcripts together from Case and Tri-C, write an essay, and obtain recommendations. I was one of 31 recipients nationwide to win a \$10,000 scholarship, which has enabled me to go back to school at Cleveland State University, where I'm working on a BS in Nursing.

Last year, UCB came up with this new Crohn's Advocate program, and invited me to be a part of it, along with four others. It's like a dream come true for me, working in the medical field and talking about a disease

What does this work involve? Our objective is to connect, educate, and empower those living with Crohn's and their families. We ond nature. I was feeling better, and that have a website, crohnsadvocate.com, and you can register there for our free magazine. We have local forums across the country. I do a

great bit of traveling. At the end of September, I was in three states in a week.

We raise awareness not only about the disease, but the various treatment options. I always point out the mistakes I made at the beginning, so others won't repeat them. It's so important to find a GI doctor who specializes in Crohn's. A key point in my personal story is to develop a support network, and also show that with Crohn's, you can still achieve your dreams.

What are some of the challenges that Crohn's patients face? Sometimes it seems to be an invisible disease. Often we look like we're fine – people don't understand that I'm running to the bathroom a million times a day. Bodily functions can be embarrassing to talk about. Sometimes people feel like there's no one they can talk to.

I was at the beginning of a new relationship when I found out I had Crohn's. There was no use in trying to hide what

was going on. I was very upfront with the man I was and am still dating now. He was there for me. When you try to hide it, you do yourself a disservice.

How can friends and family best support someone with Crohn's? First of all, just being there. Not just physically, but being able to be that sounding board for someone who has a chronic illness. It can be overwhelming — encourage the person to talk about it. Let them know it's okay when you're having a steroid rant or feeling particularly down.

When things get bad, you have to learn to laugh about it. We have to make this funny. The two big things for me have been my faith and a sense of humor. I appreciate my support system. Not just my family, but also my church, Trinity Outreach Ministry Church of God in Christ, in Cleveland.

It's also really encouraging to see how many people come out and show support

for the Crohn's Walk, giving money and lending a hand to raise money to find a cure. I was a team leader last summer, and plan to be involved again this year.

I hear you're an active volunteer. I'm a Sunday school teacher and the head of the Young Women's Christian Council at church. I'm also on the Patient and Family Council at University Hospitals.

And you've returned to work at NEON? Yes. I do immunization outreach. When I finish my nursing degree, I plan to specialize in IBD (Irritable Bowel Diseases).

Please finish this sentence: The best thing about living in Shaker is.... The diversity. I didn't grow up with that. There are so many things I love about the city – the school system, the teachers, even the street I live on. This is where I want to be.





JUNE 14 – AUGUST 13, 2010!

NEW THIS YEAR! **THE GATOR TRAIN CAMP** for Prek- and K and **THE DARING CAMP FOR GIRLS AND BOYS** in Grades 3-4.

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One Lyman Circle, Shaker Heights, OH 44122



...On Broadway

continued from page 28

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Her first speaking role came during the sixth grade in the Beachwood Community Theater's Annie. The following summer, she landed her first leading role as Alice in Alice in Wonderland. Her first professional gig came during her junior year of high school when she won the role of "Placard Girl" in the Beck Center for the Arts' production of Reefer Madness.

While theater camps, piano, dance, and voice lessons, and increasingly prominent roles in school, community, and professional productions filled her days, Halle didn't initially view musical theater as anything more than a hobby — until she attended a theater camp at Baldwin-Wallace College after her freshman year at Shaker High.

"I was introduced to a whole world that I didn't even know existed by stu-

dents who were musical theater majors. Once I knew I could go to school for musical theater, it was over," she laughs. "My parents had been pushing me toward the Ivy League to become a doctor or lawyer – which they still kind of want me to do – but the BW experience showed me I could go for this."

Going for it, she soon discovered, would be grueling. "Let me tell you, it is an event applying for theater music programs. I applied to and had to audition for nine schools, traveling to Boston, Philadelphia, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, and other cities during my senior year of high school. Nothing seemed more important than getting into the school of your dreams, and I had my heart set on Carnegie Mellon."

But after being waitlisted at her first choice, she accepted a scholarship offer to attend CCM, a decision she credits with helping her get to where she is today. "CCM is ranked as a number-one school for musical theater by New York City agents," she says. "They call it the Harvard of musical theater schools."

CCM's graduation ceremony is actually a one-hour "Senior Showcase" performance that students present in New York for an audience of industry agents and casting directors and managers.

