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Every year Howard Hanna's branch offices sponsor fund raising events to help Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital extend care to the uninsured children of Cuyahoga County.

This year, the Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights offices banded together to sponsor a family night at the Cleveland Playhouse for its production of A Christmas Story, on December 12.

Without the generosity of the underwriters listed below, this event would not be a splendid success. Our heartfelt thanks go to our major contributors,

**The Cleveland Playhouse, Barristers of Ohio and Howard Hanna Mortgage Services,** and as well to

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And also to: Jim Guggenheim, DBA Guggenheim Remodeling, Ron Lindbloom, DBA Virtual Realty, Kurz Architects and Claudia & Paul Murphy.

*T***hanks to the support of these donors as well as to the generous support of the community and our clients, our local hospitals can continue to offer superior health care to the children of Northeast Ohio.**

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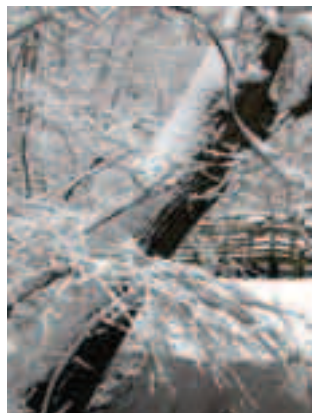
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Green Street Studio



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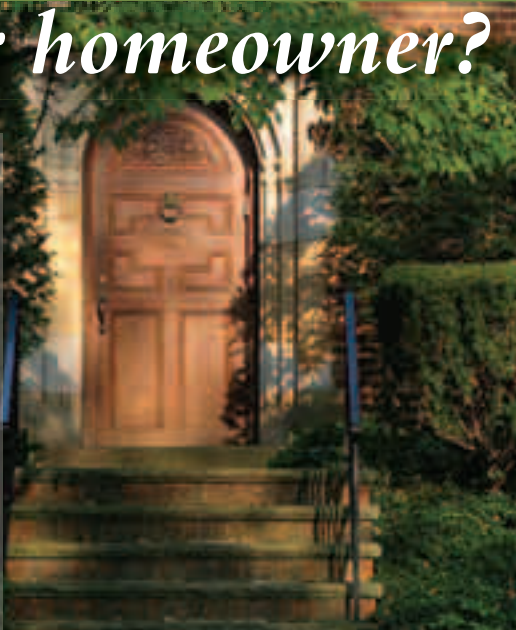
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Letters may be edited for publication.

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The views of the individuals and organizations  
interviewed in Shaker Life are not necessarily  
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## Horseshoe Lake Park is Reborn

An informal ribbon-cutting this fall marked the completion of Horseshoe Lake Park's renovation, which came in under its \$850,000 budget. Highlights include a huge open-air stone fireplace with a seating ring. Stone steps lead to the waterfront. The former wading pool has been transformed into a serene reading garden. A boardwalk made of recycled materials winds through the woods. On the next sunny day, treat yourself to a visit.



**Peter and Clare Ditchman** watch children Evan, 6, and Emma, 4, enjoy the new equipment.  
PHOTOS BY CAYDIE HELLER



## Accepting Nominations for MLK, Jr. Award

The Human Relations Commission is accepting nominations for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Award for Human Relations established as a reminder of Shaker's continuing commitment to living the dream of Dr. King. Nomination forms are available at City Hall, Thornton Park, Shaker libraries, and [shakeronline.com](http://shakeronline.com) and must be received by 5 pm Friday, December 21.

Acceptable nominations include individuals or groups whose actions exemplify Dr. King's values: compassion, humility, and service. Nominees must have made a significant contribution in 2007 through volunteerism, community service, and building community in Shaker Heights. Recipients must be residents of the Shaker Heights School District, and may be of any age or race. A posthumous award may be given. Nominees not chosen are eligible for resubmission next year, with updated information from the nominator, as appropriate.

The award will be presented at the City Council meeting on January 28 in the Shaker Community Building at 7 pm.

## The Future of Warrensville/Van Aken's Redevelopment Begins December 5

Help design a new Warrensville/Van Aken! The goal is to improve the intersection and transform the area into a vibrant, mixed-use downtown for Shaker Heights. Public Workshops are scheduled for 7 pm at the Shaker Community Building, 3450 Lee Road:

Workshop #1 DECEMBER 5  
Workshop #2 JANUARY 23  
Workshop #3 FEBRUARY 27

*Topics for discussion to include:*

- street layout
- a new transit hub
- economic development
- new housing
- bicycle/pedestrian access
- parking

Don't miss out on WvA-related news. Sign up for the City's Email Subscription list ("All About Warrensville-Van Aken Redevelopment") at [shakeronline.com](http://shakeronline.com).

## Firefighters Concerned by Rise in Number of Kitchen Fires

The Shaker Heights Fire Department's records confirm what the firefighters themselves have suspected. When 2007 statistics were tallied through the third quarter of the year, they revealed the largest number of cooking fires since 2004.

*continued on page 5*





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## From Our Readers

Your beautifully written article on The Almar Building, the first strip mall in Shaker Heights was a gem [August/September 2007]. My wife's father, Joseph Weinberg, helped design the building in 1926. He later became one of Cleveland's leading architects heading the firm of Weinberg and Teare. I think Joe Weinberg would be pleased to know that his small shopping mall is still alive with dynamic and imaginative tenants. I hope that we can enjoy the building and its merchants for many years to come.

*Daniel T. Weidenthal, M.D.*

## On a Roll – Recognition for City Ingenuity, Safety

The City received two statewide planning awards at the Ohio Planning Conference in Columbus in September. The transit-oriented redevelopment of Shaker Town Center won the award for best "Focused Built Project." This award is given to an existing built project of high merit contributing to an improved quality of life.

The second award was for "Outstanding Community Planning," which recognized the City's recreation and leisure assessment and resulting improvements at Thornton Park, Horseshoe Lake, and the new median trail and soccer field located near the middle school.

The American Planning Association selected from over 30 submitted entries for each category. Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning, noted that the awards reflect the contributions of numerous city departments as well as Shaker residents: "Our use of the public process to first establish the overall plan is unique. Hundreds of residents were involved in both of these projects. We hope to see the same level of participation in the Warrensville/Van Aken project."

In addition, for the seventh consecutive year, the Shaker Heights Police Department has won the AAA Community Safety Award, for zero traffic fatalities in 2006. AAA also awarded SHPD the Silver Award for Leaders in Community Traffic Safety in 2006, recognizing the City's

overall dedication to traffic safety, including thorough traffic enforcement and review of the City's signalization system, among other safety concerns.

## 2007 Resident Survey: What the Numbers Tell us

As reported in the October/November issue, Shaker Life is the number-one source of information for Shaker residents, according to a resident survey conducted in



August. Back in 2002, a resident survey ranked the magazine only third as an information source for residents and least important among adults with school-aged children and empty nesters. In contrast, 2007 survey results show:

- Adults with school-aged children: 41 percent rely on magazine as top source of information (58 percent increase)
- Empty nesters: 41 percent rely on magazine as top source of information (128 percent increase)

The magazine is an important marketing tool to attract new residents. It is equally important as a communication tool to inform residents about the city. Feature articles focus on subjects that mirror the top reasons why residents choose Shaker. According to the 2007 survey, the top reasons for moving to Shaker are, in order of most impact:

- The public schools (68 percent)
- Natural beauty of the City (67 percent)
- Quality of housing available (66 percent)
- Proximity to places residents go (63 percent)
- The neighborhoods/sense of community (60 percent)

The survey gives us a picture of our community – one in which 91 percent of residents have positive feelings about Shaker as a place to live and a large majority support both the City's

efforts to strengthen its tax base and to forge ahead with implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan, including redevelopment of the Warrensville/Van Aken district.

Complete survey results are available at [shakeronline.com/cityhall/documents](http://shakeronline.com/cityhall/documents).

## Firefighters Concerned

*continued from page 3*

Unattended or careless cooking fires top the national list as well, with over half being grease fires from frying. It's an extremely dangerous trend, notes Fire Chief Don Barnes. There were two fire-related fatalities in Shaker Heights in 2007, both caused by kitchen fires. "I don't remember that ever happening before."

Property loss is significant as well. In Shaker, more than \$1.6 million in property damage was recorded for the same three-quarter period in 2007. A residential fire occurs every half hour in Ohio – the odds that it will be a fire originating in the kitchen are very good.

The Fire Department urges residents to take the matter seriously. **Do not leave the kitchen when you're cooking.** It's simple and straightforward advice, and one of the most important steps you can take to protect your home and your life – and the lives of the people you love.

Here are some additional safety tips to remember when cooking:

- Use a moderate cooking temperature.
- Cooking and frying with oil is extremely dangerous.
- Avoid overfilling pots or pans, especially with oil.
- Keep ovens, broilers, and stove tops clean of grease.
- Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove. Children who can see and reach a pot handle are at risk for serious burns.
- Don't position handles over another lit burner.
- Wear short sleeves or tight fitting long sleeves when cooking.
- Shield yourself from scalding steam when lifting lids from hot pans.



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- Do not leave potholders too close to the stove.
- Use turkey fryers outdoors only and away from anything flammable.
- If there is a fire in the oven, turn off the oven and keep the oven door closed.

A word of caution about attempting to extinguish a kitchen fire: The majority of people who attempt to extinguish a kitchen fire by themselves are injured. The safest course of action is to get everyone out of the house and call the Fire Department (911) from a neighbor's house or 216-491-1212 from your cell phone (within City limits). Do not try to move the pan, throw water on it, or douse it with flour.

For additional Fire Prevention information, visit [shakeronline.com/services/safety/FirePrevention.asp](http://shakeronline.com/services/safety/FirePrevention.asp).

## Historic Renovation of Shaker Landmark Earns Widespread Support

A \$2.2 million capital campaign is in full swing to restore Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, UCC. The Shaker Heights Landmark Commission designated the Georgian-style church, which graces the intersection of Coventry and Drexmore roads, as an historic landmark in 1976.

The sanctuary and steeple of the church date back to 1916, when the congregation decided to build upon land offered to them by Shaker's founders, the Van Sweringen brothers. The original architect, Charles S. Schneider, also designed Stan Hywet Hall in Akron and Shaker Heights City Hall at 3400 Lee Road.

The church steering committee brought renovation plans to the Landmark Commission for review last February. They received approval for the plans and accolades for their efforts. "The Landmark Commission felt this was a great example of a proactive approach to maintaining a landmark through a capital campaign," says Stacey Hoffman, City Planner.

Rachel Perry, Plymouth's Director of Operations and Finance, says, "The congregation is committed to preserving the historic character of our building, both because it is a landmark property and because it is our preference to do so."

The commitment was so strong, in fact, that the congregation exceeded its fundraising goal of \$700,000, collecting more than \$1.1 million to date. Also impressive: Ten percent of those donations came from non-members of Plymouth, area residents who appreciate the church's long history of community involvement and programming. A strong endowment fund and bank loans will make up the difference

needed for the renovation project, to be completed in October of 2008.

Phase one of the project involves a complete exterior renovation of the 158-foot steeple. Though the steeple's steel core is structurally sound, the wood exterior must be restored completely due to years of exposure. Phase one also includes replacing the sanctuary's slate roof and rebuilding the front entrance at Coventry Road. Additional phases will address remaining exterior repairs – literally, the bricks and mortar of the building – as well as sections of the roof.

Gaede Serne Architects of Cleveland, a firm with extensive experience in historic preservation, is managing the renovation. So far, all has gone smoothly, with no interruption in services at the church.

However, Greg Frost, the steeplejack, discovered graffiti from one "M.H. Funk" dating from the 1930s on the inside of the spire – an area that can be reached only by free-climbing the outside of the steeple. (In more recent years, the steeple access was locked to prevent any further daring acts of "artistry.")

To learn more about the historic preservation efforts at Plymouth Church, contact Rachel Perry at 216-921-3510. M.H. Funk, report to the steeplejack for white-washing duty.



**More than 400 employees** of the University Hospitals Management Services Center enjoyed Lolly the Trolley tours of Shaker Heights last fall. The tours introduced them to Shaker's many amenities, including its recreational opportunities and unique shops and stores. They happily accepted gift bags filled with coupons from 28 local merchants and, of course, a copy of Shaker Life. PHOTOS BY JANET CENTURY





## Q&A: Update on City's Natural Gas Program

### What is the City's Natural Gas Aggregation Program?

Beginning in 2006, the City contracted with Interstate Gas Supply (IGS) to provide a stable fixed rate to residents for natural gas. Consumers were offered a chance to "opt in" to the program.

### What is the current natural gas rate through IGS?

The fixed rate is \$9.29 per MCF for the period November 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, a 20 percent decrease from the rate set by IGS in November of 2006. As of last September, there were no other fixed rate offers published on the PUCO website that were lower than the City's aggregation price.

### Is it guaranteed to be the lowest rate available?

No. It is not possible to guarantee that any rate will be the lowest over any particular period of time. The natural gas market is extremely volatile and is subject to many outside forces such as weather conditions and the overall economy, as well as to natural and manmade disasters.

### How do I enroll or drop out of the program? Is there a fee?

To join or drop out of the program, contact IGS at 800-280-4474. There is absolutely no fee charged by the City or Dominion East Ohio Gas Co. (DEOG) for switching from DEOG to IGS. If a resident has entered into a contract for natural gas supply with any company other than DEOG, including the separate company called Dominion East Ohio Energy (DEOE), there may be a cancellation fee.

### Where can I find more information?

Visit the City's website, [shakeronline.com/dept/law](http://shakeronline.com/dept/law) and click on the Natural Gas Aggregation Program. You may also contact IGS at 800-280-4474, or visit their website, [www.igsenergy.com](http://www.igsenergy.com). Or go to [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov) for "Apples to Apples" comparisons of current natural gas rates, or to [www.pickocc.com](http://www.pickocc.com) to use



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## Al Jarreau Sings for New Life Community

New Life Community (NLC) is bringing in a big-hitter to help raise funds and awareness for the center. Seven-time Grammy winner Al Jarreau and His Orchestra will perform at Severance Hall on Friday, February 8th at 8 pm, with net proceeds going directly to NLC. (See related sidebar, p. 28.)

NLC, located at East 150th Street and Kinsman Road on the border of Shaker Heights and Cleveland, gives homeless and jobless families a leg up to self-sufficiency. Participants receive short-term housing and enroll in mandatory classes covering money management, parenting, goal setting, and job search techniques.

The Shaker Heights school system works closely with NLC to ensure that students attending Shaker schools have successful academic experiences. Over the past 18 years, NLC has served over 550 families, including 1200 children. Last year, 89 percent of the graduating families left with employment and permanent housing. It costs NLC approximately \$20,000 to help a single family. The center hopes to raise over \$100,000 through this year's benefit concert.

Al Jarreau is the only vocalist in history to net Grammy Awards in three separate categories, jazz, pop and R&B. His Grammy awards have included Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Best R&B Vocal Performance, Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance and Best Pop Instrumental. Ticket prices range from \$25-\$100. For tickets and information contact Severance Hall at 216-231-1111 or visit [www.severancehall.com](http://www.severancehall.com). For more information about NLC, contact Marc Nathanson at 216-751-7301, ext. 217.

## Shaker News Briefs

- If your travel plans include Beijing, let Shaker Heights native **Peter Danford** be your cyber-guide, at [www.thechinaguide.com](http://www.thechinaguide.com). Danford (the son of Shaker residents Sue and Peter Danford) created the website to help tourists navigate the city of Beijing, where he now lives with his wife and three children. The website provides practical guidance such as restaurant recommendations and the basics of Chinese currency, and coordinates guided excursions with a local tour company. The site also features Danford's work as a professional photographer.

- The non-profit group, Experience Works, Inc., has named Shaker resident **Bonnie Dick** as Ohio's Outstanding Older Worker for 2007. Now in her fifth career, Dick works as a management consultant for CGI, a leading information

technology and management resource company. She provides career counseling at the Employment Connection One Stop Center for Cuyahoga County, where she has helped hundreds of people gain employment. "There are a lot of challenges out there; the workplace and the world are both changing. I'm getting on the train and going with it," says Dick. "What is 70 (years of age)?" she asks. "It's just a number."

