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LIFE

# How Katie Paris Wins Friends and Influences Elections

FALL 2022



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Red Wine & Blue founder Katie Paris. Photo by Jason Miller.



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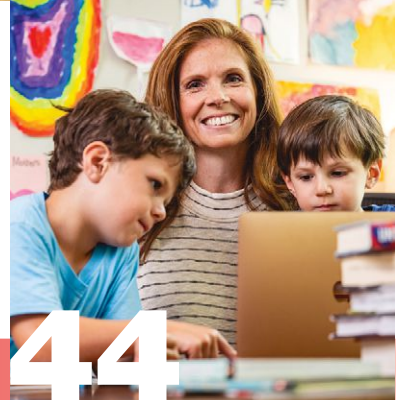
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The Pulitzer Prize winner discusses her new memoir, *Lost & Found*.

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**Getting Out the Vote**

**Engaging Voters, Defending Democracy:**

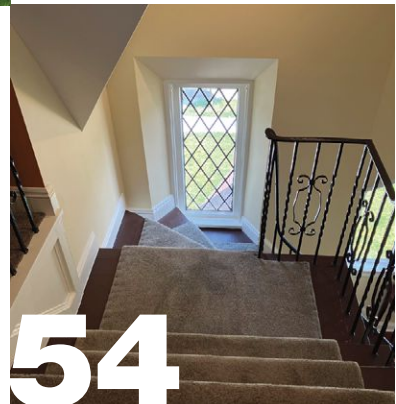
The League of Women Voters.



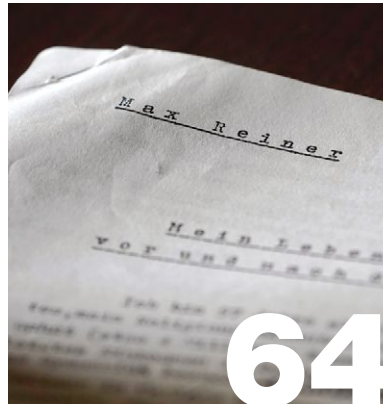
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This Winslow Road renovation is ideal for the close-knit Ciuni clan's commitment to family, faith, and food.



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Shaker students in advanced German are translating the memoir of an eyewitness to some of the most significant cultural and political events of the 20th century.

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**SHAKER LIFE**

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**STORY SUBMISSIONS**  
**SHAKER LIFE** does not accept unsolicited editorial material, but story suggestions from residents are welcome. Send suggestions by email or letter. Please do not call. We cannot respond to every suggestion but each will be given consideration. Freelancers: Please email the editor for guidelines.

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This is Shaker: where students push boundaries.



## MAC Scholars

2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the MAC Scholars program at Shaker Heights High School. The peer mentoring program has helped African American males as young as third grade develop their leadership skills and achieve academic success.



## What Did You Do Over the Summer?

For many students, summer break is defined by free time and long, easy days. But for others, summer presents an opportunity to develop their personal interests and skills.



## i3 Initiative

The Three I's: Inquiry, Innovation and Imagination. Shaker Heights Schools' i3 Initiative develops students' entrepreneurial skills by pairing technology with opportunities to problem-solve and think critically.



## Going Green

### City forming renewable electric aggregation program

In what Shaker's Sustainability Coordinator Michael Peters called "the single biggest action we can take, as a city, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," the City is establishing its own program to provide a 100-percent renewable electric energy supply to residents. The move could prevent over 100 million pounds of CO2 emissions per year.

With all approvals in place, the City sought bids this past summer for a green energy supplier. The selected supplier will be mailing opt-out notices offering Shaker residents and small businesses the opportunity to participate in the City-operated aggregation program starting in 2023.

The new program, which will function much like the natural gas aggregation program the City has operated since 2006, requires the City to leave NOPEC's electric aggregation program. "The transition will be seamless, with no interruption in service," said Law Director William Ondrey Gruber.

The CO2 savings estimate is "very rough," Peters said, but is based on a typical electricity account using 12,000 kilowatt hours per year, 8,000 aggregation accounts in Shaker, and U.S. Energy Information Administration data estimating 1,222 pounds of CO2 emitted per megawatt.

### Green electricity FAQs

When the City's aggregation is about to begin, eligible customers will receive an opt-out notice detailing the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of participation in the program. Eligible customers who wish to participate will not need to take any further action; they will be automatically enrolled. Eligible customers who do not wish to participate have the option of affirmatively electing not to be part of the program. The written notices will include details and deadlines.

#### Who is eligible to participate?

- Residents who receive electric supply service from the Illuminating Company's standard service offer supplier.
- Residents currently in the City's electric aggregation program with NOPEC.
- Anyone else – except those listed below – may opt in by canceling their current contract (note, some suppliers charge an early termination fee).

#### Who is not eligible to participate?

- Customers enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan ("PIPP") low-income program.
- Nonresidential customers who consume 700,000 kWh per year or more of electricity.
- Customers who have contracted with a supplier on their own.

**For a more detailed explanation,** focus your smart phone's camera on this QR code or go to [shakeronline.com/827/Electric-Aggregation-Program](http://shakeronline.com/827/Electric-Aggregation-Program).



### 'Sustained and multiple efforts' pay off

For several years, 22-year Shaker resident Norman Robbins has advocated for the City to focus on reducing its carbon footprint, specifically in the purchase and consumption of electricity.