"The goal is to get an agent from that Showcase," Halle explains. "We're very lucky that almost everyone, every year, graduates from CCM with an agent. It is amazing." Halle and her 13 CCM Class of 2009 classmates took "An Odyssey" as their Showcase theme. Among the standout numbers Halle performed was "Waiting for Life" from the musical Once on This Island. "I've been singing it in auditions since high school," she says. "It shows me off the best."

At the conclusion of the Showcase, each agent checks off the names of those students they want to talk to and then places their request card on the stage.

"It's the most horrifying experience



when we all return to the stage to look for cards," Halle says. "But I had 15 callbacks. I landed with The Mine, a fabulous agency that represents countless performers and has lots of working clients. I'm really happy with them. They really understand me and what I want to do. I mentioned I thought I was right for Mamma Mia! in our very first meeting."

With several months of performances under her belt, her performance jitters are under control, the two-and-a-half hour performances no longer exhaust her, and the show has become, Halle says, "the job that I do. But I'm still having the time of my life."

Last November, she moved from her cousin's couch in Queens to an apartment at East 97th Street and Lexington Avenue, a 15-minute subway ride from the theater. When not performing, she socializes with fellow cast members and other Northeast Ohio transplants, including Shaker High graduates Leah Michelson ('04), Amy Sil-

ver ('05), Hannah Corrigan ('05), Danielle Saks ('05), and Arlo Hill ('04).

She also participates in the late-night Broadway Show Bowling League that pits cast members from current shows against each other to raise money for the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS organization. And she takes in as many Broadway and off-Broadway shows and theater festivals as she can. "I've seen Hair twice, and Andrew Kober [Shaker High, 2002] is hysterical in it." She's been a fan of his for years: "He was my Charlie Brown when we did Heights Youth Theater together."

It's been nearly a year since she moved to the Big Apple, and Halle remains enamored of it. "I love New York City; there's no place else like it in the world. Even things you don't like, such as crowded subways or smelly cabs, it doesn't matter. New York is still unique with all its different walks of life. I also appreciate how well-respected theater is here."

Her fondness for the city might also

stem from having met boyfriend Anthony Mark Booth, Jr. there. "I actually met Anthony the first week I was here, on the subway," she says. "My friends and I were lost, naturally, and he helped us." Booth, she learned, was also from Ohio (Columbus) and had studied musical theater at Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts. "He is a wonderful singer on track to be a rock star/pop sensation. He has been incredibly supportive of me. He always believed I was going to make it to Broadway, and he made me believe. He continues to inspire me."

Despite her promising start, Halle acknowledges that her chosen profession "can be really scary. Theater can be such an unstable career. My very talented roommate is currently babysitting." Her ultimate dream, she says, "is to originate a role on Broadway and win a Tony Award." But for now, she says, "I feel so blessed to be in this position."







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out & about **



Ongoing Activities for Families

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS: Parent and Child Play Sessions, 9:30 AM-NOON, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER PATRICIA S. MEARNS FAMILY PLAYROOM. Parents and caregivers with children from birth to age 5 can play and make friends. Afternoon hours: 4-6 PM Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. Membership includes use of gym and muscle room during specific hours. FEES & INFO: 216-921-2023.

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: The Homework Center, 4-6:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Free homework help for youth in grades 2-6 provided by teachers under the supervision of Mrs. Cheryl Darden, Special Education Supervisor, Cleveland Public Schools. An adult must register the student at the first visit and students must be picked up by 6:30 pm. INFO: 216-991-2030. This service is generously funded by MyCom.

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Drop in Sessions, 9:30 AM-NOON, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Child's play for infants to age eight with parent or caregiver. FEES & INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

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

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

THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS: Play and Learn Station, 10 AM-NOON, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, literacybased play for parents and caregivers with children birth to age 5 co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Family Connections. INFO: 216-991-2030 OR 216-921-2023.

SATURDAYS: Open Gym, 10 AM-NOON, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Children

(birth-6 years) with a parent can enjoy exercise equipment and activities in a gym and large muscle room. Program runs through March 28. Discount passes available at Shaker Family Center. FEES & INFO: 216-921-2023.

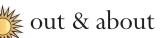
TUESDAYS: Stone Oven Days, 2267 LEE RD. Dine and donate! Every Tuesday, the Stone Oven donates a percentage of the day's sales to the Nature Center programs. Enjoy a great meal and support the Nature Center. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www. shakerlakes.org.

SATURDAYS: North Union Farmers Market, 8 AM-NOON, SHAKER SQUARE. (Between Dewey's Coffee House and CVS Pharmacy.) Go indoors to shop fresh and local to benefit the farmers. INFO: 216-751-7656.