- **Carson Strang**, a 2001 SHHS graduate and hockey team captain, swapped ice skates for inline skates to champion a cause close to his heart, autism. A recent college graduate, Carson and three friends decided "to do something interesting and productive" before starting their careers. They created a non-profit organization called Rolling For Autism, then skated nearly 1,500 miles from Florida to Maine in one hot summer, interacting with families affected by autism and raising more than \$100,000 along the way.

The journey began in Amelia Island, Florida on June 28 and ended in Kittery, Maine on August 19. Carson's father, resident Carter Strang, joined up with the skaters in Dover, New Hampshire, and observed that "Many parents were in tears upon seeing the boys arrive, saying how happy they were that they are not alone in the struggle with autism, and pressing dollar bills into the boys' hands. It was quite a sight."

The friends were inspired by the brother of one of the four who has a mild form of autism. "We wanted to show people that this can really be done easily," said Carson, who is now a paralegal for a Boston law firm and plans to attend law school. Learn more about the organization at [www.rollingforautism.com](http://www.rollingforautism.com).

- Governor Strickland has appointed **Stacey Hoffman**, a member of the City's Planning Department, to the Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board. The 17-member board advises the governor on the designation of historic sites. Hoffman was selected due to her expertise as a caretaker for our City's own substantial historic district.



Legendary singer, seven-time Grammy winner Al Jarreau

• John M. Lehman, Director of Finance for Shaker Heights is President-elect of the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association (Ohio GFOA) as of September. Ohio GFOA is a professional organization through which governments and private financial institutions share information. It has more than 1,100 members.

## Seasonal Reminders

**Yard Waste on Tree Lawns:** The City will stop collecting yard waste on tree lawns on December 15 and resume in April.

**Snow Policy:** Residents are asked not to park in the street when snow reaches two inches. Residents are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks fronting their property when snow is less than six inches. The City plows sidewalks only if the snow is deep and when scheduling allows. The City does not plow residential driveways. Snow-removal contractors must be registered with the Police Department and their permit clearly displayed. Do not push snow into the street, onto sidewalks, or onto another person's property.

**Bicycle Licensing:** Licenses will be sold from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, December 15 and January 12 in the Police Department lobby, 3355 Lee Road. New licenses are \$5. Re-issued licenses are 50 cents.

**Child Care Seats:** Is your child buckled up safely? The Fire Department offers free safety checks. Call 216-491-1200 for information or to make an appointment.

**Citizens Award:** 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 2008. Instructions can be found in the Human Resources section of the City website, shakeronline.com.

**Fire Safety:** The Fire Department offers free home safety inspections. Firefighters check from top to bottom using a “Home Fire Safety Checklist,” looking for hazards such as faulty or inadequate electrical wiring, improper storage of combustible liquids, and unsafe heating and cooking areas. To make an appointment, call 216-491-1215 between 8:30 am and 5 pm weekdays.

**Go Green Rebate Program:** Income-eligible residents can receive a rebate for their energy audit and up to 25 percent of approved costs for energy efficient improvements up to \$1000. Find out more by calling 216-491-1370.

**Parking Ban:** Parking is not allowed on Shaker streets between 2 and 6 am.

**Power outages:** To report an outage, call CEI/FirstEnergy at 888-544-4877. Do not call City Hall.

**Smoke Detectors:** Residents are required to have at least one smoke detector adjacent to the sleeping area in each dwelling unit and at least one smoke detector on each additional level, including the basement. Smoke detectors are provided free to low-income residents. The Fire Department will install smoke detectors for residents who require assistance.

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



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## REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between July 1 and August 31, 2007 appear below. The 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	2007 SALE PRICE	PRIOR SALE PRICE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST
3305 ARDMORE ROAD	\$ 225,000	\$ 239,900 (2002)	\$ 16,000 (1928)
2705 BELVOIR BLVD	\$ 597,500	\$ 330,000 (2006)	\$ 38,000 (1953)
2944 BROXTON ROAD	\$ 420,000	\$ 399,900 (2000)	\$ 25,000 (1920)
22699 BYRON ROAD	\$ 284,500	\$ 271,500 (2003)	\$ 36,000 (1954)
3106 CHADBOURNE ROAD	\$ 312,000	\$ 287,000 (2006)	\$ 14,000 (1929)
3151 CHADBOURNE ROAD	\$ 257,500	\$ 225,000 (1998)	\$ 15,000 (1925)
2770 CHESTERTON ROAD	\$ 631,000	\$ 553,600 (2002)	\$ 57,000 (1955)
20900 COLBY ROAD	\$ 460,000	\$ 418,000 (2006)	\$ 15,500 (1940)
2627 COURTLAND OVAL	\$ 435,000	\$ 385,000 (2005)	\$ 40,000 (1956)
2662 CRANLYN ROAD	\$ 579,000	\$ 440,000 (2006)	\$ 32,000 (1964)
2712 CRANLYN ROAD	\$ 650,000	\$ 450,000 (1997)	\$ 19,000 (1932)
3593 DALEFORD ROAD	\$ 124,444	\$ 112,000 (2006)	\$ 12,500 (1928)
2708 DRYDEN ROAD	\$ 960,000	\$ 388,500 (1998)	\$ 20,000 (1933)
24071 DUFFIELD ROAD	\$ 335,000	\$ 268,000 (2001)	\$ 28,000 (1952)
2945 EATON ROAD	\$ 535,000	\$ 429,450 (2004)	\$ 30,000 (1925)
3321 ELSMERE ROAD	\$ 200,000	\$ 206,000 (1999)	\$ 10,000 (1925)
16815 HOLBROOK ROAD	\$ 246,000	\$ 201,000 (1998)	\$ 12,000 (1928)
3094 HUNTINGTON ROAD	\$ 345,000	\$ 225,000 (2004)	\$ 20,000 (1924)
3284 INGLESIDE ROAD	\$ 315,000	\$ 325,000 (2004)	\$ 12,000 (1927)
2729 INVERNESS ROAD	\$ 590,000	\$ 630,000 (2005)	\$ 24,500 (1936)
3264 KENMORE ROAD	\$ 260,000	\$ 250,000 (2000)	\$ 12,000 (1946)
3386 KENMORE ROAD	\$ 300,000	\$ 247,000 (2001)	\$ 12,000 (1931)
3639 LATIMORE ROAD	\$ 149,500	\$ 191,000 (2003)	\$ 17,000 (1950)
3160 LUDLOW ROAD	\$ 280,000	\$ 125,000 (2006)	\$ 10,000 (1940)
3677 LYNNFIELD ROAD	\$ 146,000	\$ 163,000 (2002)	\$ 18,000 (1949)
3722 LYTLE ROAD	\$ 195,000	\$ 148,000 (2000)	\$ 8,500 (1938)
22300 MCCAULEY ROAD	\$1,050,000	\$1,000,000 (2002)	\$ 16,000 (1936)
22401 MCCAULEY ROAD	\$ 705,000	\$ 694,000 (2003)	\$ 26,000 (1937)
2996 MONTGOMERY ROAD	\$ 555,000	\$ 352,000 (2000)	\$ 25,000 (1925)
18405 NEWELL ROAD	\$ 164,900	\$ 176,000 (1999)	\$ 13,000 (1928)
3687 NORMANDY ROAD	\$ 151,232	\$ 150,000 (2006)	\$ 8,000 (1939)
18650 PARKLAND DR	\$ 380,000	\$ 265,000 (2002)	\$ 18,000 (1926)
2724 ROCKLYN ROAD	\$ 450,000	\$ 515,125 (2003)	\$ 15,000 (1937)
19614 SCOTTSDALE BLVD	\$ 205,000	\$ 196,000 (1999)	\$ 14,500 (1929)
2871 SOUTHTON ROAD	\$ 407,000	\$ 268,000 (2002)	\$ 16,000 (1922)
24100 STANFORD ROAD	\$ 625,000	\$ 485,000 (2004)	\$ 24,500 (1940)
3628 TOLLAND ROAD	\$ 170,000	\$ 171,000 (2000)	\$ 8,500 (1929)
3726 TOLLAND ROAD	\$ 231,000	\$ 235,000 (2004)	\$ 10,500 (1937)
3165 VAN AKEN BLVD	\$ 215,000	\$ 250,000 (2005)	\$ 16,000 (1946)
3325 VAN AKEN BLVD	\$ 309,278	\$ 310,000 (2004)	\$310,000 (2004)

Information Source: First American Real Estate Solutions

## Landmark Commission Announces 2007 Preservation Awards

The Shaker Heights Landmark Commission established its Preservation Awards program in 1998 to recognize efforts by property owners who have preserved and improved their home or property in a manner that reflects the historic nature of our City. The Landmark Commission is pleased to announce the following award winners for 2007:

**18921 Winslow Road, the Carr Residence** The Carr family purchased their two-family home on Winslow Road to enjoy multi-generational family living. The neighborhood is the City’s newest historic district, the only street in Shaker Heights comprised entirely of two-family homes. They have lovingly restored their beautiful 1929 home, keeping its distinctive charm intact, including a large Palladian window, which required extensive work. They also repainted the wood siding, renovated the slate roof, and installed a copper standing seam roof over the restored front bay window.

**3256 Glencairn Road, the Klein Residence** It is common to replace an old garage with an ordinary one rather than a custom design in keeping with the original. When the Kleins of Glencairn rebuilt their garage, they opted for a design that copies their existing home with its steeply pitched hip roof, decorative bracketing, and matching materials and finishes. Also notable is the attractive copper cupola at the top. The Landmark Commission applauds the Klein’s decision to build a garage that is compatible

*continued on page 14*

# housing options

## beyond the neighborhoods

Boulevard

Fernway

Lomond

Ludlow

Malvern

Mercer

Moreland

Onaway

Sussex

The previous five issues of Shaker Life have provided a glimpse into the character of Shaker's neighborhoods, including an overview of house price ranges, square feet and architectural styles.

The picture of life in Shaker is not complete without a tour of the other exciting housing options that are available. For those who prefer smaller quarters, or who are ready to turn in their weed whackers and snow blowers, there are traditional apartment buildings – many with great views, easy access to shopping, rapid transit, and affordable rents. The City's Certified Shaker listings (see page 14) make it easy to find the best quality rentals.

If it's a yard and private house you want without the responsibility of a mortgage, explore Shaker's two-family rental houses. The best of these are included in the Certified Shaker program as well.

Determined to be a homeowner? Condominiums are abundant. Choose from apartment-style buildings or newly constructed townhouses. Or buy yourself one of Shaker's two-family homes and choose to rent half, accommodate your home-based business, or share it with your extended older or younger family.

Shaker Heights has a living space to meet your needs. Explore the options.

### Renting in Shaker

#### *Certified Shaker*

Don't make a move without checking Certified Shaker listings on the City's website, shakeronline.com. Find a picture of the property, contact information, and detailed descriptions, which include number of bedrooms and baths, pet policy, and lists of appliances and common amenities such as hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplaces, and much more.

Many are clustered around commercial centers: Fairmount Circle, Warrensville/Van Aken, Shaker Town Center, and Shaker Square.

#### *Architectural Quality*

A large percentage of Shaker's apartment buildings are included in either the Shaker Village National Register Historic District or the Shaker Square Historic District. Building exteriors with elegant facades reflect the same quality used in private homes – use of brick, stone, stucco, Tudor timbering, leaded glass windows, and slate roofing tiles. Even simple exteriors often have remarkable interior spaces. It is not uncommon to find apartments with cathedral and vaulted ceilings, grand windows, crown moldings and millwork, hard wood floors and working fireplaces with carved mantels. Many feature multi-level suites with dramatic floor plans and elevations.

#### *Approximate Rent Ranges*

Efficiency:	\$365 to \$535
1 Bedroom:	\$435 to \$1,140
2 Bedroom:	\$620 to \$1,350
3 Bedroom:	\$1,000 to \$1,710
4 Bedroom:	\$1,250 to \$2,790

### TWO-FAMILY HOUSES

Scattered throughout the City, most are within walking distance of a neighborhood elementary school and the blue line Rapid.

#### *Architectural Quality*

Single entrance doorways on doubles (units are upstairs/downstairs) have the same character and appeal as their single-family counterparts. Winslow Road, nearly a mile long, is a historic landmark district and consists entirely of these delightful homes. And like the rest of Shaker's homes, no two are identical.

#### *Approximate Rent Ranges*

Doubles: (units are downstairs or upstairs)	
2 Bedroom:	\$750 to \$975
3 Bedroom:	\$875 to \$1,250
4 Bedroom:	\$950 to \$1,400

Duplexes (units are side by side)	
3-5 Bedroom:	\$1,175 to \$2,400

### APARTMENTS

The majority of high rise and two/three story buildings run alongside the Van Aken rapid transit, from Warrensville Center Road to Shaker Square.





## Buying in Shaker

### APARTMENT-STYLE CONDOS

Like the rental apartment buildings, these condominiums flank the blue line Rapid from Warrensville Center Road to Shaker Square, and exist in groups near Shaker's several shopping and business hubs.

#### *Architectural Quality*

These buildings are both beautiful and elegant. They share the Shaker housing construction aesthetic that stresses quality construction materials. Units include stunning architectural details, bright windows, patios, and spacious layouts. Many have fitness centers, party/community rooms and guest suites.

#### *Approximate Price Ranges*

- 1 Bedroom: \$15,000 to \$65,000 (700-1,200 sq. ft.)
- 2 Bedroom: \$20,000 to \$200,500 (1,300-2,000 sq. ft.)
- 3 Bedroom: \$43,300 to \$300,000 (1,150-3,000 sq. ft.)
- 4 Bedroom: \$85,000 to \$320,000 (2,000-3,000 sq. ft.)

### TOWNHOUSES

There is some overlap of amenities in these categories of newly constructed buildings. Most include high-tech wiring, state of the art gourmet kitchens, and attached garages, among other luxuries. Roughly, they break down as follows:

- Townhomes** 3-4 stories of vertical living.
- Manorhomes** 2 stories, some with first floor masters and finished basements.
- Loft Living** One floor living with high ceilings and glass walls.

These urban lifestyle constructions have been built within walking distance of commercial districts: Warrensville/Van Aken, Shaker Town Center, and Shaker Square. While all have garage facilities, they are located in areas where pedestrian access to shopping, dining and entertainment is available and enjoyed.

#### *Architectural Quality*

All interiors are contemporary in design, and exteriors have met the City's most stringent architectural design guidelines. Structures are brick, stone and stucco and built with exquisite details and craftsmanship. Shared courtyard areas are beautifully landscaped and inviting communal spaces.

#### *Price Ranges*

- 2 and 3 Bedroom Units: \$198,000 to \$800,000 (1,700 to 3,000 sq. ft.)



with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of their home.

**17200 South Woodland Road, the Listinsky Residence** When the Listinskys undertook a major renovation of their 1915 home, they restored the gutters, downspouts, and roof flashing, re-layed the patios and walkways, restored the wood siding, windows, shutters, and trim, and patched historic stucco. They painted throughout. They also painstakingly documented this labor of love, making it easy for the Landmark Commission to recognize their efforts.

**16500 Van Aken Boulevard, Shaker Heights Main Library** Originally constructed in 1925 as Moreland School, the property was renovated in 1992 and converted into the Main Library. During the Van Sweringen era, all properties in Shaker Heights were required to use natural building materials, including slate roofing tiles. The roof was an essential design element, enhancing curb appeal. As many Shaker properties have aged, some owners have chosen to replace or cover original roofing with asphalt shingles. The Library's Board of Trustees demonstrated their understanding of the value and longevity of the original materials by choosing to replace the original slate roof with new slate, enhancing the historic integrity of the building.