He designed and distributed flyers, engaged with students and public officials, conducted independent research, attended NOPEC meetings, and has served on the Sustainability Committee since its earliest iteration. "This final aggregation plan was the ultimate result of sustained and multiple efforts," he says. "I see the aggregation program as an important stepping stone towards the ultimate goal of providing Shaker residents with 'new' renewably-sourced electricity, which will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases."

Robbins credits the City's progress to Mayor David Weiss, members of City Council and City staff, former Mayor Earl Leiken, and Shaker resident John Scott.



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## With Heaps of Praise and Respect, Firefighter Mural Re-Installed

In June, workers re-installed the firefighter mural on the side wall of 16700 Chagrin Boulevard. Originally installed in 2017, the mural blew off in a storm last winter. The mural highlights connections between the community and the Shaker Heights Fire Department.

The City hired artist Augusto Bordelois to create this artwork in celebration of the centennial of the Shaker Heights Fire Department, established in 1917. A committee of residents and City employees, including members of the fire department, worked with the artist, as did Maeve Billings, then a Shaker Heights High School student working on a senior project. Funding for the mural came from individual donations from residents and from current and retired firefighters.

Thank you Shaker Heights Fire Department for now 105 years of firefighting and emergency services to the grateful residents of Shaker Heights. Thank you to the firefighters who rescued the panels that blew off the building. And thank you to building owner Mike Cipriani, who said, "First responders deserve all the praise and respect we can heap on them."

## Pre-design Underway for Doan Brook Restoration

The pre-design phase is well underway for the restoration of Doan Brook at Horseshoe Lake Park. An inter-disciplinary team assembled by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has started work led by STIMSON, a nationally known landscape architecture firm. Focus your smartphone camera app on this QR code or go to the NEORS D website at [neorsd.org/doanbrook](http://neorsd.org/doanbrook) for:



- a video introducing the pre-design team
- background information on the project
- a registration form to sign up for updates and notices of public meetings

The ultimate plan is to remove the failing dam, thereby removing the risk of its collapse and downstream flooding, and to restore Doan Brook to a more natural state.

But before the removal of Horseshoe Lake Dam can begin, alternatives for the landscape design need to be developed, with public input, to ensure this project complements Horseshoe Lake Park. A big thank you to all who attended sessions in late summer. Please check NEORS D's webpage or the City's e-newsletters for announcements of an upcoming public forum. Residents' engagement helps shape the future of this parkland.

STIMSON is working with AECOM, a global civil engineering firm with extensive experience in dam removal. Other expertise on NEORS D's multi-firm team includes environmental science, sediment management, stream stabilization and restoration, surveying, local history, geography, and community engagement.



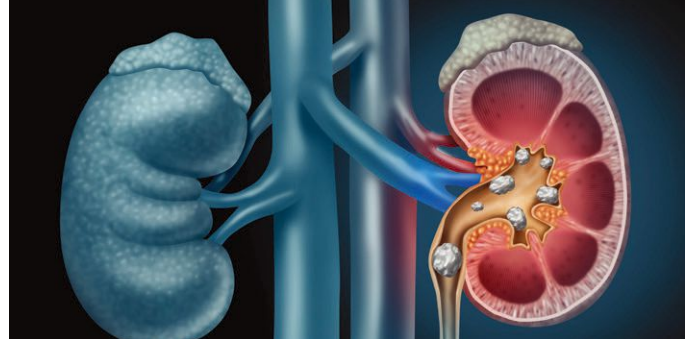
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# Kidney stones? Watch for symptoms and seek prompt treatment.



**Rajan Ramanathan, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic  
Hillcrest and  
South Pointe hospitals

Kidney stones are common. One in ten people will get a kidney stone during their lifetime.

“The majority of kidney stones tend to be the result of not drinking enough liquids, which can

lead to stone-forming substances in your urine becoming highly concentrated and crystalizing,” explains Rajan Ramanathan, MD, a urologist who treats patients at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest and South Pointe hospitals.

Symptoms may include:

- Pain in your lower back or side that can

start as a dull ache that may come and go. Pain may even become severe, leading to a trip to the emergency room.

- Nausea and/or vomiting with the pain.
- Blood in your urine.
- Pain when urinating, the need to urinate more often or being unable to urinate.
- Fever or chills.
- Having urine that smells bad or looks cloudy.

“It’s important to see your physician who will conduct a physical exam and may order blood, urine and imaging tests to diagnose kidney stones and determine the proper treatment,” says Dr. Ramanathan.

Medications are often prescribed to manage pain, nausea and vomiting, and help allow

stones to pass. Surgery may be an option in some instances.

If surgery is needed, minimally invasive procedures can be used to remove kidney stones or break them into smaller pieces, making it easier for them to pass through your body.

To decrease your risk of kidney stones:

- Drink at least six to eight 8-ounce glasses (about 64 ounces) of water every day.
- Limit salt.
- Lose weight.
- Take medications as prescribed.

Call **216.444.5600** to schedule an appointment with Dr. Ramanathan or another Cleveland Clinic urologist.