SATURDAYS: Hike with a Friend, 3:30 PM, NATURE CENTER. Bring a friend or hike with a new one and share your knowledge and favorite spots around the Shaker Parklands. Free. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www. shakerlakes.org.

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

Destinations...



February highlights

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday~	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
	Robotics 4:15 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 58)	Play & Learn Station Ongoing. 6 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Art 10:45 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 58)	Friends Feast-ival of Chocolate 7 pm, Main Library. (pg. 59)	Drop in Sessions Ongoing. 9:30 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 55)	Meet American Girl Doll Rebecca 2 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 59)			
Reforming Our Food Supply: An Untold Story 9:30 am, First Unitarian Church. (pg. 59)	The Homework Center Ongoing. 4 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Altered Books Workshop for Teens 6:30 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 59)	Kindergarten Curriculum Night 7 pm, Hathaway Brown School. (pg. 59)	Candy Making in the Teen Center 4:30 pm, Main Library. (pg. 59)	Killer B Tournament 2/12-14 Thornton Park. (pg. 60)	North Union Farmers Market Ongoing. 8 am, Shaker Square. (pg. 55) Rain Barrel Workshop 3 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 60)			
Annual Winter Case Band Department Showcase Concert 3 pm, Severance Hall. (pg. 66)	Pajama Stories 7:15 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 60)	Roller Skating 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 60) Shaker Works in Progress 7 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 61)	Music in the Morning 9:30 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 61) Getting Your Foot in the Door 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 61)	Play & Learn Station Ongoing. 10 am, Main Li- brary. (pg. 55)	Lenten Fish Fry St. Dominic Church. (pg. 61)	SAT Practice Test 9:15 am, Main Library. (pg. 61) Cross Country Ski Shaker Parklands 10 am, Nature Center. (pg. 61)			
Les Delices 4 pm, Plymouth Church. (pg. 61)	The Homework Center Ongoing. 4 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Shaker Dreams Shaker Historical Society & Museum. (pg. 61) The ABCs of Starting a Business 7 pm, Main Library (pg. 62)	A Program of American Music 7:30 pm, First Baptist Church. (pg. 62)	Poetry Back in the Woods 7 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 62)	26 Lenten Fish Fry St. Dominic Church. (pg. 61)	Wildlife Tracks 2 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 62) Baldwin-Wallace Women's and Men's Choirs 7:30 pm, Plymouth Church. (pg. 62)			
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March highlights

ragradins									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
	Dance Together 10 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63) Preschool Dance Class 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63)	2	The Homework Center Ongoing. 4 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	4	Barbara Luton Art Competition Drop Off 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 63) Lenten Fish Fry St. Dominic Church. (pg. 63)	Barbara Luton Art Competition Drop Off 10 am, Main Library. (pg. 64) Meet American Girl Doll Rebecca 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 64)			
7	8	Play & Learn Station Ongoing. 6 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Excelling at Interviewing 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 64)	Play & Learn Station Ongoing. 10 am, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Organ and Trumpet Concert 8 pm, Plymouth Church. (pg. 64) Lenten Fish Fry St. Dominic Church. (pg. 63)	A Night for the Red & White 7 pm, Executive Caterers at Landerhaven. (pg. 64)			
The Mozart Experience Family Concert 2 pm, Severance Hall. (pg. 66)	The Homework Center Ongoing. 4 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Winter Athletic Awards 6 pm, Shaker High. (pg. 64) Shaker Works in Progress 7 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 64)	New Stages 28 Shaker New Playwrights' and Directors' Series 3/17 & 3/18 8 pm, Shaker High. (pg. 64)	St. Patrick's Day Show 7 pm, St. Dominic School. (pg. 64)	Lenten Fish Fry St. Dominic Church. (pg. 63) Once On This Island 7 pm, Wiley Auditorium. (pg. 66)	Open Gym Ongoing. 10 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 55)			
	Band Tour Preview Concert 7 pm, Shaker High.	Writing a Business Plan 7 pm, Main Library. (pg. 65) Poetry Back in the Woods 7 pm, Bertram Woods Branch. (pg. 65)	The Homework Center Ongoing. 4 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Play & Learn Station Ongoing. 10 am, Main Li- brary. (pg. 55)	26	North Union Farmers Market Ongoing. 8 am, Shaker Square. (pg. 55)			
Barbara Luton Art Competition Gallery-Opening Reception 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 65)	29	Play & Learn Station Ongoing. 6 pm, Main Library. (pg. 55)	Parent & Child Play Sessions Ongoing. 9:30 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 55)			***			



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🐞 out & about

Events for *February*

THRU MARCH 11: Winter Blues to Winter Hues, SHAKER ART GALLERY, MAIN LIBRARY. Wash out the gray with a splash of color by talented local artists. Shaker Art Gallery is a collaboration of the Shaker Library and Shaker Arts Council. INFO: MARGARET SIMON, 216-991-2030 OR msimon@ shakerlibrary.org OR LESLYE ARIAN, 216-470-9104 OR larian@roadrun ner.com.