### **Nominate a Restored Shaker Building**

The Landmark Commission is accepting nominations for its tenth annual Preservation Awards, which mirrors the program established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Shaker's coveted awards recognize individuals involved in an outstanding exterior preservation project completed in the last two years. The Commission acknowledges recipients for preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, or interpreting the architectural integrity and cultural heritage of a Shaker building.

Property owners, architects, or contractors can nominate themselves and/or other property owners. Nominations can be submitted for single-family, two-family, and multiple-family houses, as well as apartment buildings, commercial structures, and religious buildings.

To nominate a property, call the Planning Department at 216-491-1430 or download a nomination form at [shakeronline.com](http://shakeronline.com). You can 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 photos become the property of the City and will not be returned. The deadline to send in nominations is 5 pm, February 29, 2008.

### **Certified Shaker**

Certified Shaker is a program that recognizes rental properties that meet or exceed the City of Shaker Heights' standards of excellence, and encourages rental property owners to make their properties the best they can be.

Congratulations to the new Certified Shaker property owners, listed below. These represent some of 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](http://shakeronline.com). To learn more about becoming certified, call 216-491-1370.

### **Rental Homes:**

3525 Daleford (Israel & Nehama Henig)  
3366 Dorchester Rd. (Ann Lawrence)



## What If... Enough Were Enough?

Stresses of the season getting you down? Take a break from the holiday excess and discover how to find the right balance in life.

Jane Ehrman, M.Ed, will offer tips for finding a sense of calmness and peace of mind at 7 pm Wednesday, December 12 at Bertram Woods Branch Library. Slow down and

enjoy an informative lecture accompanied by a calming cup of herbal tea.

Ehrman received a Bachelor of Arts in Health Education from Youngstown State University, and a Master of Education, with an emphasis on Mind/Body Medicine from Pennsylvania State University. Additionally, she has studied at the Ohio Institute of Medical Hypnosis, the Harvard University Mind/Body Medical Institute and the Academy for Guided Imagery<sup>SM</sup> in Los Angeles. Ehrman practices in the greater Cleveland area on both the east and west sides of Cleveland. She is also a Mind/Body Coach at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Integrative Medicine and a Board certified clinical hypnotherapist.

Ehrman speaks from a personal vantage point. After being diagnosed with cancer as a young mother, she used hypnotherapy and Interactive Guided Imagery<sup>SM</sup> to manage the side-effects of chemotherapy and to deal with cancer-related issues.

There is no fee for the program; however, reservations are requested by calling 216-991-2421.



Ehrman

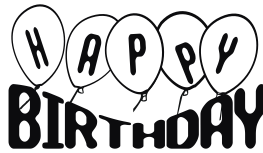
## Happy Birthday Play and Learn Station!

All aboard! The Play and Learn Station got on track ten years ago and has been picking up steam for the past ten years.

The Library and Shaker

Family Center will celebrate ten years of collaboration at a special Birthday Party at the Play and Learn Station 7 pm Tuesday, January 29.

Play and Learn graduates, families currently enjoying the Play and Learn Station, Play and Learn Babies, and Play and Learn for Caregivers are invited to help celebrate the occasion. Enjoy cake, birthday fun and a display of photographs by photographer David



Bergholz, former library trustee and Play and Learn Station volunteer who has chronicled activities in the Play and Learn Station over the past few years. For more information, call the Library at 216-991-2030 or Shaker Family Center at 216-921-2023.

## Teen Scene

### Genealogy Just for Teens!

Uncover Your Roots at  
Main Library Computer Lab  
7-8 pm Tuesday, February 5

Have fun using online resources and genealogy software to follow the trail of your ancestors' lives. Learn where your family comes from, how to find more information, and how to create a family tree that your family will enjoy.

Registration begins January 22; call 216-991-2030 ext. 3141

## Reader *of the* Month

MICHAEL L. DAVIS

**AGE:** 42

**LIVES IN:** Lomond area

**OCCUPATION:** Consulting Manager for Sedlak Mmgt.

**USES:** Main Library

**LIKES TO READ:** Science fiction, especially during business trips

**ALL-TIME FAVORITE BOOK:** *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

**OTHER FAVORITES:** The *Star Trek* series

**DOESN'T LIKE TO READ:** "I enjoy all types of books; there are not many I don't like."

**LIBRARY SERVICES:** Periodicals, reference

**WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT THE LIBRARY:** Location to my home, it's in walking distance.

**OTHER INTERESTS:** History, sports (golf and football in particular), fishing, and spending time with family.

**FAMILY:** Wife, LaSondra Davis; daughter Deja (Woodbury School); son, Michael II (SHHS '05), a student at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

**BRIEF BIO:** Originally from Davenport, IA, Davis earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Engineering from Iowa State Univ., and his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Iowa. He has been married for 21 years and has lived in Ohio since 1997.





# Kids' Corner

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

## **PLAY AND LEARN STATION AT MAIN LIBRARY**

A preschool literacy program that offers interactive opportunities for parents or caregivers to explore with their children, ages birth to 5 years old.  
 10 am–noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays  
 6–8 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 1–3 pm Thursdays  
*Free; no registration required.*

## **PLAY AND LEARN BABIES AT MAIN LIBRARY**

A special room filled with literacy-based activities just for babies from birth to 18 months and their parents or caregivers.  
 10 am–noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays  
 6–8 pm Thursdays  
*Free; no registration required.*

## **PLAY AND LEARN STATION AT MAIN LIBRARY FOR CAREGIVERS**

A preschool literacy program that offers interactive opportunities for caregivers to explore with their children, ages birth to 5 years old.  
 Wednesdays 10 am–noon  
*Free, however a one-time registration is required; call Shaker Family Center: 216-921-2030.*

## **BOOK BABIES**

Stories, songs, games and rhymes for one-year-olds with an adult.  
 January 8–February 27  
 Babies 12–18 mos.  
 (Must be 12 months by Jan. 1)  
 9:30 am Tuesdays at  
**Woods Branch**  
 9:30 am Wednesdays at  
**Main Library**



Babies 18–24 mos.  
 (Must be 18 months by Jan. 1)  
 10:30 am Tuesdays at  
**Woods Branch**  
 10:30 am Wednesdays at  
**Main Library**

*In-person registration begins 9 am, Saturday, December 8 for Shaker Heights City School District residents. Non-residents may register beginning Tuesday, December 11. Please register at the library where your child will attend.*

## **TODDLERS**

Stories, songs and movement for 2-year-olds with an adult.  
 January 7–February 28  
 (Must be 2 years old by Jan. 1)  
 10 am Mondays or Wednesdays at  
**Woods Branch**  
 10 am Tuesdays or Thursdays at  
**Main Library**

*In-person registration begins 9 am Saturday, December 8 for Shaker Heights City School District residents. Non-residents may register beginning Tuesday, December 11. Please register at the library where your child will attend.*

## **PRESCHOOL STORIES**

Stories and fun for 3-, 4-, & 5-year olds.  
 January 7–May 8  
 10 am or 1:30 pm Mondays at  
**Main Library**  
 1:30 pm Tuesdays or 10 am Thursdays at **Woods Branch**  
*No registration required, however, large groups should make special arrangements.*

## **PRESCHOOL FAIR AT MAIN LIBRARY**

Representatives from local preschool programs and daycare centers will be available to answer your questions.  
 6:30–8 pm Thursday, January 24, Room E & F  
 For more information please call 216-991-2030 ext. 3184.

## **MAKE-IT-TAKE-IT WEEK AT WOODS BRANCH**

Dec. 17–22: Decorate candles to display at home.  
 Jan. 14–19: Build a snowman.

## **PAJAMA STORIES AT WOODS BRANCH**

Stories for children ages 3 and up with or without an adult  
 7:15 pm Mondays  
 December 17 and January 14  
*Registration begins two weeks before each storytime.*

## **EVENING WINTER PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT WOODS BRANCH**

Stories, songs and crafts about winter for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds  
 7 pm Tuesdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29  
*Register for one or more classes beginning December 27.*

## **THE WRITER'S CLUB**

**AT MAIN LIBRARY** (Grades 2–4)  
 Use your imagination and words to write exciting stories, poetry, letters, news articles and much more!  
 January 8–February 26  
 4:15 pm Tuesdays  
*Registration begins December 11.*

## **AFTERSCHOOL AUTHORS**

**AT WOODS BRANCH** (Grade 2–5)  
 Read, write and publish in this series of workshops for kids who love to write.  
 January 9–February 27  
 4:15 Wednesdays  
 Registration begins December 12.

## **AMERICAN GIRL® DOLLS**

**THROUGH HISTORY** (Grades 1–4)  
 Explore the world of one of the American Girl® Dolls. Meet monthly to hear a passage from the first book in the doll's series, play a game, make a craft and enjoy a snack from that doll's time period.

### Meet Molly

2–4 pm Saturday, December 1 at Woods Branch

*Registration began November 17.*

2–4 pm Saturday, December 8 at Main Library

*Registration began November 24.*

### Meet Julie

2–4 pm Saturday, February 2 at Main Library

*Registration begins January 19.*

2–4 pm Saturday, February 9 at Woods Branch

*Registration begins January 26.*

### T.A.B. (Teen Advisory Board)

#### Meeting at Main Library

7:30–8:15 pm Tuesday, January 15

Regular meeting for 2007–2008 Teen Advisory Board members.

Meeting Room B

### Anime Club at Woods Branch

3:30–4:30 pm Thursday, January 17

Anime fans get together to watch films, learn about Japanese culture and meet special guests. Japanese snacks are served.

### Computer Classes

The Library offers a variety of free computer classes. Register by calling the Main Library Computer Center at 216-991-2030 ext. 3185. For classes that have asterisks, call Training Specialist Walter Lesch at 216-991-2020 ext. 3156.

#### MOUSE CLASS

10–11 am SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

*(Registration began 11/26.)*

10–11 am SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

*(Registration began 11/26.)*

Learn to use the computer mouse in one hour.

#### INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT®

3–4:30 pm TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

*(Registration began 11/26.)*

3–4:30 pm TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

*(Registration begins 12/31.)*

4–5:30 pm Wednesday, January 9

*(Registration begins 12/31.)*

Learn to create a slide show with text and graphics, to edit slides and to add sound and animation.

#### INTRODUCTION TO ACCESS™

10–11:30 am WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

*(Registration began 11/26.)*

10–11:30 am WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

*(Registration begins 12/26.)*

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

*(Registration begins 12/26.)*

Learn to work with the Microsoft database program to build databases.



The advertisement features a large central graphic with the text "SHAKER SQUARE" at the top, split by a vertical line. Below this, a large circle contains the text "where LIFE & STYLE meet". The background is a collage of images related to Shaker Square, including a close-up of a flower, a building facade, and a fountain. At the bottom, there are three logos: "shaker SQUARE night and day", "Shop. Dine. Play. Live. Laugh. MEET AT SHAKER SQUARE visitshakersquare.com", and "CoRAL building the city".



### Debit MasterCard®

Use your debit card wherever MasterCard is accepted – purchases are deducted directly from your checking account.  
No checks to write, more privacy, more time.  
Sometimes life can be so simple.

### *You Can Join!*

Membership is open to all who  
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in Shaker Heights...and their Families

*"Real People. Real Financial Solutions"*  
serving our members since 1954



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Shaker Heights, OH 44120  
(216) 752-6111



★ Visit us on the web at [www.shakercommunity.com](http://www.shakercommunity.com) ★

## library news

### \*\*CREATING AND USING TABLES IN ACCESS™

3–4:30 pm WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5  
(Registration began 11/26.)

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, JANUARY 11  
(Registration begins 12/31.)

Explore designing and using tables in an Access database.

### INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL®

3–4:30 pm THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6  
(Registration began 11/26.)

10–1:30 am THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13  
(Registration begins 12/3.)

10–11:30 am THURSDAY, JANUARY 3  
(Registration begins 12/26.)

6:30–8 pm MONDAY, JANUARY 7  
(Registration begins 12/31.)

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

### \*\*HOW TO BUILD A WEB PAGE

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7  
(Registration began 11/26.)

6:30–8 pm MONDAY, JANUARY 28  
(Registration begins 1/21.)

Explore HTML, the language used to create many of the web pages found on the Internet.

### INTERNET CLASS

10–11:30 am SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8  
(Registration began 11/26.)

10–11:30 am SATURDAY, JANUARY 12  
(Registration begins 12/31.)

Discover how to find and use a variety of online resources and learn how to “surf” the web.

### \*\*MAILMERGE

6:30–8 pm MONDAY, DECEMBER 10  
(Registration begins 12/3.)

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28  
(Registration begins 12/17.)

10–11:30 am THURSDAY, JANUARY 24  
(Registration begins 1/14.)

MailMerge utilizes information from many sources, like Word tables, Excel sheets, and Access Data Tables.

### \*\*GRAPHICS IN POWERPOINT®

3–4:30 pm TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11  
(Registration begins 12/3.)

3–4:30 pm TUESDAY, JANUARY 22  
(Registration begins 1/14.)

In order for information in one table to

## EXPLORE NEW FRONTIERS

For 117 years, University School's mission has been to develop promising and motivated boys into accomplished and independent young men who aspire to make a difference in the world.

Please visit the web and come meet our talented faculty at our:

### OPEN HOUSE:

Tuesday, January 15, 2008  
8:00–10:30 am

[www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu)



UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL

Shaker Heights: K-8 216.321.8260  
Hunting Valley: 9-12 216.831.2200



be related to information in another, a relationship between the two tables must be established. Class discusses the types of table relationships that can be drawn.

#### **\*\*CREATING AND USING FORMS**

##### **IN ACCESS™**

3–4:30 pm WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

*(Registration begins 12/3.)*

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

*(Registration begins 1/7.)*

Forms do two things in database programs. They make data entry less risky and allow users to see data.

##### **WORKING WITH WINDOWS®**

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

*(Registration begins 12/3.)*

10–11:30 am WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26

*(Registration begins 12/17.)*

10–11:30 am WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

*(Registration begins 1/7.)*

Class is designed for those who are not comfortable using multiple windows.

##### **WEB EMAIL**

10–11:30 am SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

*(Registration begins 12/3.)*

10–11:30 am SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

*(Registration begins 1/7.)*

Learn to access a web email account and to send and receive messages.

#### **\*\*USING OFFICE PROGRAMS TOGETHER**

6:30–8 pm MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

*(Registration begins 12/10.)*

A hands-on class that demonstrates how elements of one program can be used within another.

#### **\*\*ANIMATION IN POWERPOINT®**

3–4:30 pm TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

*(Registration begins 12/10.)*

3–4:30 pm TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

*(Registration begins 1/7.)*

Everything in a slide can be animated. Learn objects that can be added to a slide and the menus that control them.

#### **\*\*CREATING AND USING QUERIES**

##### **IN ACCESS™**

3–4:30 pm WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

*(Registration begins 12/10.)*

3–4:30 pm FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

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## library news

### **\*\*CHARTS AND GRAPHS IN EXCEL®**

3—4:30 pm THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

(Registration begins 12/10.)

10—1:30 am THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

(Registration begins 12/17.)

10—11:30 am THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

(Registration begins 12/31.)

6:30—8 pm MONDAY, JANUARY 14

(Registration begins 1/7.)

Explore the ways that Excel can display data as charts and graphs.

### **BASIC WORD PROCESSING**

10—11:30 am SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

(Registration begins 12/10.)

10—11:30 am Saturday, January 26

(Registration begins 1/14)

Learn to format documents using Microsoft Word software.

### **\*\*CREATING AND USING REPORTS IN ACCESS™**

3—4:30 pm TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

(Registration begins 1/21.)

Discover the different styles of reports available in Access. Learn to manipulate the design of the report and show summaries of data.

### **\*\*GRAPHICS AND CLIP ART IN WORD**

10—11:30 am WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

(Registration begins 1/21.)

Explore the types of objects that can be inserted into a document.

### **Library's Sponsors**

#### **10th Annual**

#### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest**

The library invites youth in grades 3—8 to enter its 10th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest. This year's contest asks students to briefly describe ten things that each of us can do to help people of all races and religions live together peacefully.