## Sleep Health 101

A Virtual Event | Thursday, Oct. 13 | 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Having trouble sleeping, but not sure if there’s a quick fix or it’s a more serious health issue? Specialists from Cleveland Clinic will share their expertise and answer your questions on sleep health, including:

- What happens to your body when you sleep?
- How much sleep do you really need for optimal health?
- Why can sleep apnea cause abnormal heart rhythms?
- Which type of sleep test and treatment for snoring may be right for you?
- Do you have tips for improving sleep hygiene?



To register for this FREE virtual event, visit [ClevelandClinic.org/AskTheExperts](https://ClevelandClinic.org/AskTheExperts). | Questions? Email [wellnessevent@ccf.org](mailto:wellnessevent@ccf.org).

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2022-23 U.S. News & World Report

[HillcrestHospital.org](https://HillcrestHospital.org)



Shaker resident, Sabrina Heath, answers your Medicare questions: Are you ready for your 2023 Annual Medicare Plan Enrollment? Enrolling Oct. 15 thru Dec. 7...

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Envisioning Improvements

Momentum continued on the Lee Road Action Plan throughout the summer with a series of virtual and in-person community meetings, and the launch of an online survey that gave residents the opportunity to submit their feedback.

There was also a biking and walking tour over the summer, hosted by the City of Shaker Heights, the City of Cleveland, and Bike Cleveland, allowing residents the opportunity to discuss ways in which Lee Road might be improved for cyclists and pedestrians.

'We have reviewed and integrated the community's comments into a draft plan that also takes into account a market study, traffic counts, and urban design strategies,' says Principal City Planner Kara Hamley O'Donnell.

More than \$3 million in grant funding has been awarded to the City for Lee Road, including \$1.8 million from the Ohio Department of Transportation, \$1 million in federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding from Cuyahoga County Council, and \$605,000 from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.

For more information, go to shakeronline.com/LeeActionPlan. Questions? Please email kara.odonnell@shakeronline.com or call 216-491-1436.

From Our Readers

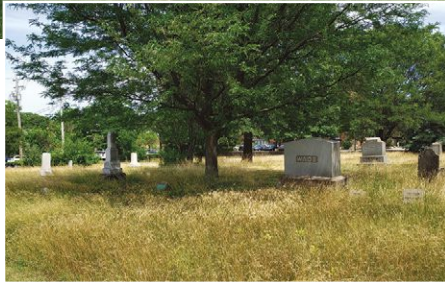
Good job on the article you did on Marcia ('Madame Secretary,' spring 2022 issue). We are so pleased and have received so many compliments from Shaker residents and family and friends of Shaker residents.

I also believe that the inclusion of a timeline highlighting events from Marcia's past added another layer of depth and interest to the overall story. Many comments were made and discussed on the photo layout. I was just pleased to play a small part in assisting with the article.

Marion Garth-Saffold

Mrs. Garth-Saffold, the mother of U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge, shared many of the photographs used in the story about her daughter.





## Warrensville West Cemetery Restoration Plans Moving Forward

Last April, Shaker Heights City Council adopted the Warrensville West Cemetery Historic Preservation Master Plan, which provides direction for the restoration of the more than 200-year-old cemetery. The cemetery is on Lee Road just south of Van Aken Boulevard, adjacent to Heinen's parking lot.

"Less than a week after the plan was adopted, Public Works and Planning staff were on site, mapping out mown walking paths in keeping with the plan's vision," says Kara Hamley O'Donnell, the City's principal planner.

The paths have become more pronounced as the vegetation surrounding them continues to grow, creating a peaceful meadow that will eventually attract pollinators. Planning staff are currently seeking grants for gravestone restoration.

"The idea is to return it to its historic appearance, which is also more environmentally sustainable in many ways, so it's a win-win," says O'Donnell.

The plan also includes the cleaning and resetting of all the gravestones, landscaping, and educational signage. Get more information at [shakeronline.com/cemetery](http://shakeronline.com/cemetery).



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### Six Resources for Seniors Stay healthy and connected



#### Recreation Department Programs & Activities

The Shaker Heights Recreation Department offers a variety of programs for seniors. These include free weekly social activities, plus a regular schedule of exercise classes. Most programs take place at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building at 3450 Lee Road. Learn more at [shakeronline.com/248](http://shakeronline.com/248)



#### Transportation Services

Residents age 60 and up are eligible for transportation services to the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building, medical appointments, and group shopping trips. Suggested donation is \$1 each way. Residents can also use this service for other destinations for \$5/one-way and \$10/round-trip. Learn more at [shakeronline.com/365](http://shakeronline.com/365)



#### ESOP

Through the City's partnership with ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People), a subsidiary of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, seniors are eligible for services ranging from help with household finances – i.e. free income tax preparation and assistance with Medicare Part D – to computer classes and more. Get started at [benrose.org/esop-cleveland](http://benrose.org/esop-cleveland)



#### Home Repair Grants

Residents age 62 and up who meet certain income guidelines are eligible for two City-funded grant programs to help with safety improvements and exterior maintenance. Learn more at [shakeronline.com/278](http://shakeronline.com/278)



#### Meals on Wheels

Nutritious, well-balanced, and fresh hot meals can be delivered at home for \$7 per day/\$14 per weekend. Cost is subsidized for eligible individuals. Details at [mealsonwheelsshaker.org](http://mealsonwheelsshaker.org)



#### Social Worker

The City employs a social worker to help seniors and their families connect with local resources. Reach out at 216-491-1347.