FEB. 1-MARCH 1: Winter Outdoor Adventure Classes, NATURE CENTER. Children in grades K-8 can explore and learn through fun, interactive outdoor classes ranging in price from \$35-\$50/members; \$50-\$65/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www.shakerlakes.org.

Feb. 1: Robotics, 4:15 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Students in grades 1-3 build models of machines and animals and learn basic programming. \$20/2 weeks (Feb. 1 & Feb. 8). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Feb. 2: Groundhog Day. Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow?

Feb. 3: Art, 10:45 AM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2-4) and a parent use different art media to learn about colors, design, and textures. Each week children create new pages for an art portfolio. \$40/4 weeks (Feb.3-24). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.



Feb. 4: Friends Feast-ival of Chocolate, 7 PM. MAIN LIBRARY. Friends sweetens its membership with a chocolate tasting just in time for Valentine's Day. Everyone is welcome, but only Friends members can win door prizes including a basket filled with chocolate treats from Fresh Market. Not a member? Here's a tasty reason to join. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Feb. 6: Meet American Girl Doll Rebecca, 2 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Listen to a passage from the first book in the doll's series, play a game, make a craft and enjoy a snack from Rebecca's era. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 7: Reforming Our Food Supply: An Untold Story, 9:30 AM, FIRST UNTARIAN CHURCH, 21600 SHAKER BLVD.

Mary K. Holmes, CWRU Presidential Scholar and food activist, will speak about food choices that support our values and priorities. Less than 1% of all the food eaten in Ohio is grown here. Can we put healthy, sustainable food on our dinner table? How much power do corporations have over the food we eat? Free. INFO: 216-751-2320.

Feb. 7: Tri-C Classical Piano Recital Series: Logan Skelton, 3:30 PM, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 3630 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. University of Michigan professor, pianist, and composer performs. Tickets: \$15/person; \$10 seniors, students, church members. INFO: 216-241-6000.

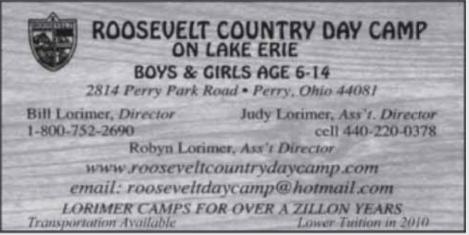
Feb. 9: Altered Books Workshop for Teens. 6:30 PM. BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. We'll break all the rules when Brenna Friesner shows how to

rip, tear, glue, and decorate books into amazing recycled art. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 10: Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 7 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 NORTH PARK BLVD. An evening hosted by Primary School Director Kathy Zopatti and kindergarten teachers. Parents are welcome to visit the HB kindergarten classrooms and learn all about the curriculum. This free event is for parents only. RSVP by February 8 to 216-320-8098 or www.hb.edu.

Feb. 11: Candy Making in the Teen Center, 4:30 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Looking for a sweet Valentine's Day gift? Make your own candy. Bring a take-out container for your tasty treats. INFO: 216-991-2030.









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Feb. 13: Rain Barrel Workshop. 3-5 PM. NATURE CENTER. Learn to make a rain barrel and use the water (and money) you've saved to keep your home landscape healthy and growing. \$60/members, \$75/nonmembers. \$30 extra barrel without Oatey Diverter. \$50/extra barrel with Oatey Diverter. Workshop limited to 15 people and one extra barrel. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www. shakerlakes.org.

Feb. 12 & 15: Presidents' Day Weekend, Shaker Schools closed.

Feb 12-14: Killer Tournament, THORNTON PARK. B is for blades, as in blades of glory. Shaker hosts its tourney for B teams.

Feb. 14: Heights Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 PM, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 21600 SHAKER BLVD. Shaker resident and piano soloist Emanuela Friscioni performs. Guest conductor is Horst Buchholz. The program includes Bizet's Suite from L'Arlesienne and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2. Free-will donation. INFO: SUSAN BLACKWELL, 216-321-3315 OR susanmblackwell@hotmail.com.