All entries are printed as bookmarks to be distributed during Black History month. Winners in each category, grades 3 & 4; grades 5 & 6; and grades 7 & 8 also receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

Contest rules and application forms are available in the children and teen departments at both libraries; the contest

ends December 14 and winners are notified in January.

The Awards Reception will be held at 4:30 pm Friday, January 18 at the Main Library, when children will read their winning entries and receive their prizes.

### **Books for Discussion**

The Library offers a number of book discussion opportunities for residents interested in sharing their reading experience.

NOON SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

MAIN LIBRARY

*Bachelor Brothers' Bed and Breakfast*

by Bill Richardson

Fraternal twins run a bed and breakfast for bibliophiles on an island near Vancouver.

2 PM MONDAY DECEMBER 10

WOODS BRANCH

*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*

by Dai Sijie

Two boys are sent to a remote Chinese village for "re-education" during the Cultural Revolution.

7:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 11

MAIN LIBRARY

*The Night Gardener* by George Pelecanos

Three Washington, DC police officers reunite to apprehend a serial killer whose crimes span twenty years. Can you figure out whodunit?

10 AM TUESDAY DECEMBER 11

MAIN LIBRARY

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*

by Khaled Hosseini

Two Afghanistan women become allies in their battle with a man they each married.

7:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 18

MAIN LIBRARY

*On the Right Side of a Dream*

by Sheila Williams

The sequel to *Dancing on the Edge of the Roof* follows Juanita, as she becomes a student, owner of a bed and breakfast, and an independent woman.



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2 PM MONDAY, JANUARY 7  
WOODS BRANCH

*The Glass Castle* by **Jeannette Walls**

This page-turner hooks you from the beginning when the author, dressed for a benefit, looks out her taxi window to watch her mother dumpster diving. MSNBC's Jeanette Walls' memoir describes her dysfunctional family life with nary a hint of bitterness.

10 AM TUESDAY, JANUARY 8  
MAIN LIBRARY

*Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil* by **Deborah Rodriguez**

This is the riveting account of an American beautician's quest to help the women of Afghanistan by opening the country's first modern beauty school.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 8  
MAIN LIBRARY

*No Good Deeds* by **Laura Lipan**

When P.I. Tess Monaghan inadvertently acquires information relating to the murder of a U.S. attorney, she finds herself threatened with jail time unless she reveals her source.

NOON SATURDAY, JANUARY 12  
MAIN LIBRARY

*What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day* by **Pearl Cleage**

In this affirming novel, a young woman diagnosed as HIV Positive discovers that what she thinks is the end is really a beginning.

7 PM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16  
MAIN LIBRARY

*Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time* by **Keith Ferrazzi**

A master at business networking writes about the importance of relationships and shares some of the strategies of more famous networkers like Katherine Graham and Bill Clinton.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

*The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by **Timothy Egan**

The history of the Depression and the Dust Bowl is recounted through the stories of families who survived the hard times.

## Library and Shaker Family Center Cosponsor Preschool Fair

Shaker Library and Shaker Family Center invite families to a Preschool Fair from 6:30 to 8 pm Thursday, January 24 on the second floor of the Main Library.

Representatives from area early childhood programs will share information about their programs. Parents will have the opportunity to meet directors and staff members and explore the wide variety of options for their children. For more information, call Shaker Family Center at 216-991-2023 or Shaker Library at 216-991-2030.



## The Bookshelf

Children's Services staff continues to offer a look at different historical eras through the eyes of the American Girl® Dolls. Staff has created pathfinders for each doll's era. Some suggested titles for children interested in learning more about the early 1900s are listed below.

*20th century USA: History of the 1900s* by **Rennay Craats**. Mankato, MN: Weigl Publishers, 2002.

Learn more about the first decade of the 1900s – from fashion to music and from sports to popular reading – in this book filled with photographs and illustrations from the era. There is also a glossary and a timeline of important events. (For grades 3-6)

*Brooklyn Doesn't Rhyme* by **Joan W. Blos**. Maxwell Macmillan International, 1994.

In a journal she keeps for school, Rosey writes of her life growing up in New York in the early 20th century. (For grades 4-6)

*Factory Girl* by **Barbara Greenwood**. Kids Can Press, 2007.

Read about the dangers and hardships children and adults faced working in factories. Chapters alternate between a fictional story about 12-year-old Emily Watson, who works in a factory, and true accounts of factory life accompanied by photographs. (For grades 4 and up)

*Hannah's Journal: The Story of An Immigrant Girl* by **Marissa Moss**. Harcourt Brace, 2000.

Ten-year-old Hannah records the difficult trip from Lithuania to America in her journal during the year 1901. Journal entries are accompanied by colorful drawings. (For grades 2-4)

*If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island* by **Ellen Levine**. Scholastic, 1993.

At the turn of the century from 1892 to 1914, immigrants had to stop at New York's Ellis Island. This book answers many questions about what it was like to enter the country during the early 1900s. (For grades 3-5)

*The Minstrel's Melody* by **Eleanora E. Tate**. Pleasant Company Publications, 2001.

When the famous Madame Meritta comes to town looking for young talent, Orphelia discovers some secrets about her family's past when she sneaks off with Meritta's musical group. The book also contains information on early African-American performing groups. (For grades 4-7)

*Samantha's Cookbook: A Peek at Dining in the Past with Meals You Can Cook Today* edited by **Jodi Evert**. Pleasant Co. Publications, 1994.

Learn to make meals that were popular during Samantha's time. This book also features a section on what it was like to cook in the early 1900s. (For grades 2 and up)

*Welcome to Samantha's World, 1904: Growing Up In America's New Century* by **Catherine Gourley**. Pleasant Company, 1999.

The world at the turn of the century comes alive in this book that features photographs and illustrations of period toys, clothing, and household items. (For grades K-5)



## library news

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### Friends Sponsor a Gas Guzzler Giveaway

Center Heights Service, RTA and Friends of the Shaker Library are fueling their 2008 membership Drive with a Gas Guzzler Giveaway. Join Friends of the Shaker Library anytime now through the end of 2007, and your name will be entered into a drawing to win one of four \$200 gas cards or \$200 worth of RTA passes (your choice)! Membership Remittance envelopes are available at both libraries and the drawing will be held January 2.



Friends of the Shaker Library Board members, Center Heights Service employees, RTA employees and their immediate family members are not eligible to win Gas Guzzler Giveaway prizes.

### Friends Welcome the Support of Local Businesses

In 2007, the Friends reached out to the local business community to invite them to be Business Friends of the Shaker Library. Many signed on offering financial support for the Friends as well as generous perks for members. New Business members include Canterbury Golf Club and J. Pistone Market.

Other business members offer special discounts to Friends' members when they show their Friends of the Shaker Library card. Current Business members of the Friends and their offers include: A. J. Heil Florist, 3233 Warrensville Center Rd., 10 percent off any in-store purchase; Center Heights Service, 3884 Warrensville Center Rd., free safety inspection; Chagrin Chiropractic, 27629 Chagrin Blvd., free initial consultation and exam; Pearl of the Orient, 20121 Van Aken Blvd., 15 percent off meals; Loganberry Books, 13015 Larchmere Blvd., 20 percent off total purchase; Shaker Animal Clinic, 3612 Lee Rd., free, first-time examination; Shaker Heights Hardware, 17111 Chagrin Blvd., \$5 off a purchase of \$25 or more. (Not valid with any other offer.)

Friends also offers members a 10 percent discount on Friends' merchandise, including tote bags, mugs, cookbooks and the Doors of Shaker poster, which are available at both libraries.

### End Notes

- Main Library's Art Gallery features the colorful paintings and prints of George Kocar through December 31. Color photographs of Play and Learn children by David Bergholz will be on display from January 7-31.

- Poetry Back in the Woods will be held at 7 pm Thursdays December 20 and January 10 at Betram Woods Branch.

- The Library will ring in the New Year with a selection of high-definition DVDs in both the Blu-Ray and HDTV formats. (It will also continue to purchase popular movie titles in the regular DVD format.) Call the Movies and Music Department for more information about forthcoming movie titles and for information about the new formats.

- Knit Nights are held from 7-8:45 pm Thursdays, December 13 and January 17 at Woods Branch. Bring a project and get or give help. For more information, call 216-991-2421.

- The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Main Library from 3-7 pm Monday, December 10.

- The Library Board meets at 6:30 pm Mondays, December 10 and January 14 in the Main Library Boardroom.

- Friends of the Shaker Library meets at 7 pm Tuesdays, December 18 and January 15 at the Main Library.

### Holiday Hours

Both libraries will be closed Sunday, December 23, Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. Both libraries will close at 6 pm Monday, December 31 for New Year's Eve and be closed Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Both libraries will be closed Monday, January 21 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. ■

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passing the winter, shaker style

# body mind & spirit

by nancy o'connor





## What is it about winter that weighs you down?

The shorter days, or the prolonged cold? The grey skies, or the abundant white stuff? All of the above? You're not alone. Nor are you out of options. We've compiled just a partial round-up of ways to enrich your mind, body, and spirit this winter season. We've also asked a local vastu expert for ideas on how to transform your home into a healthier and happier place to hibernate. **So read on, and stay strong!**

photo by ted woodbridge, courtesy of the nature center at shaker lakes



## 1: Share Your Gifts, Nurture Your Soul

You've heard it before, but this winter, take it to heart: The real secret of happiness is not what you have or what you receive, it's what you share. Winter doldrums melt away when you share your time and talents with others. Follow these examples set by other Shaker residents:

### Sew some love.

Members of Our Lady of Peace parish meet two mornings each month to sew and knit items for infants and children at Cleveland's Providence House crisis nursery. Their counterparts at Heights Christian Church make prayer shawls designed to bring comfort to those dealing with illness or the loss of a loved one.

### Feed the hungry.

The Shaker Hunger Center at the Shaker Heights Community United Church of Christ is always in need of food donations and volunteers to help assemble and distribute groceries to the needy. At Suburban Temple Kol Ami, members make and directly deliver peanut butter sandwiches to those living on the streets. East View United Church of Christ hosts a monthly luncheon for the hungry, and St. Dominic Church parishioners make monthly treks to the West Side Catholic Center to prepare and serve a simple breakfast for those in need.



### Take time to tutor, or simply talk.

Through the Open Doors program based at First Unitarian Church, afterschool volunteers are trained to help Shaker Middle School students with homework and to lead enrichment activities tailored to the volunteer's talents and interests. Adults who can act as positive role models assist the Shaker Youth Center with its

**for the homeless:** making peanut butter sandwiches at suburban temple kol ami.  
photo by marc golub



## Players with a Purpose

These organizations are just a few of the many that enjoy the support of numerous Shaker Heights-area churches, temples, and residents:

**InterAct Cleveland** ([www.interactcleveland.org](http://www.interactcleveland.org)) is an interreligious coalition of congregations, faith communities, campus groups, and community organizations whose members work for social justice through dialogue, service, and advocacy. InterAct programs include a Community Food Pantry, advocacy initiatives, and an annual Homeless Stand Down. Phone: (216) 241-0230.

**The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Greater Cleveland** ([www.ihncleveland.org](http://www.ihncleveland.org)), is a private, nonprofit organization providing hospitality, meals, and support to homeless families through a network of religious congregations that host families for one-week stays. Phone: (216) 991-6272.

**The Cleveland Foodbank** ([www.clevelandfoodbank.org](http://www.clevelandfoodbank.org)) serves as a clearinghouse for donated and rescued food in the Cleveland area. It supplies a majority of the food used in local soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries, and provides food to child-care centers, group homes, and programs for the elderly. Phone: (216) 383-9401.

**Meals on Wheels** is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization that provides healthy, warm meals to those not able to shop or prepare meals themselves. Meals on Wheels celebrated its 25th year of service to residents in Shaker Heights, Beachwood, and University Heights this year. Phone: (216) 991-6376.

**New Life Community** is a nonprofit organization that provides four months of transitional, rent-free housing, holistic support, and job training to homeless, jobless families. Volunteers provide tutoring, computer and job skill instruction, interview coaching, and more. Phone: (216) 751-7366. (See information about fundraiser in City News, page 8)

Mentoring Program for Academic Achievement, which provides opportunities for students to experience positive adult interaction as a way of increasing individual academic achievement and reducing risks of substance abuse.

Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, UCC has adopted an inner-city elementary school where volunteers act as tutors, Science Fair judges, and Career Day speakers. Adult volunteers are welcomed by the Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau to provide support, encouragement, and guidance to young boys and girls through such programs as Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Community-Based Mentoring, Bellefaire Buddies, and Homework Helpers.

### Help the homeless.

Several Shaker-area churches and synagogues rely on dozens of volunteers when it's their turn to house and feed a homeless family for one week as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Volunteers set up beds, prepare food, plan activities for children, and sleep overnight. At the New Life Community transitional housing center, volunteers perform a wide array of duties to support the families during their four-month stays, from child care to job skills training.

**Be a giver.**

Rest assured that whatever you give – money, clothing, furniture, blood, or advice – you’ll find a grateful recipient. During the Christmas season, the giving gets even easier thanks to numerous collections sponsored by area churches. “Jesus Gifts,” “Angel Tree,” “Manger Gifts,” and similar programs welcome donations of toys, books, household items, and clothing for families, children, and individuals.

**Get your hands dirty.**

Demonstrate your love for Mother Earth by assisting other volunteers with outdoor projects at the Nature Center during “Stewardship Saturdays.” No experience is required to help restore Center trails, watering, pulling invasive plants, planting native species, or a number of other vital projects. Green thumbs at the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland till, plant, water, weed, and harvest a Hunger Garden on church property to help feed area families in need.



photo by ted woodbridge, courtesy of the nature center at shaker lakes



## Vastu: Yoga for Your Home

Shorter winter days may find you spending more time indoors. But is your home space as nurturing and soul-soothing as it could be? What can you do to improve the quality of your home and your life?

“Throw open the blinds, lift the shades, and let the morning light – the best light of all – come into your home. It will boost your spirits.”

So promises Fernway resident, design consultant, and vastu expert Kathleen Cox, whose third book espousing the principles of the ancient Indian philosophy of space and design, *Space Matters*, was published in October. She designed the popular Toronto inn Annex Quest House, a Hindu temple complex scheduled for construction in Thailand, and has consulted on numerous homes.

Vastu, Cox explains, “uses the human form as the guiding force in interior design. A home should be comfortable and comforting, nurturing, responsive, and restorative. Vastu shows us how to create spaces so that they honor the rhythms that control the universe and establish harmony with ourselves and nature. Vastu is for the home what yoga is for the body.”

According to Cox, color, lighting, textures, and the actual shapes and placement of objects all impact a home and the well-being of the people in it. She notes in the introduction to *Space Matters*, “I want to restore the old-fashioned meaning of home and to help us all rediscover the power of this sublimely critical space.”



Photos from *Space Matters*, Copyright 2006 by Kathleen Cox with permission from Stewart, Tabori & Chang.





One design tip she offers involves grouping like objects together for maximum positive impact. “Grouping family photos together, for example, triggers positive thoughts when you see them. You get the full impact of the meaning behind them – ‘These are the people I love.’”

The same principle applies to indoor plants, which she strongly recommends for every home to stay connected to nature and remove toxins from the air. “Plants don’t grow solo in nature, nor should they in your home. Group them together.”

Cox moved to Shaker and became a grandmother-in-residence when her daughter Kiarah and son-in-law Ryan Berglund welcomed their first child two years ago. She continues to write and speak on vastu and consults for both private and commercial clients. For more about vastu or to order a copy of *Space Matters*, visit Cox’s website at [www.vastuliving.com](http://www.vastuliving.com).

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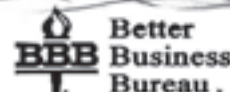
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## **2: Move Your Body, Lift Your Spirits**

Old Man Winter has a way of slowing us down and bringing us down. It holds sunlight hostage, sabotages exercise routines, and isolates people from one another with frigid temperatures that run us indoors.