## A Note from Colleen

By Colleen Jackson, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer



## How I Spent My Summer

Throughout the summer months, the City hosted a series of chats with the Mayor, offering residents a chance to be up close and personal with Mayor David Weiss as well as other City officials, including Planning Director Joyce Braverman, City Council member Carmella Williams, and me. I enjoyed meeting some of our residents during the first event at The Van Aken District. I'm looking forward to more opportunities like that.

Many City staff members completed LGBTQ 101 Training with Jared Fox of Iris Consulting over the summer. This fall, training will be completed with the Police, Public Works, and Recreation departments. This is the second DEI training for City employees. The plan is to complete two full-staff trainings a year and continue to strengthen our equity muscles.

Dr. Fox taught staff members some baseline terminology, helped us gain more understanding of LGBTQ issues, and helped us, as a staff, work on being more inclusive.

I've participated in speaking engagements throughout the

state about Shaker's DEI efforts, including to a DEI Alliance event in Hudson and the DEI Committee in the City of Green. I'm making connections with other cities and city leaders, and it's exciting to see how many other communities are looking to take their DEI efforts to the next level. I'm happy to provide support, advice, and perspective to our neighbors.

In June, I completed the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio's nine-month LeadDIVERSITY Program, in which professionals engage with community leaders and one another to raise awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, build their leadership skills, and enhance their network.

The City has partnered with MGT Consulting for a DEI assessment. We started by providing our consultants with selected City HR policies for review, and moved on to employee focus groups. Next, we begin action planning.

As always, if you'd like to contact me, please email me at [colleen.jackson@shakeronline.com](mailto:colleen.jackson@shakeronline.com)

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## “Chat with the Mayor” Proves Popular with Residents

There was no set agenda for a new series of informal drop-in events initiated by Mayor David Weiss this summer. Residents chatted with the mayor about a range of local concerns and opportunities in sessions at The Van Aken District, Motiv, Chelton Park, and Main Library. Joining the mayor at these venues were, respectively, Colleen Jackson, chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer; Joyce Braverman, planning director; and Carmella Williams, City Council member. Watch for announcements of upcoming opportunities to meet your mayor and chat.



Photos by Caydie Heller



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## Boring Utility Boxes? Not in Shaker Heights

The Shaker Heights Arts Council (SHAC) has wrapped seven more utility boxes in Shaker Heights with designs selected through its 2022 Painting the Town project. The newly wrapped boxes include designs by Shaker-based artists Alicia Vasquez, David Thal, Allison Wooley, and Anna Hsu.

In total, SHAC has wrapped 29 utility boxes across Shaker Heights. The Painting the Town project is sponsored in part by the Ohio Arts Council. One box, at Shaker Middle School, was sponsored by the Shaker Schools PTO. It features the work of recent SHHS graduate Carmen Joachimsmeier-Gordon.

This round also includes the project’s first interactive box. The design, created by Georgio Sabino III, includes a QR code that, when scanned with a mobile device, brings the box to life.

Residents can learn more about the new designs and their locations by viewing the Blue Line and Green Line tours on the SHAC website, [shakerartscouncil.org](http://shakerartscouncil.org). **SL**



**Tiffany M. Joseph**, formerly principal at Woodbury Elementary School, is the District's new director of human resources. She succeeds Barbara Maceyak, who has retired. Joseph had served as principal at Woodbury since July 1, 2020. She previously served as assistant principal at Shaker Heights High School.

Prior to coming to Shaker Heights, Joseph served as the principal of the Early College Academy @ Crenshaw Middle School in Canton. Joseph has also worked in a variety of administrative roles at Canton City Schools. Joseph began her career in education in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where she was an intervention specialist and assistant principal.

## District Announces Top Leadership Changes

The Shaker Heights City School District entered the 2022-2023 school year with several significant changes to its leadership team:



**Felecia M. Evans** joined the district as director of school leadership. In her new role, Evans will provide leadership and support to school principals

to strengthen and develop them as building and instructional leaders. Evans came to Shaker Heights from the Mayfield City School District, where she was an elementary school principal. She taught and held leadership positions in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Solon schools. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators and represents thousands of school leaders across the state.



**Dora Bechtel** is the new principal at Onaway Elementary School. She came to Shaker Heights from the Olmsted Falls City School

District, where she was principal of the Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center. She succeeds Eric B. Forman, who has become principal of Woodbury Elementary School. Before joining the Olmsted Falls schools she served as principal at James A. Garfield School in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Prior to that, she was a teacher and instructional leader at the Campus International School, an International Baccalaureate School at Cleveland State University. Bechtel, who began her career as an elementary school teacher in Cleveland, is also an adjunct instructor at Cleveland State University.



## Shaker Heights Alumni: Reconnecting Through Reunions

Shaker Heights High School alumni are coming home to their alma mater to celebrate, reminisce, and see what's new.

- Shaker Heights High School reunions are happening throughout the year. Visit [shakerschoolsfoundation.org/reunion-info](https://shakerschoolsfoundation.org/reunion-info) to see if your class is hosting a reunion so you don't miss the fun!
- The Student Group on Race Relations (SGORR) alumni are gathering in 2023 to celebrate their 40th anniversary and to honor the legacy of Marcia Jaffe. As SGORR's long-time advisor, she created a space where students can discover their authentic selves, cross social boundaries, and impact the Shaker Heights Schools and beyond. Stay tuned for more information on [shakerschoolsfoundation.org](https://shakerschoolsfoundation.org)
- The seven-time state champion Shaker Heights Hockey program has a three-day reunion event planned for June 16–18, 2023, to celebrate 50 years of a dominant hockey program. Follow the group on its Facebook page @Shaker Heights Hockey Alumni Association and make sure you update your contact information at [shakerschoolsfoundation.org/alumni](https://shakerschoolsfoundation.org/alumni).