Feb. 15: Pajama Stories, 7:15 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Starry, story night for children ages 3 and up with or without an adult. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 16: Roller Skating, 4 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2½-8) learn to skate safely. Beginning skills include learning to get up from the floor, rolling forward, and picking up one foot at a time. Use of music for simple rhythm and movement activities that coincide with skating skills. \$69/6

out & about 🌋



weeks (Feb. 16-March 23). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

16: Shaker Works in Progress, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Sabine Kretzschmar, former executive director of the Shaker Historical Society, speaks about the Clark-Lee Freeway Struggle and the birth of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 17: Music in the Morning, 9:30 AM. HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (birth to 3) and their parents experience the joy of music through group singing, finger plays and experimentation with instruments and dance. \$65/6 weeks (Feb. 17-March 24). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Feb. 17: Getting Your Foot in the Door, 2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Giannoula Harris of the Cleveland Chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management offers tips on what it takes to get your foot in the door of prospective employers. Learn job research strategies, how to network, and how to write cover letters and resumes. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Feb. 19, 26: Lenten Fish Fry, ST. DOMINIC CHURCH, 19000 VAN AKEN BLVD. Now I filet me down to sleep. I thank the Lord for my sole to eat. Proceeds benefit organizations at St. Dominic. Eat in or take home. INFO: 216-991-1444.

Feb. 20: SAT Practice Test, 9:15 AM-2:45 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Youth in grades 9-12 can take a fulllength SAT practice test, including essay writing, that'll be professionally scored. Registration is required and no late arrivals will be admitted. Bring two #2 pencils, a snack, and

a calculator (check http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/ testday/calc.html to see if yours is acceptable.) Come back March 6 for your scores and test tips from the experts. INFO: 216-991-2030 EX. 3186.

Feb. 20: Cross Country Ski Shaker Parklands, 10 AM-NOON, NATURE CENTER. Bring your own cross-country gear and ski the parklands with a naturalist. No snow? S'no problem. Hike takes place with or without flakes. \$5/members; \$7/ non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www.shakerlakes.org.

Feb. 20 & 21: Ninth Grade Theatre Experience, 8 PM, SHAKER HIGH. Fully staged production written and performed by the freshmen company in collaboration with Cleveland-area poet Katie Daley. 24-Hour Box Office: 216-295-4287.

Feb. 21: Les Delices, 4 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVETRY RD. ArtsPlymouth's artist in residence, Les Delices directed by Debra Nagy, performs Hommages, an intimate program of tributes featuring Francois Couperin's "Apotheosis of Lully," selected "tombeaux," and other musical caricatures. Tickets available online at www.lesdelices. org or at the door. INFO: 216-921-3510.

Feb. 22: Kids Cooking, 4:15 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children ages 3-8 cook real food and prepare a simple recipe with parent's help. \$20. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Feb. 23: Shaker Dreams. SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM. A history of Shaker dreams and visions including artwork and artifacts from







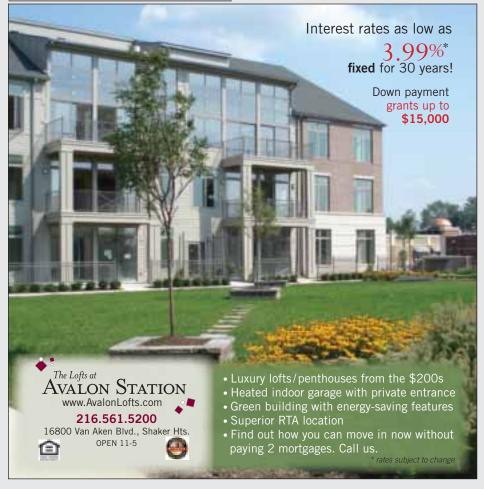


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the permanent collection. Exhibit continues through April 30. INFO: 216-921-1201 OR shakerhistory@shakerhistory.com.

Feb. 23: The ABCs of Starting a Business, 7 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Whether you are just beginning to develop a business concept or ready to start a business, this program offers a general overview of the questions you should ask to insure a successful business start. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Feb. 24: A Program of American Music, 7:30 PM, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 3630 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. The Shaker Heights High School A Capella choirs and orchestra and the church's Chancel Choir perform. INFO: 216-932-7480.

Feb. 25: Poetry Back in the Woods, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Enjoy poetry read by regional poets. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 26: Winter Visitation Day, 8:15 AM-2 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 NORTH PARK BLVD. Girls interested in applying for grades 5-12 at Hathaway Brown School can meet HB students, faculty and administrators; attend classes; tour the school; visit the new aquatic center; and find out about HB. Free optional presentation, Q&A session, and tour for prospective parents from 8:30-9:30 am. Reservations are required. INFO: 216-320-8767 OR dburks@hb.edu.