But this year, combat the winter woes by participating in outdoor activities that are as good for you mentally as they are physically. And instead of fighting winter, try embracing its most popular pastimes.

### **Play in the snow.**

Rediscover what you knew as a kid and what your kids know now – playing in the snow is fun! Take a high-speed ride down Thornton Park's sledding hill. Build a snowman, an ice fort, or a creation of your imagination. Reawaken your senses with a peaceful walk through snow-laden Southerly Park, or bundle up and take part in a "Nature Hike" offered by The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes every Saturday in December.

photo by marc golub

### **Lace up the skates.**

Take advantage of Thornton Park's indoor ice arena during daily public skating sessions. If you've yet to master the art of gliding on ice, sign up for an adult Learn-to-Skate class or a few private lessons. If you can skate and push a puck at the same time, you belong at the co-ed Adult Open Hockey program held each Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. The Eastside Hockey League also welcomes beginner to intermediate men and women for late night competitions.

If "spectating" is more your style, watch a special performance by Shaker Figure Skating Club skaters at the City's 4th Annual Ice Festival January 19. The event also features ice sculpture demonstrations, snow and ice games, clowns, face painting, horse-drawn wagon rides, and raffles.

### **View the season differently.**

Mother Nature looks good in Winter White – see for yourself. Grab your camera and capture Shaker's lakes and parks in their winter splendor. You may be surprised to discover that nature isn't really asleep during the long cold months after all. Dedicated shutterbugs can join the Nature Center's Nature Photography Club for companionship and inspiration. The photos on pages 24 and 26 were taken by Club members.

### **Perfect your slam dunk.**

When winter streets are too dark and slippery for jogging and pedaling, head indoors Tuesday and Thursday evenings for a fast-paced game of basketball with Shaker's adult league at Woodbury School's main gym.

If all else fails, remember that winter will end. Eventually. ■





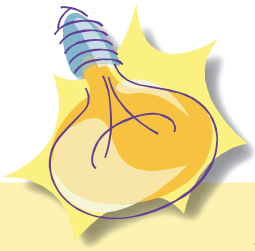


# focus on the fundamentals

Spring is a good time to work on basic home maintenance projects. Planning ahead can save time and money.

BY RITA KUEBER





After the holidays (but before spring training), when the real Northeast Ohio winter sets in, most Shaker Heights homeowners find themselves ‘California dreaming’ about home maintenance and repairs (and, okay, maybe moving). The most savvy among us will start making plans in slushy January, so that by spring our ideas have become a real step in the process of maintaining and preserving our homes. Here’s some insight and advice on focusing on the fundamentals from a handful of contractors who regularly work in Shaker.

## Asphalt & Paving Think Concrete

Greg Korponic of Star Paving, with 33 years in the asphalt and concrete paving business, points out that many original Shaker Heights driveways are around 70 years old and reaching the end of their days. Asphalt drives can be resurfaced (as opposed to merely sealed) by pouring hot mix on top of the old cured driveway. But this can be done effectively only so many times during a drive’s life.

“The City sometimes tells a homeowner they can’t resurface any more because they know an unscrupulous contractor might just add more hot mix, when a total replacement is needed,” says Korponic.

Until recently there was a big gap in price between asphalt and concrete. “But asphalt is petroleum-based, and its price increased more than 100 percent over the past year,” says Korponic. “Suddenly a concrete driveway is only a dollar per square foot more than asphalt.”

But the most exciting trend in driveways and paving may be custom-dyeing concrete. “New concrete is as white as a sheet of paper,” he explains. “It just doesn’t blend in with the Shaker aesthetic. He estimates 70 to 80 percent of his clients now tint their concrete. “That shows how beautiful the driveway can be.”



PHOTO BY MARC GOLUB



## Leaks & Water Damage

### Dam Busting

Mike Reilly of Reilly Painting and Contracting says homeowners should add the removal of hidden ice to their routine maintenance in late winter, when sunny days and freezing nights create the perfect situation for ice dams to form under the roof.

Water gets trapped where the eaves and the gutters meet when melting snow creeps up underneath the shingles. This causes leaks and water damage inside in the home – a situation with which many Shaker homeowners are frustratingly familiar. Reilly recommends relieving the pressure on the house's roof and gutters not by having ice merely cleared from the gutter, but by having a contractor trim back the ice – thereby creating a channel for flow – and sprinkle the area with calcium chloride. It is not recommended that homeowners try to do this themselves.

"It used to be maybe one year out of four was a bad year for ice, now it seems like there's a problem every year," Reilly says. "You really only have to do a removal once a winter, and you're saving yourself thousands of dollars in potential damage."

## Electrical

### Beware "Federal Pacific"

Patrick Warholc of Euclid Electric specializes in fine and vintage homes. His rule of thumb: If a house's electrical panels have not been looked at in ten years, an inspection is warranted. An electrician will perform routine maintenance but also look for a breaker box marked Federal Pacific.

"If you see that name in your house, you should get someone in there. The breakers corrode and don't trip – it's a huge hazard."

As for upgrading, when Shaker Heights houses were built, the average kitchen needed plugs for a refrigerator and a toaster. "The average kitchen had two circuits. When we remodel, we increase it to ten."

Another area to consider is the entertainment center. "Lots of Shaker homes have only a couple of outlets in each room. People use three-prong adapters to plug grounded devices into non-grounded receptacles. It's a potential fire hazard. All electronics should be plugged into a grounded receptacle. It protects the user and the equipment."

Warholc also notes the increased use of decorative outdoor lighting in Shaker, for which he recommends running a new circuit and installing a transformer with a timer.





## Heating & Cooling

# Tightening The Envelope

John Gorjanc of Gorjanc Heating & Cooling says “If you’re thinking of adding a room or converting one to year-round use, think about how to heat and cool that space.” He says homeowners often will spend time and money on extra space and then discover it’s not as comfortable as they want. “If it’s big enough, think of it as a separate zone with its own thermostat.”

Gorjanc is familiar with the challenge of working with systems that were built to last but are old and no longer efficient.

“New technology offers ways to be more comfortable, healthier, and reduce the resources we consume – not to mention ways to save on the utility bill.”

He explains how technologies such as thermal imaging and an infiltrometer (a blower door test) measure and pinpoint leaks. “Lots of Shaker houses are leaky and have very little insulation. I suggest tightening the ‘envelope’ – the house – to reduce utility bills and make it healthier and more comfortable.”

## Kitchen Remodeling

# Appliances First

Builder and remodeler Dan Dureiko of Dureiko Construction works almost exclusively in Shaker Heights. “So we take extra steps to keep the character of the house intact,” he says. His recent work includes bathrooms and wine rooms – and lots of kitchens.

“In kitchen remodeling, people always worry about cabinets and colors, but they should start with the appliances, the footprint,” he advises. “Cabinets and colors are the details.”

He notes that “Shaker kitchens in the older homes can be small and cut-up. They were workspaces for hired help all those years ago. The kitchens were land-locked in the house. But now people entertain in their kitchens – and some don’t even cook! But for those that do cook, I advise making use of every square inch of space, even if you have to remove a wall to improve the flow.”

## Selling? Get An Edge

Karen Tucker a 21-year veteran broker at ReMax in Shaker says that preparation is the most important thing for a seller in the current super-competitive market “The objective,” she says, “should be to make the rooms look like a photo in a magazine.”

Her colleague Linda Hart agrees. “The market’s extremely competitive right now. The house must be violation free, fresh, and clean. I encourage sellers to update what they can. Lighting, for instance. Or sometimes a single kitchen appliance can make a difference.”

Tucker says that homeowners who put money into their kitchens and bathrooms most often get this money back. Replacing a boiler may not get the same dollar for dollar return, but “mechanicals” in good working order meet every buyer’s expectation.

“I tell my clients to gather up all the warranties and maintenance records for the house, even a recent utility bill, and leave them in a notebook for the buyer,” Tucker says. “And be sure to clean up the spaces around those utilities – getting rid of the spider webs and dust bunnies gives the appearance of maintenance.”

“All those things add up,” Hart says. “People look at houses by function, but they buy by emotion.”

## Be A Wise Consumer



A quick look at the webpage [shakeronline.com/dept/building/FAQ.asp](http://shakeronline.com/dept/building/FAQ.asp) will give homeowners information on hiring a contractor, including those registered with – but not endorsed by – the City. The City doesn't make recommendations.

Jim Ziegler, director of the Shaker Heights Building Department, which issues building permits, says, "My best advice is to check the contractor's references and look at their work. Find out what the standards are for the work being done, and find out what it really costs."

Ziegler says the City's permit system helps consumers in that the permits track work being done that is ultimately inspected by the City, thus maintaining a high-quality housing stock. Still, he urges that consumers do their own homework.

"It's important for people to know that ours are spot inspections," he says. "We catch a fair number of errors on site. But when there are problems, they're always the same: People hire someone they never heard of and don't check the references. They don't get a contract. They have a cell phone number and no other way to reach the company. They shop on price alone and tell us 'It was a good deal.' Worst of all, people give the contractor all the money for a job up front. I tell people that money is power."

Ziegler says he and his staff have a combined 100 years of experience in repair and renovation inspection, and "we've seen everything." He says, "It's like 'spider sense.' We can just tell when there's going to be trouble. We're able to resolve most of the complaints we receive, but not all. The worst thing is to be an uneducated consumer."



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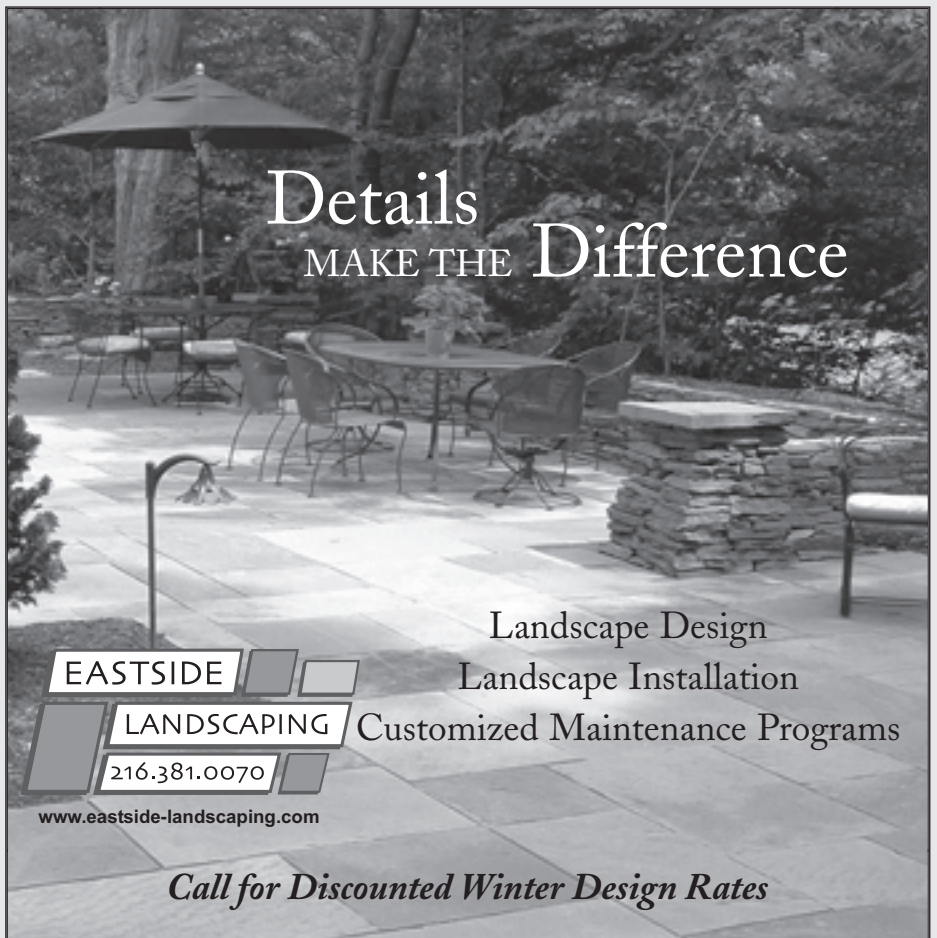
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# On the Home Front

Shaker families with loved ones in Iraq find active support from the entire community.

BY BETH FRIEDMAN-ROMELL

PHOTOS BY JANET CENTURY



**Timothy Kolb** (on computer screen) with parents Martin and Sandra.

For whatever reason, we seldom seem to think of soldiers in connection with our Shaker Heights friends and neighbors. Yet a number of families here anxiously pray for the safe return of loved ones from the current conflict in Iraq. Their diverse experiences of the war are linked by a communal support.

### **Private First Class Kolb**

Private First Class Timothy Kolb (SHHS 2004) seems an unlikely candidate to enlist in the Army. The third and youngest son of retired executives Sandra Kiely Kolb and Martin Kolb, Tim was raised in a home where toy guns – even water pistols – were not allowed. The Wake Forest University sophomore seemed poised to follow his brothers into a business career when he informed his family that he'd joined up.

"After they picked me up off the floor, I called the recruiter and said, 'Tell us what you told our son,' " Sandra recalls. "He said, 'Tim's been talking to us for months. He came to us, we didn't go after him.' "

In retrospect, Sandra believes Tim's years of service have strengthened his discipline and focused his talents.

"Tim had to define Tim, not in terms of being Alex or Andrew's brother," she muses. She describes his childhood desire to be both rule keeper and peace maker, and his sense of responsibility and patriotism. When Sandra asked him, "Why you, Tim?" he responded, "Why not me? Why should I be excluded?"

Tim has found his niche on a base 17 miles outside of Baghdad, in supply logistics, a job which matches perfectly with his organizational, computer, and analytical skills. His hard work has earned him numerous awards, including the prestigious Soldier of the Year for the Brigade.



While Tim is in a combat zone, Sandra takes some comfort from the knowledge that her son does not go out on missions.

Through frequent e-mails and phone calls, Tim tries to normalize the situation for his mother. "He tells me about watching the farmers plow around the base every day, getting on with their lives," she says. He recounts the progress being made in the country, the schools and hospitals being built. They talk about mundane matters like foot powder, Starburst candies, and getting the latest Harry Potter novel before someone spoils the ending for him. Sandra, a former "news junkie," does not watch, listen to, or read the news anymore.

But the best therapy for Tim's mom is reaching out to others. She is a more-than-full-time volunteer, serving on multiple non-profit boards. Sandra believes her weekly commitment to the USO Military Entrance Processing Center in Broadview Heights helps her "stay sane." Every Monday morning, Sandra "hands out coffee and a big dose of moral support" to about 50 young men and women and their families.

"Some talk to you, some don't. You can feel they're nervous," she says. "I realize I'm not the only one with a child currently serving. It puts it in perspective."

When those horrible waves of fear come out of nowhere, Sandra talks about it, to friends, to her religious community at Church of the Savior, to her therapist. She reminds herself that Tim is working in a 9-5 computer job. And prayer is her major solace.

"I don't think a day passes that I don't say a prayer for Tim. It keeps me centered more than anything else."

Sandra says the vast majority of people in Shaker Heights are very supportive, regardless of their opinion of the war,



Timothy Perkins' parents JoAn, James, and daughter Deje.



**Msgt. Tim Perkins**

unlike her husband's experience returning from Vietnam.

"My husband was wounded and spent a year in a military hospital," Sandra explains. "He never talked about the war, wouldn't go to fireworks displays. He swore he wouldn't let his sons go." But Tim's enlistment ultimately encouraged Martin to open up about his own experiences, and he even marched in Shaker's Memorial Day Parade this past May.

Sandra perceives many differences in how soldiers are treated now. "You go as part of your unit, you train together, you come home as a unit. They are a team." She is heartened by the many displays of support and gratitude to military personnel she witnesses in airports around the country. And she counts the days until she can see her "baby" again.

When Tim's tour concludes at the end of December, he will attend the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Sandra proudly recounts how Tim's personal powers of persuasion and articulate letter to the Dean moved him off the wait list and into a slot at the prestigious school.