**Keep in touch to learn about upcoming events. Connect with our alumni relations team member and update your contact information at [shakeralumni@shaker.org](mailto:shakeralumni@shaker.org).**

# Class of 2022:

---

## By the Numbers

# 429

Number of Graduates  
in the Class of 2022

### Where Were Our Grads Accepted?

32

Acceptances to the Top 25  
Schools, as ranked by U.S. News  
& World Report

107

Acceptances from Historically  
Black Colleges  
and Universities (HBCUs)

2

Acceptances to Institutions  
Outside the United States

6

Acceptances to Ivy League Schools

4

Acceptances at Music  
Conservatory Programs

## Future Plans

What Shaker's 2022 grads are up to this fall and beyond. Please note, these percentages represent only the students who self reported their post-High School plans.

74.6%: Attending a 4-Year College or University

8.0%: Taking a Gap Year

7.3%: Going into the Workforce

6.7%: Attending a 2-Year College or University

2.7%: Going into Military Service

0.7%: Attending a Career-Tech Program

# 45

### Fluent Learners

45 students in the Class of 2022  
earned the State of Ohio Seal of Bilingual Proficiency

# 27

The number of  
student-athletes,  
representing 11 sports,  
that have committed to  
post-High School athletics

# 86

Number of graduates headed  
to school with college credit  
through the College Credit Plus  
(CCP) program

# 25

Acceptances to visual arts colleges

Shaker Heights Schools is proud to celebrate the many accomplishments and life paths set forth by the 2022 graduating class!

**21** Number of graduates poised for certification and/or job placement from the Career-Technical Education (CTE) program

**6**

The number of IB Medallion recipients in the Class of 2022

**\$**

**\$3,570,572**

Total amount of scholarship money awarded to Class of 2022 graduates

### Where Are They Headed?

A majority of the Class of 2022 is staying in Ohio, while 37% are headed out of State.

Top five destinations outside of Ohio: Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania

Two students are headed to Canada.

**55** The number of IB Diploma candidates in the Class of 2022

**11** Number of SHHS graduates who earned full-ride or full-tuition scholarships **SL**

**70**

Number of SHHS graduates who received scholarships

#### Stay Informed:

For the latest news and information about Shaker Heights Schools, visit [shaker.org](http://shaker.org). Follow us on Facebook.com ForShakerSchools or Tweet us @ShakerSchools.

# # Shaker Grams

## We **see** you **seeing** Shaker.

- > H/T to those capturing the community.
- > Tag your photos to #shaker365.
- > You might just see them on these pages!



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@shakerhoundacademy • Captain canine



@craftcollective • Curating the craft



@michaelsgenuinecle • Succulent slice



@shakerhts.nutrition • Favorable endorsement



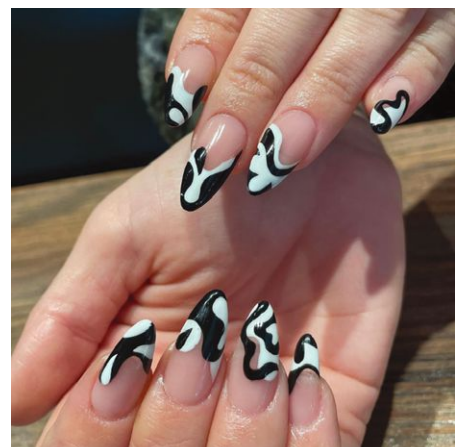
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@shakerheightsanimalhospital • Pretty please?



@manifest\_cle • Ode to Cruella



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# Modernizing A Historic City