Feb. 27: Wildlife Tracks, 2-4 PM, NATURE CENTER. Make tracks to spend the afternoon looking for signs of local wildlife. \$5/members; \$7/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www. shakerlakes.org.

Feb. 27: Baldwin-Wallace Women's and Men's Choirs, 7:30 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD.

out & about 💥



Dr. Philip Silvey directs the Women's Choir and Frank Bianchi directs the Men's Choir in a concert of eclectic music. Free will donation. INFO: 216-921-3510.

Events for March

March 1: Dance Together, 10 AM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Dancing with a parent or caregiver, children ages 18 months-3 years learn basic dance skills and explore rhythm, balance, and coordination with upbeat music and fun props \$60/5 weeks (March 1-March 29). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

March 1: Preschool Dance Class, 4 PM. HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children learn simple dances and explore movement, rhythm, balance and coordination with fun music and props. \$60/5 weeks (March 1-March 29) INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

March 5: Professional Day. Shaker elementary schools closed.

March 5, 12 & 19: Lenten Fish Fry, ST. DOMINIC CHURCH, 19000 VAN AKEN BLVD. Just for the halibut, buy some fish to benefit organizations at St. Dominic. Eat in or take home. INFO: 216-991-1444.

March 5: Barbara Luton Art Competition Drop Off, 2-5 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Enter up to two pieces in the library's 11th annual juried art competition. Non-refundable entry fee is \$25. INFO: 216-991-2030.



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🐞 out & about

March 6: Barbara Luton Art Competition Drop Off, 10 AM-2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Enter up to two pieces in the library's 11th annual juried art competition. Non-refundable entry fee is \$25. INFO: 216-991-2030.

March 6: Meet American Girl Doll Rebecca, 2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Listen to a passage from the first book in the doll's series, play a game, make a craft and enjoy a snack from Rebecca's era. INFO: 216-991-2030.

March 10: Excelling at Interviewing, 2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Giannoula Harris of the Cleveland Chapter of the Society of Human Resources Management speaks about what applicants should – and should not – do in job interview situations. INFO: 216-991-2030.

March 12: Organ and Trumpet Concert, 8 PM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Organists James Riggs and Todd Wilson unite with Neil Mueller on trumpet for a program marking the 10th anniversary of the renovation of the Holtkamp-Hemry pipe organ. Free will donation. INFO: 216-921-3510.

March 13: A Night for the Red & White, 7 PM, EXECUTIVE CATERERS AT LANDERHAVEN, 6111 LANDERHAVEN DR. Here's to books and studies and partying with your buddies! Friends of the Shaker Schools Foundation's annual Black Tie Block Party to benefit the Shaker Heights City Schools gets help from committee chairs Jean Albrecht, Cathy Mitro, Janice Harris, and Nancy Jackson. Tickets: \$295/person; \$195/peron; \$125/person. Special Friends package is \$199/couple. INFO: CHRISTINE AUGINAS, 216-295-4325 OR auginas c@ shaker.org.

March 14: Daylight Savings Time. Spring ahead one hour.

March 15: Kids Cooking, 4:15 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 3-8) enjoy cooking real food and prepare a simple recipe with parent's help. \$20. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

March 16: Winter Athletic Awards, 6 PM, SHAKER HIGH. Cheers to Shaker's athletes and their awesome seasons.

March 16: Shaker Works in Progress, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. John Carroll University history professor Marian J. Morton speaks about her work in progress on the congregations in Shaker Heights. INFO: 216-991-2421.

March 17 & 18: New Stages 28 Shaker New Playwrights' & Directors' Series, 8 PM, SHAKER HIGH. This one-act play festival is produced, directed, performed, and written by students. Show at 7 and 9:15 pm March 19 and 20. Now in its 28th year, performances are held in Shaker's intimate black box Stage 3 Theatre. 24-Hour Box Office: 216-295-4287.

March 18: St. Patrick's Day Show, 7 PM, ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL, 3455 NORWOOD RD. 'Tis a lucky evening when students strut their Irish stuff. INFO: 216-561-4400.

March 19: Conference Day. Shaker Schools Grades K-8 closed.

March 22: Kids Cooking, 4:15 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children



ages 3-8 enjoy cooking real food and prepare a simple meal with parent's help. \$20. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

March 22: Band Tour Preview Concert, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

March 23: Writing A Business Plan, 7 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Learn how to write an effective business plan to help develop, manage, and grow your business. INFO: 216-991-2030.