Together we admire the photo of the handsome, sturdy soldier smiling in the desert, worlds away from his parents' stately Tudor home.

"Tim left as a boy," Sandra marvels. "When he came back on leave last May, I hardly recognized him."

### **Master Sergeant Perkins**

Master Sergeant Timothy Eugene Perkins' decision to join the Marines 21 years ago was no surprise to his family. Tim's father, James, and older brother, Alan, were both Marines; his younger brother, Jonathan, went to the U.S. Naval Academy. But Tim went in, explains his mother JoAn, largely for the employment opportunity.

"Tim was always messing around with bikes and cars, growing up," she explains. After graduating from Shaker Heights High School in 1984, he attended Northwest Auto Diesel Technical School in Lima. But everyone told him he needed five years experience to get a job. The Marines provided Tim with a steady income and the chance to use his mechanical expertise.

"He went into heavy equipment operations. He learned to read blueprints, and became head of his department...working on Apache helicopters," JoAn says.

Over the years, Tim has served from Okinawa to Guantanamo Bay, and worked for three years as a recruiter, which he did not like. He left the service briefly, but soon returned to service and was sent to Iraq for combat duty.

James, a retired mail carrier, views his son's military career as largely a positive experience. "He's won combat awards, wrestling tournaments... he's made a lot of friends."

But the Iraqi tour was different, says James. This tour was Tim's first in a combat zone. While Tim is currently stationed at a mock Iraqi training village at 29 Palms, California, his parents worry he could be redeployed to Iraq.

When Tim first returned from Iraq, he put together a binder detailing what he'd witnessed. "It was a kind of therapy for him," JoAn thinks. Tim warned his parents not to look at the last part, says James. "Of course that's the first thing we did," James admits.

JoAn wrings her hands as she rocks slightly forward and back on the playground bench on a sunny July morning. "Tim always got involved with kids. On Okinawa, he volunteered at an orphanage. You can't do that in Iraq," she says, a slight tremor in her voice. "They use kids as bombs."

*continued on page 58*



**Navy Commander Tom Hach** with son Grove, wife Ann, and daughter Clara.







# Warmth, Clarity, and Balance

BY SUE STARRETT  
PHOTOS BY GREEN STREET STUDIO

Outgoing CIM President David Cerone talks about the challenges of building a conservatory of international repute, Barbara and Larry Robinson's pizza party for the Guarneri String Quartet, and leaving the top job on a high note after 22 years.

**The prestigious** Cleveland Institute of Music has experienced enormous growth and success during David Cerone's 22-year presidency. Cerone, a Shaker Heights resident for more than 20 years, became CIM's eighth president in 1985 and is the longest-serving executive in the organization's history. He recently announced his retirement, set for when a replacement is found.

Now a leading international conservatory, CIM attracts about 20 percent of its students from beyond the United States, and its recent capital campaign promises to support and sustain the educational and artistic excellence for which the Institute is celebrated. Under Cerone, the \$40-million CIM Expansion Program broke ground in February 2005 and includes two additions, renovation of the music library, a new façade on East Boulevard, gardens and landscaping, distance-learning studios, state-of-the-art audio and recording equipment, and a gorgeous recital hall.

The Fred A. Lennon Education Building opened last fall, and Phase Two, which features the 250-seat Mixon Recital Hall, opened in November. Through all the construction, CIM continued to serve its 430 conservatory students and 1,700 preparatory and continuing education students.

CIM was founded in 1920 and moved to University Circle in 1961. It is one of only eight independent degree-granting conservatories in America, and also offers a joint music program with Case Western Reserve University. Thirty-eight members of The Cleveland Orchestra serve on CIM's faculty, and 36 CIM alumni are Orchestra members.



Cerone, an accomplished violinist, remains active as a teacher, performer, master class presenter, and juror for many national and international violin competitions. He has served on the faculties of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Curtis Institute of Music, and Meadowmount School of Music, and was a student of Ivan Galamian at both The Juilliard School of Music and Curtis.

**Congratulations are in order for the successful completion of the CIM Expansion Program and dedication of Mixon Recital Hall. What factors influenced this capital improvements project?**

Thank you. It's been a remarkable feat for a school of this size to raise more than \$40 million and to have a recital hall of such quality. Our students deserve it, and it is also a tribute to our faculty, many of whom work down the road at Severance Hall and bring us the musical values of warmth, clarity, and balance. To replicate that sound in the recital hall, we chose the acoustician who played a similar role at Severance Hall.

CIM was designed for 150 students, and we have more than 400. This growth has required additional faculty and more teaching and performance space. In 1998 we started talking about an expansion, and our trustees approved our campaign goal in March 2001. It was an amazing time for such an ambitious goal and all the more extraordinary that we have raised close to \$42 million – and balanced the budget for the past 12 years.



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**Cerone with** Chad Hoopes, Linda Cerone, and Eric Gratz. Shaker residents Chad and Eric are in CIM's Young Artist Program.

**Your association with CIM began more than a decade before you became its president. What were the circumstances?**

When Victor Babin became president [serving from 1961 to 1972], the Institute was focused on voice, piano, and composition. Victor engaged James Levine, then assistant conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra [currently music director of The Boston Symphony Orchestra], to help build a student orchestra. My wife Linda and I were invited to develop the string department.

Although Victor died within a year, we continued at CIM until 1980, when I became head of the violin department of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

**What brought you back to Cleveland?**

While Curtis was in many ways an ideal setting, my enthusiasm to return to Cleveland was such that Linda and I did a plus-minus list to an exhausting extent. Cleveland offered greater opportunities for growth personally and musically, and this is the only place I would have accepted an offer to become president. I knew the Cleveland community, had cut my administrative teeth here, and thought that by coming back, we might repay some of the kindness we had experienced during our first time at CIM.

Another powerful inducement to return was to guide CIM in the direction Victor had set for it; he had done so much to build the school, and it was poised to launch internationally. The forces were here to do it. The community, trustees, and faculty worked together, and that synergy brought us to where we are today. This has been a wonderful period of growth for me. Returning to Cleveland has been life-changing.

**Enrollment in CIM's conservatory has more than doubled during your presidency. How does the school continue to attract students of the highest caliber?**

Good students want to be with good students; good teachers want to teach good students and be with good teachers.

We challenge and provide – challenge our students to be their best, and provide the right services and the right facilities for them to do so. It is the same with our faculty. Every year we admit the best class possible, and we need proper resources to attract these students. The Expansion Program is another expression of the institution's growth, excitement, and potential.

**You and your wife Linda established the ENCORE School for Strings, you have built CIM as a national leader in chamber music, and now the school has enough string players for two orchestras. You certainly have fulfilled Mr. Babin's vision, while continuing in your role as teacher.**

It's thrilling and inspiring and demanding to be around all of these young, talented musicians. They keep me sharp. I've been at CIM for almost 23 years, and the orchestra is always the same age – it's an evergreen orchestra.



**Please describe CIM's Young Artist Program for gifted high school students. When and why did you create it?**

I modeled the Young Artist Program on my own experience of moving to Detroit at the age of 11 to study with Mischa Mischakoff and attend Cranbrook School. I lived with a very nice family who embodied what I would come to know as "Shaker" values.

I've found that the past forges the future. When I returned to CIM in 1985, several students from Philadelphia wanted to come with me. I worked with the headmaster of University School to fashion a program that involved a half day of work there and a half day at CIM, so that these young musicians could earn their high school diplomas and begin to earn conservatory credits at the same time.

**High school influenced your decision to move to Shaker Heights.**

I wanted my daughter, Lora, to attend Shaker Heights High School. The first time we lived here, I had met many Shaker residents. I remember taking the Guarneri String Quartet and our string seminar students to Barbara and Larry Robinson's home for pizza and music. Frank and Martha Joseph and many other friends also lived in Shaker, and we wanted to be part of that community.

**Linda is also a violinist and Artistic Director of CIM's Preparatory String Department. Are your children musicians?**

Linda's career and mine were parallel. We met at Meadowmount (our model

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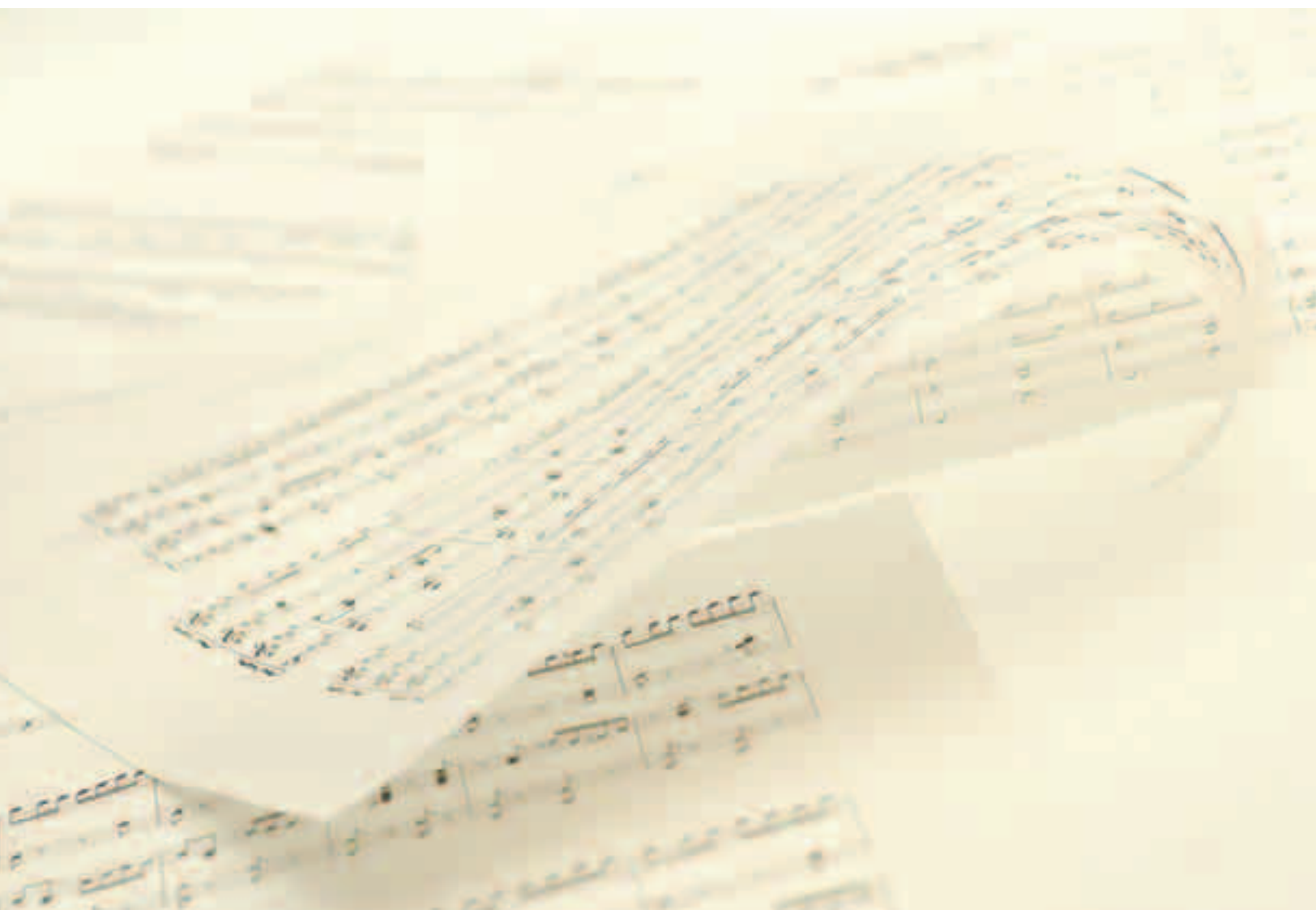


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for the ENCORE School) and attended Curtis together. Our children are intensely musical. Our daughter played violin and piano and loved opera when she was young, filling our house with arias that she sang in their original languages. She graduated from Shaker in 1988 and is a public defender in Madison, Wisconsin. One of my daughter's sons is studying Suzuki, and his teacher recommended a particular recording – it's one of mine!

Our son, John, attended University School and then studied architecture. He interned for several years with Westlake Reed Leskosky, architects of record for the Expansion Project, and is finishing his degree in New York. He also played piano when he was young.

#### When retirement comes, how would you like to spend your extra time?

There's plenty to do. I have an active mind and like to know how things work. I fix appliances, read motivational books, and study leadership principles. I'd like to write some articles, and there are some musical things to explore.

Spending more time with our grandchildren and traveling are very important, and I'd like to get back to flying, too. When Linda and I were at Meadowmount, I started taking lessons for my pilot's license. I wanted to be on the other side of the learning curve to understand what might be missing from the receptor's side. It gave me great insight into why educators have to repeat something many times until it sticks.

And I look forward to having even more time to teach. Life really flashes back and forward; if we don't know the past, we won't know the future.

*Sue Starrett, a Shaker Life contributor, worked for many years in the development department of The Cleveland Orchestra.*



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## Meet some of the stars of CIM's Young Artist Program

### *Unbelievable Chemistry*

The prodigious talents of their three children brought the Hoopes family to CIM from Minnesota. Anna, Alexandra, and Chad had spent several summers at the ENCORE School for Strings, working with David and Linda Cerone, among others.

Anna, a junior at Shaker High, has been in the Young Artist Program since fall 2006. Alex, a SHHS sophomore, and Chad, a seventh grader at the Middle School, have been admitted to CIM's "junior" Young Artist Program.

The family chose to move to Shaker Heights because of its proximity to University Circle and the high quality of Shaker's public school system. The family is extremely grateful to Shaker's principals and staff for supporting their children's demanding schedules.

Chad was eight years old when he began his studies with David Cerone. "He's amazing and has helped me grow as a person. I couldn't have had a better teacher," says the young man. The kids' mother, Brenda, says Chad and Cerone "have unbelievable chemistry."

Anna began violin at age five and this year switched to viola, studying with Jeffrey Irvine. Sophomore Alex began violin at age three (and now studies with Paul Kantor), and Chad at age four. They perform chamber music as the Playing Hoopes Trio and are members of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

Last month Chad made his Cleveland Orchestra debut at Severance Hall in Education Concerts for schools, and Chad and Alex joined Linda and David Cerone as soloists with the Cleveland Pops. This month the Hoopes trio will be featured on NPR's From the Top. Chad was also seen on television commercials for the Cleveland Indians this past season.

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### *Moving East*

Eric Gratz Jr., the youngest of four children, grew up in a California family where everyone has a tie to music. His father is a conductor, and when four-year-old Eric first heard orchestral playing, he asked for a violin.

Over the next 12 years, Eric has taken private lessons, attended summer orchestra and music camps, performed in master classes, and been featured as a soloist and chamber musician in Europe and the United States. He made his European solo concert debut at the age of 14.

While attending a summer music session in Washington, D.C. two years ago, Eric heard about Bill Preucil, concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra and head of the CIM string department (and a Shaker resident). Eric says he was thus compelled to “move east” with his family. The family chose Shaker Heights primarily because of the public school system.

Eric was admitted to CIM’s Young Artist Program in fall 2006. “It is perfect for me, exactly what I was looking for,” he says.

Eric takes lessons from Preucil and Linda Cerone. “Everyone in the music world knows about the Ceronés,” he notes.

This year (the equivalent of his junior year), Eric is concentrating on repertoire, competitions, and chamber music, while continuing as a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. ■





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## **On the Home Front**

*continued from page 44*

The Perkinses hear from Tim a couple of times a month. Regular mail takes weeks to arrive. "One time I called the Red Cross when I thought he was in trouble," JoAn confesses. "We were on the phone and we got cut off." Tim wasn't too pleased, James interjects.

Tim's eight-year-old daughter, Deje, skips up to her grandparents, who have cared for her since she was a toddler. She is a friendly third-grader with a winning smile and a great love of reading. She writes to her dad of swimming, tennis, soccer, ice skating, and her piano recital, "so he will remember me." When Tim is on leave, they love to play Connect Four and computer games. Her best memories, Deje says, are piggy-back rides and the times her dad came with her to school to read stories to her class.