## Building & Housing Goes Digital with CitizenServe

By Diana Simeon

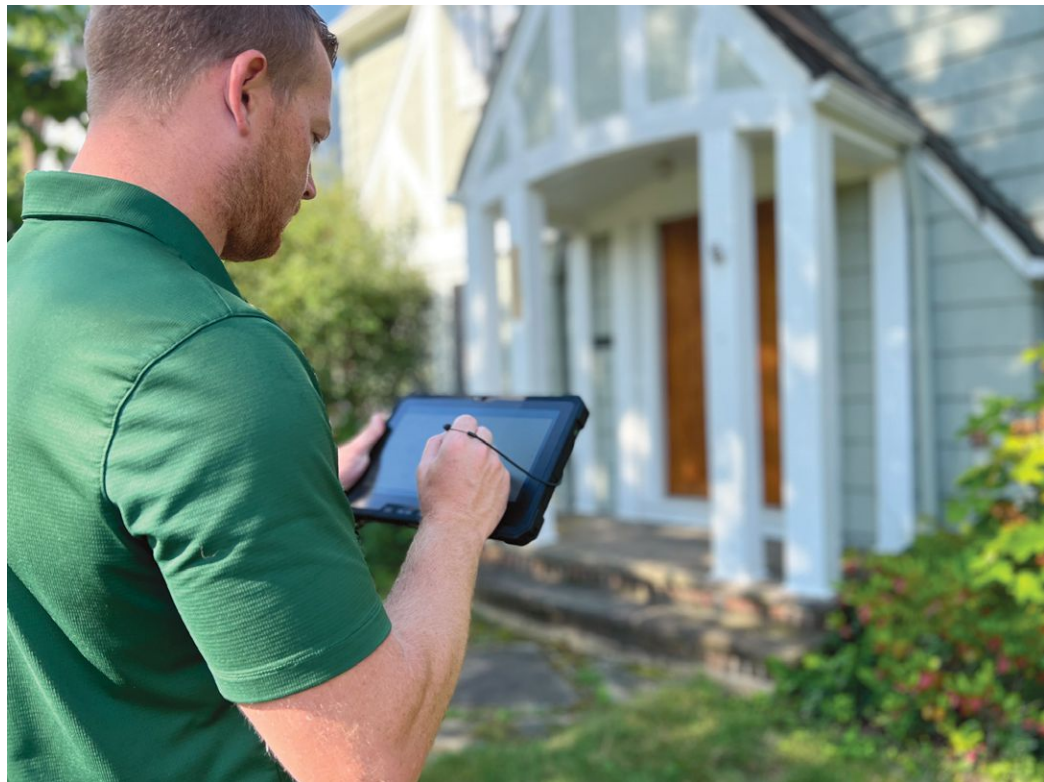
Are you planning a construction project at your Shaker Heights home? For now, you or your contractor still need to complete paper or PDF applications for permits.

But not for long.

The City's Building & Housing Department is several years into a roll-out of CitizenServe, a cloud-based platform that offers online property inspections, licensing, permitting, and a whole lot more. The system, which was partially funded through a grant from Cuyahoga County, is parcel (i.e. address) based and so can handle almost any activity relating to business and residential properties in Shaker Heights.

The Department has already launched licensing – business, contractor, and housing rental licensing – on the platform, which offers a public portal that's available 24/7 from a computer or mobile device (check it out at [citizenserve.com/shaker](http://citizenserve.com/shaker)). For those without access to this technology, there is a kiosk in City Hall. Staff assistance is also available.

Permitting will be available within the next six months. "We are actively building this out right now," says Kyle Krewson, the City's director of building and housing. "It's a huge undertaking," he says. "It's not just as simple as putting our permit forms online."



### New Processes for a New Tool

Moving the Building & Housing Department's activities from a paper-based system to CitizenServe has pushed Krewson and his staff to refine, and even revamp completely, the Department's processes.

"If we just took our existing processes, which are built around a fragmented paper-based workflow, and automated that, it would have been quicker and easier," Krewson says.

"But it would create all kinds of inefficiencies. So instead, we have taken this as an opportunity to step back and look at the big picture and say, okay, now that we have this new tool, how can we change our procedures to be more streamlined and reduce the likelihood of errors?"

To help achieve this goal, staff underwent training in Lean Six Sigma, which are data-driven methodologies for optimizing processes. The methodologies were developed by Toyota and Motorola and are widely used in business and manufacturing. "It's about perfecting a process and eliminating waste and defects," says Krewson.

Krewson is already seeing big benefits for his department and, in turn, the broader community. Take this year's exterior inspections in the Lomond and Sussex neighborhoods. These are the routine exterior inspections the City performs every five years for owner-occupied properties.

In the past, homeowners could often wait a month or more after an inspection to receive the violations notice. That's because prior to launching this function on CitizenServe, the department used a paper-based, manual process for exterior inspections. Inspectors would take notes during the inspection, then return to the office and finalize their report. They would then submit this report to an assistant to type up the violations notice. The assistant would send the typed notice back to the inspector to sign and then mail it to the homeowner. No surprise, this system could get backed up.

Now, the entire process is handled on the CitizenServe platform. An inspector arrives for an inspection with an Internet-enabled tablet with CitizenServe pulled up in a browser. The inspector uses a custom form to enter violations directly into

**Housing Inspector Chris Dieker uses an Internet-enabled tablet loaded with CitizenServe to conduct an exterior inspection in Shaker Heights.**

the platform. Once the inspection is complete, staff back at the office can log into CitizenServe, print the violations notice, and mail it to the homeowner.

“Now in most cases we’re sending these notices the day after the inspection,” says Krewson.

Licensing is another activity transformed by CitizenServe. The City receives approximately 2,500 license applications for renewal each year. In the past, it could take up to six months for staff to work through the applications, which were in PDF or paper form. Now the applications process is entirely online, including payments.

“This year, we were able to keep up with the applications as they were coming in,” says Krewson. “Our virtual inbox was empty at the end of the day.”

## More to Come

Krewson anticipates similar efficiencies once permitting is rolled out. “The contractor or property owner will be able to apply and pay for a permit, check on the status, pull up approved plans and inspection results, and even communicate with our staff through the public portal,” says Krewson.

After permitting, the department plans to add rental property inspections, foreclosure registration, and the point-of-sale process to CitizenServe. The department is already also using the platform for complaint inspections, vacant property monitoring, and various other code compliance activities. Notably, CitizenServe synchronizes with county databases ensuring staff is always working with the most up-to-date property data on file.

Meanwhile, Krewson expects that the City will keep finding new ways to use the platform, especially in areas where the work of other City departments overlaps with that of the Building & Housing Department. Examples could include code inspections by the Fire Department or property-related notices from Public Works.