March 23: Poetry Back in the Woods, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Regional poets read poetry. INFO: 216-991-2421.

March 28: Barbara Luton Art Competition Gallery-Opening Reception, 2-4 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Meet the winners of the 11th annual juried art show and enjoy their creations. INFO: 216-991-2030.

March 29-April 5: Spring Break. Shaker Schools closed.

In the Circle and Beyond

FEB. 6: Tackle the Tower Stairclimb. 7:30-11 AM, CENTER COURT OF THE GALLERIA & TOWER AT ERIEVIEW, 1301 E. 9TH ST. Climb 37 flights (646 stairs) at the Tower at Erieview to benefit Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland. T-shirt, beverages, breakfast, awards, prizes, music and raffle prizes before and after the race! \$20/preregistration; \$25/race day. INFO: 216-623-9933.

FEB. 7: 19th Annual Black Heritage Concert, 4 PM, CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC, 11021 EAST BLVD. Ensembles from the Cleveland School of the Arts; R. Nathaniel Dett Concert Choir, directed by William B. Woods; Chamber Orchestra, directed by Diana Richardson. Free. INFO: 216-791-5000.

FEB. 10: Cleveland Archaeology Society Lecture, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL, UNIVERSITY CIRCLE. Ursuline College Professor Elisha Dumser presents Building Power: Architecture of the Emperor Maxentius in Rome (306-312 CD). Free with reception after the lecture to meet the speaker. INFO: 216-3231-4600 OR www.case.edu/artsci/clsc/casmain. html.

FEB. 12: Marathon in Antarctica: Coldest, Highest, Driest, Windiest, Loneliest Continent, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL





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FEB. 14: Annual Winter Case Band Department Showcase Concert, 3 PM, SEVERANCE HALL. Gary M. Ciepluch conducts University Circle Wind Ensemble, CWRU Symphonic Band and CYWS I. INFO: 216-231-1111.

FEB. 19: WECO Fund's Cocktails for a Cause, 5-9 PM, THE WAREHOUSE LOFT, 1668 E. 40TH ST. Support microenterprise development (Wealth, Education, Collaboration, and Opportunity), meet young professionals, and shop the Buy ME (Micro Enterprise) bazaar. \$40/person.

MARCH 5, 12 & 19: Once On This Island, 7 PM, WILEY AUDITORIUM, 181 MIRAMAR BLVD. Heights Youth Theatre presents the musical based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. Matinees at 2 pm Saturdays, March 6, 13 and 20 and Sunday, March 14 Tickets: \$9/general admission; \$8/seniors and children under 6. INFO: 216-923-1583 OR www.heightsyouththeatre.com.

MARCH 10: Cleveland Archaeology Society Lecture, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL, UNIVERSITY CIRCLE. University of Charleston Professor Peter Piccione presents Pharaoh at the Bat: Ancient Egyptian Bat and Ball, the Earliest Archetype of American Baseball. Free with reception after the lecture to meet the speaker. INFO: 216-3231-4600 OR www.case.edu/artsci/clsc/ casmain.html.

MARCH 12: Letters from Eden, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL DR. Naturalist, NPR commentator, and author (Letters from Eden) Julie Zickefoose reveals the deep connection with nature that keeps her walking her 80-acre Appalachian sanctuary outside Whipple, Ohio. Book signing follows. Tickets: \$10/adults; \$9/ seniors, students and children. INFO: 216-231-1177 OR 800-317-9155 EXT. 3279, OR ORDER ONLINE AT www. cmnh.org/site/explorer.aspx.

MARCH 14: The Mozart Experience Family Concert, 2 PM, SEVERANCE HALL, EUCLID AVE. Music and mime help to introduce young audiences to the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Excerpts of some of Mozart's most famous works, including Eine kleine Nachtmusik, Papageno's Song from The Magic Flute, and more. For ages 7 and up. INFO: 216-231-1111.

MARCH 17: St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Parade begins at the intersection of Superior Ave. and East 18th St. and ends at the intersection of Rockwell Ave. and East 6th St.

Save the Date and Begin to Create!

APRIL 3: Edible Books Festival, 1 PM, LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Incredible edible fun! Consumed with reading? Digest a good book and then create an edible version to enter in the 7th annual festival that's never difficult to swallow. INFO: 216-795-9800 OR www.logan berrybooks.com/edible-books-2009.html.