"She keeps busy," James comments.

It helps JoAn to keep busy, too, teaching preschool and Bible Camp. She also works with vision-impaired students for the Shaker Heights Board of Education. She focuses on the day Tim's getting out, and on her strong religious faith.

"Prayer gets me through," JoAn says, pointing to the United Church of Christ just east of the library playground. "Whenever I meet someone, they say that they'll pray for him."

Tim handed his mother a wonderful surprise in September. He called one night. "His voice sounded stronger and stronger," she says. "I looked up and he was standing there! Needless to say, I dropped the phone and hugged him, as did Deje and my husband. We were very happy and surprised to see him."

Following a two-week leave, Tim returned to California and filed his retirement papers. He will conclude his service within the year.

### Commander Hach

Navy commander Tom Hach treasures a different kind of binder. It contains letters, photographs, and even candy from the second grade students of Boulevard School, where his son, Grove, 8, and daughter, Clara, 7, attend. The memorabilia represent the concerted efforts of Boulevard staff and students to help Tom stay connected with his family and community while serving his country.

Tom's wife, Ann Blum Hach, explains that Grove's teacher last year, Stephanie Eagleton, went to great lengths to incorporate Tom's situation into the students' study of patriotism and the Constitution. They wrote letters, drew pictures, and created a large American flag out of handprints. This flag was displayed prominently in the government center where Hach was working in Baghdad.

An active reservist for 20 years, Tom has worked for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in downtown Cleveland since 1998. He was mobilized after 9/11 for 11 months, and spent two months in Afganistan. Tom volunteered to provide logistics expertise to the new Iraqi government.

"It was hard for me to be sitting on the sidelines," he admits. "Ann just loved my decision," he adds with a smirk.

Ann continues, "It was a very hard decision. We felt certain he was going to be called eventually, and every time the phone rang, we asked, is this the call? Our life was on hold. I was supportive because I felt that if he was going to go, we might as well get it over with."

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## On the Home Front

*continued from page 59*



Both Ann and Tom emphasize that while the family's separation was difficult to endure, their situation was made much easier by staying in constant communication with each other.

"We were talking every 12 hours," Ann says. "Once in the morning when the kids were up, and once when I was getting ready for bed. A couple of times, I would have these weird panic attacks, and I would call him. It's not the military experience most people have, and we are incredibly grateful."

Tom concurs. "The daily phone calls made a difference to how we felt as a family. One time I was hearing them cleaning the attic. Another time, we had a family meeting by phone over homework and priorities. It felt good to have input."

"We got to play penguins with him on the Internet," Clara remembers.

"We threw snowballs and played Connect Four. We never got to checkers," Grove adds. Grove's main worry in his dad's absence was that he'd miss all the class animal reports. (He did.)

The fast pace of Tom's work kept him from dwelling too much on loneliness or the hazards of his situation. And Ann, who describes herself as "a relatively anxious person," avoided the media.

Ann feels "blessed" by an incredible support network of family, neighbors, and friends. "There was a group of twelve Shaker women who organized to bring us dinner every Wednesday night. They brought enough food to feed an army!" she laughs.

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One male friend offered to do “guy” things with Grove. Next-door neighbor Bill Fouts chased a bat out of the house. The Shaker police checked in periodically with the family. All four grandparents also pitched in with childcare.

Ann credits her co-workers at Tri-C’s Corporate College, where she is Executive Director for Training and Development, for flexibility and understanding during her stint as a single parent. And the “secret sauce that held it all together,” she confides, “was Miss O” – a.k.a. Ophelia Solomon, who came every morning to help get the kids off to school and generally smooth out day-to-day life.

The Hachs were thrilled to be reunited early last summer, on the 400th anniversary of the English colonists’ landing at Jamestown. The energetic Clara and Grove bubble over with excitement as they recall first seeing their dad again at the Baltimore Washington International Airport. They proudly show off their new inlaid wooden boxes, Iraqi money (“No Saddam Hussein money – he was mean,” Grove informs me), and souvenir Naval command coins.

Tom says more than any specific thing the family did, just being together again is what he treasures most. Although, as a supporter of the war, Tom thinks he’s a “rarity” in Shaker Heights, he has felt universally welcomed back into the fold by the community.

“Everyone thanks me for serving,” he says. “Some agree with the war, many do not, but people are genuinely glad to see me back.” ■



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## Art Around Town

**THRU DEC. 31: Paintings & Prints of George Kocar**, MAIN LIBRARY ART GALLERY. Enjoy the colorful, whimsical paintings of George Kocar. INFO: 216-991-2030.

**JAN. 7-31: Play and Learn Station Photographs by David Bergholz**, MAIN LIBRARY. Photographer, former Library trustee and Play and Learn volunteer captures the charm of youngsters at play. INFO: 216-991-2030.

**THRU JAN. 26: Shine Your Light on the World: Malcolm Brown Gallery**, 20100 CHAGRIN BLVD. Exhibition of new work by Rhonda K. Brown, Shaker Heights native. INFO: 216-751-2955 www.malcolmbrowngallery.com.

**THRU JAN. 27: Exhibit: Celebrating the Little Things: Dollhouse, Shaker, & Other Miniatures**, SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM. Enjoy miniaturized Shaker rooms, a 19th-century European house, a toy store, a dry goods store and more with 19th and early-to-mid 20th century micro-antiques. Primarily featuring loans from private collectors, the exhibit showcases beautifully crafted, small-scale objects, part of a centuries-old tradition of miniaturized interiors. Members Free; \$2/Non-members; \$1/Children (ages 6-18) INFO: 216-921-1201.



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## Ongoing Activities for Kids

**MONDAYS: Learning English as a Family (LEAF), 6:45-8:00 PM,** SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Literacy for non-English speaking families. Weekly group time for children, adult ESL class and bi-weekly home visits. INFO: 216-921-2023.

**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: Parent and Child Play Sessions, 9:30 AM-NOON,** PATRICIA S. MEARN'S FAMILY PLAYROOM AT SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parents and caregivers with children from birth to age 3 can play and make friends. Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 4-6 pm and Friday 3:30-5:30 pm for parents and caregivers with children from birth to age 5. FEES & INFO: 216-921-2023.

**TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Drop in Sessions, 9-11:30 AM,** HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Child's play for infants to age eight and parent or caregiver. FEES & INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

**TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS: Play and Learn Station, 10 AM-NOON,** MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, literacy-based play for parents and caregivers with children birth to age 5. Co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Shaker Family Center. NEW! Thursday afternoon hours thru Jan. 31 from 1-3 pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm. INFO: 216-921-2023 OR 216-991-2030.

**TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS: Drop-in Sessions, 2-3:30 PM,** HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Child's play for infants to age eight and parent or caregiver. FEE INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

**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 Shaker Family Center. INFO: 216-921-2023 OR 216-991-2030.

**SATURDAYS: Open Gym, 10:00 AM-NOON,** SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. When cooler temperatures and changing weather arrive, parents can play with their children, ages birth to age 5, as they enjoy the climbing equipment and other activities in the gym and muscle room. Drop-in rates are \$7/family with 1 child or \$10/family maximum. Save on fees with a 5 or 10 session discount family pass purchased at Saturday Gym sessions or at the Shaker Family Center office. INFO: 216-921-2023.



## Destinations...

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

**MAIN LIBRARY**  
16500 Van Aken Boulevard  
216-991-2030

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

**SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
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3450 Lee Road  
216-491-1360

**SHAKER FAMILY CENTER**  
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# december







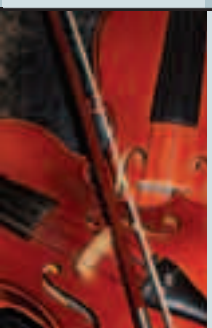


*highlights*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>Sugarplum Workshop</b> 9-11:30 am, Plymouth Church (pg. 66) 
2 <b>Laurel School's 3rd Annual Artisan Bazaar</b> 11 am-5 pm. (pg. 66)  <b>Holiday Circlefest</b> 1-5 pm, University Circle. (pg. 74)	3 ▲ <b>Cleveland Youth Wind Symphonies</b> 7:30 pm, Severance Hall. (pg. 74)	4 <b>HANUKKAH</b>	5 ▲ <b>"The Importance of Being Earnest"</b> SHHS production, 8 pm, Cleveland Play House. (pg. 66)	6 <b>Annex Gallery</b> 6-8 pm, Loganberry Books. (pg. 66)	7 <b>Free Friday Flick</b> "The Guardian," 1:30 pm, Shaker Community Building (pg. 66)	8 <b>Teddy Bear Tea</b> 12:30 pm, Shaker Community Building. (pg. 68)  <b>Celebration of Lights</b> 6-8 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 68) ▼
9 <b>Holiday Open House</b> 2-5 pm, Shaker Historical Society and Museum. (pg. 68)	10 + <b>Red Cross Bloodmobile</b> 3-7 pm, Main Library. (pg. 68)	11 <b>Babes in Nature</b> 10-10:45 am, Nature Center. (pg. 68)  <b>CityMusic Cleveland</b> 7:30 pm, Fairmount Presbyterian Church. (pg. 74)	12 <b>3rd Annual Sr. Holiday Dinner</b> 12:30 pm, Shaker Community Building. (pg. 68)  	13 <b>Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band</b> 7:30 pm, Shaker High.	14 <b>Holiday Concert in Dance</b> 7 pm, Shaker High. ▼	15 
16	17	18 <b>Concert Band/Concert Winds in Concert</b> 7:30 pm, Shaker High.	19 <b>Choir Concert</b> 7:30 pm, Shaker High. ▼	20 	21	22 <b>Paintings &amp; Prints of George Kocar</b> Thru 12/31, Main Library. (pg. 62)
23 	24 <b>Winter Break 12/24-1/4</b> Shaker schools closed.	25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	26 	27	28	29 
30	31					



# january

## highlights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	
					Free Friday Flick "Wild Hogs," 1:30 pm, Shaker Com- munity Building. (pg. 69) ▶▶	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Ohio RV Super Show 1/4-1/6 Cleveland I-X Center. (pg. 75)	Basic Digital Photography 9:30-11:30, Fairhill Computer Center. (pg. 70)  Art 10:30 or 11:30, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 70)	Basic Website Development 9:30-11:30 am, Fairhill Computer Center. (pg. 70)	Music in the Mornings 9:30 or 10:30 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 72)	Parenting Series 6-8 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 72)	Owl Prowl 7-9 pm, Lake View Cemetery. (pg. 72)  	Open Gym 10 am-noon, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 63)
13	14	15		17	18	19
Disney on Ice: High School Musical 6 pm, Wolstein Center. (pg. 75)	Art II 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 73)	Parent University: Raising Girls 7:30-9 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 73) ▶▶		Play and Learn Station 1-3 pm, Main Library. (pg. 63)	"The Wizard of Oz" Heights Youth Theater, 7:30 pm, Wiley Middle School Auditorium. (pg. 75)	Ice Festival 1-4:30 pm, Thornton Park. (pg. 73)
20	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY City offices, schools, libraries closed.	22	23	24	25	26
Play and Learn Station Photo- graphs by David Bergholz Thru 1/31, Main Library. (pg. 62)				Preschool Fair 6:30-8 pm, Main Library. (pg. 73)		Discovery Day 10 am-noon, Hathaway Brown. (pg. 73)
27	28	29	30			
27th Annual Cycle World Intl. Motorcycle Show 4-9 pm, Cleveland I-X Center. (pg. 75)	▶	10th Birthday Party Play and Learn Station 6:30-8 pm, Main Library. (pg. 74)	Winter Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm, Shaker High. ▶▶		 	

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## Events for *December*

*Dec. 1:* **Sugarplum Workshop,** 9-11:30 AM, PLYMOUTH CHURCH, 2860 COVENTRY RD. Help your children experience the joy of holiday giving by making gifts for family and friends. Crafts range from .25 to \$2.75 with most under \$1. INFO: 216-921-3510.

*Dec. 1 & 2:* **Laurel School's 3rd Annual Artisan Bazaar, 11 AM-5 PM,** LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Shop for fine art and jewelry, clothing, artwork, glass and other beautiful hand-crafted items. Unique gifts at reasonable prices with free admission. Sunday, Dec. 2: noon-4 pm. INFO: MAUREEN MAAS 216-464-1441 EXT. 114.

*Dec. 1 & 2:* **Lois Becker's Holiday Show: Jewelry for Fashion and Gifts, NOON-5 PM,** 2951 DRUMMOND RD. (corner of S. Woodland, 3 blocks W. of Lee Rd.) Never mind decking the halls! Deck yourself out with one-of-a-kind jewelry. Cash or checks only. INFO: 216-921 3083.

*Dec. 4:* **Hanukkah** begins at sunset.

*Dec. 4:* **Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Lunch Series, NOON-1 PM,** NATURE CENTER. WORMS! WORMS! Julia Barton, Denise Natoli Brooks, Raja Byrnside and Lara Roketenetz, Nature Center naturalists discuss earthworm ecology and identification as well as vermiculture (worm composting) and its practical uses in your home. INFO: 216-321-5935.

*Dec. 4, 11, 18 & Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29:* **English in Action, 7 PM,** MAIN LIBRARY. Brondy Shanker leads classes for those wishing to learn to speak English. Free. INFO: 216-991-2030.

*Dec. 5:* **Preview of Laurel School's Coed Early Childhood Center, 8:45 AM,** LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. RSVP to Laurel's Admission Office 216-464-0946.

*Dec. 5-8:* **The Importance of Being Earnest, 8 PM,** THE CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE, EUCLID AVE. Enjoy Oscar Wilde's comedy of manners performed in a new location while the Shaker High School auditorium is being restored. TICKETS & INFO: 216-295-4281

*Dec. 6:* **Annex Gallery, 6-8 PM,** LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. The Photography Club of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes shows their work that highlights natural wonders. They also have created a 2008 calendar, available for sale along with their photographs. The show continues thru December 31.

*Dec. 7:* **Free Friday Flick, 1:30 PM,** SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch the ocean bound adventure drama, *The Guardian*, starring Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher and Sela Ward. Free. INFO: 216-491-1360.





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## out & about

**Dec. 8: Teddy Bear Tea, 12:30 PM,** SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Children can bring their favorite doll or teddy bear and have hot chocolate, sandwiches and cookies, while listening to stories. Fee: \$5/family of 4; \$2/additional person. INFO: 216-491-1360.



**Dec. 8: Celebration of Lights, 6-8 PM,** NATURE CENTER. Holiday traditions come to light when guides lead walks along the Stearns Trail and stop at various stations that illustrate how people from around the world use lights in their cultural and religious traditions. 40-minute group tours leave every 10 minutes. Cider and cookies are served

after each tour. Tickets: \$5/members, \$10/non-members; free for children 2 years old and younger. Advance registration required: 216-321-5935.

**Dec. 9: Holiday Open House, 2-5 PM,** SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM. Enjoy an afternoon of music, refreshments, and a silent auction of miniature decorated holiday trees with proceeds to benefit The Shaker Historical Society & Museum. Nightingale, a seven-voice, all female, a cappella vocal ensemble, performs holiday and early music. Free. INFO: 216-921-1201.

**Dec. 10: Red Cross Bloodmobile, 3-7 PM,** MAIN LIBRARY. This holiday season give the gift of life.

**Dec. 11: Babes in Nature, 10-10:45 AM,** NATURE CENTER. You're never too young to start learning about nature. Explore a variety of sensory experiences to introduce babies, age two months through two years, and their caregivers to the natural world. Baby, if it's cold outside, nature fun will be held indoors. Stroller fee: \$5/members; \$7/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935.


**Dec. 12: Third Annual Senior Holiday Dinner, 12:30 PM,** SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Special holiday celebration for Shaker residents only. Free, but reservations are required; call 216-491-1360 for more information and to make a reservation.