“There are so many functions that the City does on a regular basis that would be right for CitizenServe,” he notes. “There is a lot of opportunity for us to keep expanding how we are using this platform.” **SL**



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# Tweets & Posts

**t @ComposedClaytor** One of the best things about living in @ShakerOnline (and working from home) is the fact that at Van Aken Blvd. and Lee Rd. I can hear the marching band prepare for the #MemorialDayParade.



## Living in Shaker Heights

**f Neighbor #1:** July 2, 2022 was Larry Doby Day at the Cleveland Guardians game. His statue was unveiled (first black player in the American League) and his son, Larry Jr., threw out the first pitch. Free Doby jerseys were distributed. Sadly, while I was there hours before the game, I was unable to get one. If anyone got one that day and it does not mean anything to them, know that

I am looking for one. Called the team. None left. None for sale in the merch shop. It would make me – a fan since age 4 – very, very happy. Thanks much. **Neighbor #2:** I have one still in the wrapper. You can come pick it up. PM me and I'll leave it on my front porch for you. **Neighbor #1:** Thank you SO SO much! Will PM you now. **Neighbor #3:** I've got an extra one also. **Neighbor #1:** Thank you, Lindsey. Just picked up one from Carrie. Thank you for your generosity as well. Shaker rocks! Now a very very happy fan! Thank you Carrie – and Lindsey, too. "Take me out to the ball game..."



## Living in Shaker Heights

**f Neighbor #1:** Thought you'd all enjoy knowing – one of my hand-raised monarchs, tag number AEJT613 and then lovingly evicted (lol) from my backyard in Shaker, was recovered at the sanctuary in Sierra Chincua, Mexico this season! He traveled 2297 miles according to Google Maps. Here's a pre-release pic that he's in somewhere. I didn't get a close-up--I had a lot of releases that day. He was raised from an egg most likely picked up at my favorite location in Beachwood. Shoutout to Lila Weinblanco for making tons of butterfly bush available as a pre-migration snack and Zinnia Guy who lives behind me (I don't know his name, but I know my monarchs so appreciate his front garden). **Neighbor #2:** Love this! We are so lucky to have you near us, my friend! **Neighbor #3:** That is amazing! How do you tag them? **Neighbor #1:** Using tweezers and a steady hand! The tags are really tiny, like my pinky fingernail. They don't notice or care. I distract them with Glacier Freeze Gatorade, which is their favorite and they fight over it. **Neighbor #4:** That's amazing! **Neighbor #5:** Very cool, Thanks for sharing this with us. **Neighbor #6:** I'm blown away by the awesomeness of this!

## Living in Shaker Heights

**f Neighbor #1:** Rooster wandering around Chadbourne and Onaway just now... **Neighbor #2:** Dinner **Neighbor #3:** I just love this community



## Living in Shaker Heights

**f Neighbor #1:** Snagged an awesome breakfast sandwich and iced Americano coffee this morning from Motiv (on Lee/Chagrin). Staff and service are great too. Will return. **Neighbor #2:** Ooohhhh... I've never heard of this place. Thanks for sharing! **Neighbor #3:** Let's give it a try!! **Neighbor #4:** I hope they do well in that location. **Neighbor #5:** Good to know! Thanks for shouting out local business! **Neighbor #6:** My fiancé had some sort of bourbon Apple thing he enjoyed so much he's trying to replicate it at home. I enjoyed the cotton candy in champagne because I am 5 years old. We will definitely be back soon.



## Onaway Neighborhood

**f Neighbor #1:** 40 years of bicycle parades! Looking good Onaway! Thanks Emily Braman! **Neighbor #2:** Emily Braman is the best! Thank you!! **Neighbor #3:** Thanks Mary Ann and Gina! **Neighbor #4:** Wow. Thanks for posting shout out to Noelle Cutts for wrangling the rascals at the end. **Neighbor #5:** I had a newly minted two year old who decided to act two. **Neighbor #6:** Always fun!



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# MAINTAINING THE PLACES

Maintaining a library building includes lots of behind-the-scenes work to ensure the building is functional and comfortable for both customers and staff. This work includes cleaning common areas, removing and recycling trash, mopping floors, vacuuming carpets, cleaning bathrooms, washing windows, and repairing broken items. It also includes helping with renovation projects.

Moreover, it involves inspecting, repairing, and maintaining electrical systems, heating and air conditioning systems, and other utilities.

And it extends to the outdoor property – overseeing landscaping in summer and snow removal in winter.

Meet the people who make our Shaker Library spaces and places clean, comfortable, and welcoming.

Rusty Taphous is the Library's maintenance manager. He began work at the Library in February 2019 with certification in HVAC, Facility Maintenance, Industrial Maintenance, and Hot Work Safety. The broad scope of his job includes supervising his staff, maintaining both Main Library and Bertram Woods Branch, and troubleshooting problems. He is dedicated to ensuring that staff and customers have a good and safe experience at the Library.