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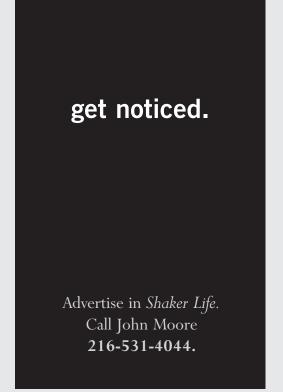
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shaker observer

Sleepless, with Skittles and Sushi

BY JOHN R. BRANDT

Many Shaker Parents mistakenly assume that after a certain age (i.e. six) and a certain number of sleepovers (i.e. one hellish night per child, during which three friends become homesick, requiring 2 am calls to their parents, while one overserves himself with Skittles, Dr. Pepper, and Cheetos, which he promptly regurgitates at 4 am, in the living room no less), the allure of a sleepless, red-eye-flight-typeof-night would be passé. Nothing could be further from the truth, of course, although sleepovers during the teenage years are a bit more... complicated. To wit:

Cleaning: Nothing is more important in preparing for the sleepover, but for different reasons for different people:

- For Shaker Man, the carrot of a sleepover can be used as a large orange stick to prod movement on chores and room-decluttering otherwise postponed (I'll do it later, Dad. Geez.) until the mid-23rd century.
- For teens, it's an opportunity to build the sibling-free environment about which they've always dreamed. Shaker Man's 13-year-old son, for instance, creates the Basement Boy Cave, complete with multiple gaming systems in HiDef stereo, buckets of M&Ms, gallons of Mountain Dew, and signs that read NO GIRLS OR PARENTAL UNITS ALLOWED. Shaker Man's 17-year-old daughter, on the other hand, has more refined tastes, contenting herself with a neatly arranged kitchen (for baking cookies from scratch), a brotherfree den (for watching a Jane Austen DVD), and toilet seats in the down position.

Especially interesting during the cleaning process is the use of the words "we" and "somebody" as substitutes for "you" or "Dad" (i.e. Shaker Man), as in We really should clean up the branches in the backyard, or We really should touch up the paint in the

"When would you like to start?" offers Shaker Man at the end of a long workweek, his arms full of groceries, water bubbling in a pot on the stove, the dryer buzzing in the background.

"I'm really busy," 17 replies.

"Me, too," adds 13.

"Doing what?"

"Stuff, Dad. You're not the only one with a life, you know."

Shopping: Although candy, popcorn, and Sprite used to be sufficient for fabulous all-nighters, Theme Parties have now taken over, for which an incredible variety of items are required from stores far away, usually on 16 minutes notice.

"We're having a sushi party tonight, Dad," 17 enthuses one Saturday. "Do we have any Japanese bamboo rolling mats?"

"We've got some in the pantry," says Shaker Man.

"Really?"

"You betcha. Surprised?"

"Yes. Sorry, Dad, I'm in a hurry. We also need seaweed."

"In the fridge, second drawer to the left."

"Sashimi tuna?"

"Next to the cheese."

"Smoked eel..." She pauses. "That's sarcasm, isn't it?"

"Think of it as middle-aged eye-rolling."

The Evening Itself: Alas, where once Shaker Man was a valued participant in an evening's activities (our Hero is particularly proud of his Oscar-worthy, wigand-dress portrayal of Mrs. H. Finchley Grinnell, a 93-year-old victim of jewelry

theft, during a mystery game at his daughter's 10th Birthday Party), his main job is now to be scarce. Not, however, that he has noticed.

"So," he says to 17. "Need some Charades clues again?"

"I don't think so, thanks,"

"You sure? Your friends really liked my clues the last time, remember?"

"Dad, we were like 12."

"Ah. Yes. So... probably won't need the little pre-drawn Hangman napkins for breakfast either, huh?"

"I'm thinking no."

"Gotcha."

Thirteen is even clearer: "We're good now. Thanks. Make sure you shut the door to basement when you get upstairs. And you probably don't want to listen too closely, either."

Later that evening, though, Shaker Man - his presence not necessary, but still required as a supposedly responsible party in a houseful of minors - wanders the house like an old, mad king. He stops in the den, where Mr. Darcy is declaiming once again about his good opinion once lost, yada yada yada.

"How's it going?" he says.

"Shhhh," says 17. "Fine."

"How was the sushi?"

"Good. Dad, we're watching a movie."

"Mind if I join you?"

"Oh, that would be great, Dad. Would you? Please?"

"OK--"

"And maybe tell us a story later?"

He pauses. "That's sarcasm, right?"

"Think of it as middle-aged eye-rolling."

"Nice."

"Love you, Dad," she smiles. "And goodnight!"





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