**Dec. 13: Nature Photography Club - Annual Holiday Party with Lauren Pacini, 7 PM,** NATURE CENTER. View an exhibition of the best of 2007 by Photo Club members. Refreshments served. Open to members and their friends. INFO: 216-321-5935.

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**Dec. 13:** Wind Ensemble/  
Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30 PM,  
SHAKER HIGH.

**Dec. 14:** Holiday Concert in  
Dance, 7 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

**Dec. 18:** Concert Band/Concert  
Winds Concert, 7:30 PM, SHAKER  
HIGH.

**Dec. 19:** Mid-day Musical Mosaic,  
12:15–1:15 PM, CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH, 3445 WARRENSVILLE CENTER RD.  
Leslie Smith, graduate student at CIM  
and organist at Euclid Avenue Christian  
Church performs. Free. INFO: 216-991-  
3432.

**Dec. 19:** Choir Concert, 7:30 PM,  
SHAKER HIGH.

**Dec. 24–Jan. 4:** Winter Break.  
Shaker Schools closed.

## Events for *January*

**Jan. 2:** Gas Guzzler Giveaway  
Drawing, 9 AM, MAIN LIBRARY. Are you  
a Friend of the Shaker Library? Now's  
the time to join as the names of all mem-  
bers who join by December 31, 2007 are  
entered into a drawing to receive \$200  
worth of gas or \$200 worth of RTA passes.  
INFO: 216-991-2030.

**Jan. 3:** One-Time Intro Class  
for Beginning Computer Use and  
Mousing Skills for People 50  
and Better. FAIRHILL CENTER, 12200  
FAIRHILL ROAD. Choose a session: 9–  
10:30, 11–12:30 or 1–2:30. Free.

INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

**Jan. 3:** Annex Gallery Opening  
Reception, 6–8 PM, LOGANBERRY BOOKS,  
13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Enjoy the travel  
photography of Jeneen Hobby, who has  
traveled far and wide with her camera.  
The exhibit will feature highlights from  
her recent trip to Southeast Asia. The  
show continues thru Feb. 4. INFO: 216-  
795-9800.

**Jan. 4:** Free Friday Flick, 1:30 PM,  
SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch the  
revved-up road comedy, *Wild Hogs*, star-  
ring John Travolta, Tim Allen, Martin  
Lawrence and William H. Macy. Free.  
INFO: 216-491-1360.

**Jan. 9:** Preview of Laurel School's  
Coed Early Childhood Center, 8:45  
AM, LAUREL SCHOOL ONE LYMAN CIRCLE.

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## out & about

RSVP to Laurel's Admission Office 216-464-0946.

**Jan. 7: Art, 10:30 AM OR 11:30 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 explore and learn about colors, design and textures. Each week children create a new page to compile their own portfolio. \$45/ 5-week session. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

**Jan. 7: Basic Digital Photography, 9:30-11:30 AM,** FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL ROAD. Introduction to the basic concepts of digital photography, how to transfer photos from the camera to the computer, and how to perform basic photo editing store, print and email photos. Class focuses on the use of Picasa, a free software program. The 4-week class for those 50 and better is taught by peers. \$40/person. INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

**Jan. 7: Really Basic Computer Skills, 1-3 PM,** FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL ROAD. Designed for the beginner, this 4-week class for folks age 50 and better is taught by peers and features an introduction to hardware and software, Windows operating system basics and use of the mouse and keyboard. \$40/person. INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

**Jan. 8: Basic Website Development, 9:30-11:30 AM,** FAIRHILL COMPUTER CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL ROAD. Develop a website for personal or professional use. Learn easy and fun ways to create web pages using drag and drop techniques with free website templates. An 8-week class for those age 50 or better



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 19  
1-4:30 PM  
THORNTON PARK  
info: 216-491-1295

taught by peers. \$50/person. INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

**Jan. 8: Word Processing, 9:30-11:30 AM,** FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL ROAD. This 8-week class covers the basics of Word Processing and demonstrates how to use these skills to create flyers, brochures and newsletters. Also included is the use of Mail Merge techniques to create form letters and to address envelopes from a database. \$70/person. Age 50 or better. Taught by peers. INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

**Jan. 8: Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Dinner Series, 6-7 PM,** NATURE CENTER. Dr. Robert Krebs, assistant professor at Cleveland State University, discusses freshwater mussel species of the Lake Erie watershed. INFO: 216-321-5935.

**Jan. 8: Babes in Nature, 10-10:45 AM,** NATURE CENTER. You're never too young to start learning about nature. Explore a variety of sensory experiences to introduce babies, age two months through two years, and their caregivers to the natural world. Babes in Nature meets the second Tuesday of each month. Fee per stroller is \$5/members; \$7/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935.

**Jan. 9: Introduction to Computer Applications, 9:30-11:30 AM,** FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL ROAD. Basic computer and mouse skills are required for this 8-week class for those age 50 or better taught by peers. Introduction to word processing techniques, basic file management, spreadsheets, databases, and Internet and email. \$70/person. INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

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**Jan. 9: Music in the Mornings, 9:30 AM OR 10:30 AM,** HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (birth to age 3) and their parents can experience the joy of music through group singing, finger plays and experimentation with instruments and dance. \$69/ 7-week session. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

**Jan. 9: Internet and Email, 9:30-11:30 AM,** FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL ROAD. Basic computer and mouse skills are required for this class for those age 50 or better taught by peers. Learn about email, Internet searches, viruses, and spyware in this 5-week class. \$60/person. INFO: 216-421-1350, EXT. 125.

**Jan. 10: Roller Skating, 4 PM,** HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2½–8) learn to roller skate safely. Beginning skills include learning how to get up from the floor, rolling forward and picking up one foot at a time. Music is used for simple rhythm and movement activities that coincide with skating skills. \$69/6-week session. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

**Jan. 10: Parenting Series, 6–8 PM,** SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. An 8-week parenting series helps parents learn to problem solve, manage feelings, and give positive attention. A light meal and childcare are provided courtesy of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Workshops are held every Thursday evening from 6–8 pm

at Shaker Family Center. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. INFO: 216-921-2023.

**Jan. 10: Nature Photography Club, 6–8 PM,** NATURE CENTER. Meet on the second Thursday of every month to capture nature through a camera lens. Free. INFO: visit [www.shakerlakes.org](http://www.shakerlakes.org), or contact Volunteer Manager Sara Thorne-Briechele at [thorne@shakerlakes.org](mailto:thorne@shakerlakes.org) or 216-321-5935 x 237.

**Jan. 11: Owl Prowl, 7–9 PM,** LAKE VIEW CEMETERY. *Whoooo doesn't like a real night out?* Discuss the habitat of owls and search for their signs and sounds. The tour begins at the Lake View Cemetery Mausoleum, located just inside the Mayfield Gate. Reservations are \$5/person; call Lake View Cemetery: 216-421-2665 x 3035.





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**Jan. 14: Art II, 4 PM,** HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 4-6) have fun learning how to paint like Picasso, build like Rodin, and print like Warhol. Child will work with a variety of media including paint, clay, pastels and water colors. \$40/4-week session. INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

**Jan. 15: Shaker Family Center Parent University: Raising Girls, 7:30-9 PM,** SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parenting workshop and discussion featuring a Cleveland Clinic pediatrician, who speaks to the particular issues of raising girls. \$5/Presale; \$7 at the door. INFO: 216-921-2023.

**Jan. 17: N.O.B.S. Forums, 7 PM,** LOGANBERRY BOOKS, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Join in a conversation about the book world. INFO: 216-795-9800.

**Jan. 18: 10th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest Reception, 4:30 PM,** Main Library. Hear the affirming entries to this year's MLK writing contest read by the young authors. INFO: 216-991-2030.

**Jan. 19: Ice Festival, 1-4:30 PM,** THORNTON PARK. Open skate, clowns, sculpture demonstrations and horse-drawn wagon rides. INFO: 216-491-1295.

**Jan. 21: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.** City offices, schools and libraries closed.

**Jan. 24: Preschool Fair, 6:30-8 PM,** MAIN LIBRARY. Looking for a preschool or childcare opportunity for your progeny? Meet a variety of preschool directors and teachers who provide information about their programs. INFO: 216-991-2030.

**Jan. 24: Norfolk Island: Pines, Prisoners, and Pitcairners, 1-3 PM,** NATURE CENTER. Local historian and photographer, John Gardner, offers a slide presentation about his recent travels to Norfolk Island and tells stories about the island's history and people. Reservations required; call: 216-321-5935.

**Jan. 26: Discovery Day, 10 AM-NOON,** HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 N. PARK BLVD. Early Childhood and Kindergarten Open House. Children enjoy a fun-filled morning of learning activities, music and



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play while parents meet teachers and visit classrooms. INFO: 216-320-8767.

**Jan. 29: 10th Birthday Party for Play and Learn Station, 6:30-8 PM,** Main Library. *Have your cake and meet us too!* The Play and Learn Station celebrates 10 years of keeping little ones on the literary track. View a display of Play and Learn photographs by David Bergholz, enjoy reading testimonials that toot the Play and Learn Station's horn, color a caboose, make a craft and celebrate with birthday cake. Show us how you've grown! Play and Learn alumni are welcome and wanted! INFO: 216-991-2030 OR 216-921-2023.

**Jan. 30: Winter Orchestra Concert, 7:30 PM,** SHAKER HIGH.

**Jan. 31: HB Winter Visitation Day, 8:15 AM-1:30 PM,** HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 N. PARK BLVD. Special school visit day for girls in grades 3-12. Reservations required: 216-320-8767.

## In the Circle and Beyond

**THRU DEC. 31: Gingerbread Creations,** CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD. Run...run...as fast as you can to catch this sweet exhibit by amateur and professional bakers on display as part of CBG's annual Winter Show.

**DEC. 2: Holiday Circlefest, 1-5 PM,** UNIVERSITY CIRCLE. University Circle institutions present music, exhibits, shopping, food and holiday cheer. INFO: 216-791-3900 or visit [www.universitycircle.org](http://www.universitycircle.org)

for a schedule of activities.

**DEC. 3: Cleveland Youth Wind Symphonies I & II, 7:30 PM,** SEVERANCE HALL, 11001 EUCLID AVE. Gary M. Ciepluch directs. Tickets: \$15-\$25; \$5/ CIM/CWRU students with ID. INFO: 216-231-1111.

**DEC. 7-9: Murray Hill Art Walk,** MURRAY HILL AND MAYFIELD RDS. Button up and browse the galleries and studios in Little Italy for one-of-a-kind gifts.

**DEC. 11: CityMusic Cleveland, 7:30 PM,** FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2757 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. Cleveland's professional chamber orchestra presents, *Fire & Ice*, the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Suk and Debussy conducted by Julian Kuerti, and featuring harpist, Megan Levin. At intermission, enjoy the artwork of local

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**JAN. 12-21: Disney on Ice: High School Musical, 6 PM,** WOLSTEIN CENTER, CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY. The pop musical hits the ice and gets even cooler! Tickets: \$13-\$22.



**JAN. 18: The Wizard of Oz, 7:30 PM,** WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 2181 MIRAMAR BLVD. *We're not in Kansas anymore!* Heights Youth Theatre presents L. Frank Baum's perennial favorite. Matinee

performances at 2 pm Jan. 19, 26 & 27. Tickets: \$8/children; \$9/adults. INFO: [www.heightsyouththeatre.com](http://www.heightsyouththeatre.com).

**JAN. 25-27: 27th Annual Cycle World International Motorcycle Show, 4-9 PM,** CLEVELAND I-X CENTER, ONE I-X CENTER DR. Get your motor running, head out on the highway to the annual bikers' show. Saturday 9 am-9 pm; Sunday, 9:30 am-5 pm.

**JAN. 27: Fifth Annual Northeast Ohio Band Invitational and University Circle Wind Ensemble, Case Symphonic Winds, 2 PM,** SEVERANCE HALL, 11001 EUCLID AVE. Strike up the bands! Guest high school bands from Cleveland Heights, Olmsted Falls, Ashtabula-Edgewood and Brecksville/Broadview Heights perform. INFO: 216-231-1111.

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# Into the Creek, Face First

BY JOHN R. BRANDT

Good afternoon, Sports Fans, and welcome to Shaker Life's round-the-clock coverage of this year's Suburban Winter Olympics. Today we feature live coverage from a variety of exciting competitions, including:

**The 100-Meter Snow Shovel:** The kickoff event of the Olympiad features middle-aged men too cheap to hire a plow service, sweating profusely and swearing even more intensely as they throw out their backs even faster than they can toss the snow. As always, each competitor will be timed as he attempts to clear three feet of wet, heavy snow from a winding two-mile driveway with a small, dented shovel with a loose handle. Winner will be the first to finish without a) having a heart attack, b) bribing a next-door teenager with \$20 or c) faking a shoulder injury, tricking spouse into finishing the pathway to the street.

**The Attic Box Carry Marathon:** You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll wince in pain as you watch participants storm red-faced up and down three flights of steps hauling dusty boxes full of holiday decorations for every &% ^%! window, ledge, and room in the house. Competitors are judged not only on overall time, but on poise and composure as spouse repeatedly asks them to bring wrong boxes down, then up, then down, then up –now, just hold it there – during hours of high-stress family fun.

**The Decoration High Jump:** Unique event includes both indoor and outdoor competitions, adding both excitement and complexity. For example, although an external fall (e.g., while positioning an inflatable Santa on the roof) is likely to be from a greater height, an indoor fall (e.g., while topping off the Christmas tree with an angel) will be cushioned

by a hardwood floor instead of snow-covered shrubs and hydrangeas. Competitors are ranked by a combined score incorporating total heights of falls and dollar amounts of resulting emergency room bills.

**The Frozen Walk Ice Dance:** Truly one of the most beautiful events of the Olympiad, as participants unbalanced by a full complement of winter outerwear – enormous parkas, clomping snowboots, ridiculous hats – attempt to carry groceries from car to home over the slickest surface known to man: Ice-covered slate. You'll thrill to the sight of competitors landing (nearly) perfect triple axels as they juggle flying cans of peas and tumbling cartons of eggs. Judges will evaluate performance not only on grace and degree of difficulty, but also on net value of food that makes it into the house undamaged.

**The Snowman Dead Lift:** Strength competition starts when a small child asks the contestant to hoist enormous wet snowball (approximately four feet in diameter and weighing 2,730 pounds) on top of Snowman "base." Must be accomplished with jolly look on face without swearing or breaking improperly compacted snowball in half, even as competitor feels sharp pain where a hernia used to be.

**Luge Assist:** Also known more informally as the Kids' Sled Push, this event requires both explosive acceleration *and* an uncanny ability to come to a dead stop at the top of an icy slope. Unfortunately for our contestants, most can do neither – which means you, the viewer, not only get to watch them flail through the snow bent over a plastic skid full of progeny, you also get the fun of watching them follow these same kids down the hill, face-first, into the creek. Is this Must-See TV or what? ■



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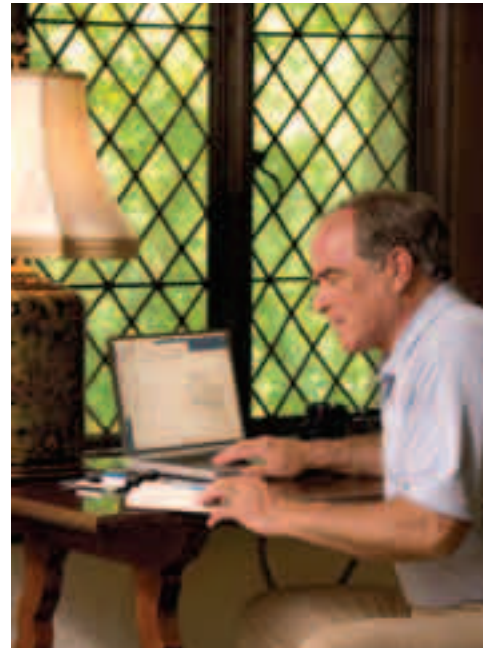


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