"I applied for this job because I knew the Main Library building was getting ready for a renovation. I have



**RUSTY  
TAPHOUS**

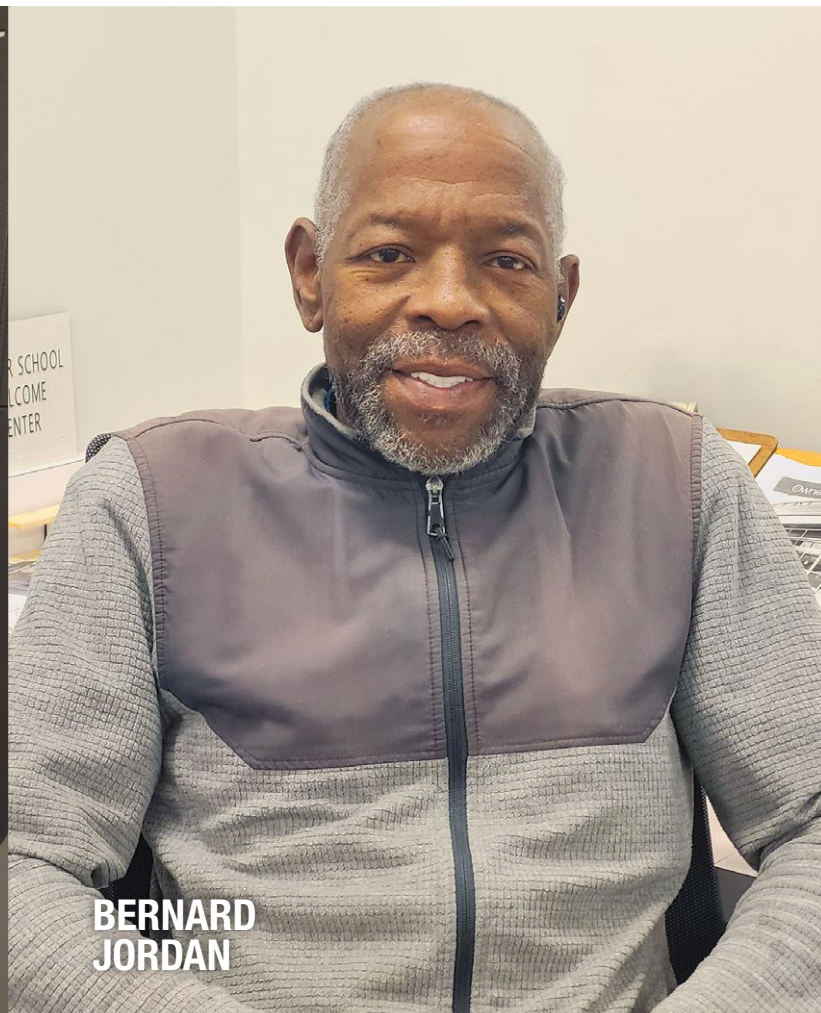
## WHERE THE

a love for old buildings, and I knew there would be unique issues in the remodeling process. I also knew I had the skill set to make the renovation a success," says Taphous.

"It's nice to see not only the changes in the building but also the smiles on people's faces when they walk in for the first time and see the transformation of a nearly 100-year-old building. Plus, I love working with some amazing and dedicated people."

Taphous honed his skills at an early age. His family often had side jobs cleaning offices, bars, and churches. When he was 11 his mother died, and when he was only 14 he began helping his apartment complex manager maintain and paint apartments. He became the maintenance manager for the complex. In the 1980s he owned his own company, Homestead Repair and Painting.

In his leisure time, Taphous enjoys reading history. He recently finished a book on the history



**BERNARD  
JORDAN**



**RICHARD  
MORCUS**

# COMMUNITY CONNECTS

of his hometown of Strongsville. While he enjoys access to all different reading formats, he professes to be old-fashioned. "I like to hold a book in my hands."

Other interests include scouting, hiking, camping, studying nature, traveling the United States, and seeing new places. Taphous is married to his "best friend," Annette, who he says "has had a big influence on the person I have become." They have four adult children and 12 grandchildren.

Bernard Jordan is a maintenance specialist. He began working at the Library in March 2000 and handles routine plumbing, carpentry, and electrical work. He attended the Great Lakes Technical Institute and is certified in home building and

maintenance. His broad skill set, plus his artistic abilities translate to different areas where he is especially helpful. He assembled, painted, and decorated the Little Free Library kit now located at Hildana Park, and he cut out the oversized letters for the Library's SHAKER READS signs.

"As a kid, my uncle would take me to his job site to teach me how to cut, hang, and tape Drywall. He knew I liked to learn how things worked, and he was happy to teach me," says Jordan.

He says that his work schedule made it possible for him to spend the time needed to raise his kids properly. "I also feel gratified to work with friendly Library staff," says Jordan. In his free time, he enjoys fishing and playing chess. He and his wife began

dating when he was 16, "now making it a total of 44 years of togetherness." In addition to their grown children, the couple has a female German shepherd by the name of K9.

Richard Morcus is a maintenance specialist who joined the Library in December 2020 and works primarily at Woods Branch. He attended Bryant and Stratton College where he earned a B.A. in electronics. He has worked at the Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Public Library.

"The most gratifying part of my job is making the building and the grounds around the Library look good for the customers and staff," he says. Residents can spot Morcus in the colorful library van as he delivers books and other material from Woods Branch to Main Library. **SL**

## Let the Sun Shine in... on Diverse Books for Children

What do you do when you can't find books that depict children as the heroes in the stories they read? For Clothilde Ewing, a 1996 graduate of Shaker Heights High School, the answer was to write them.

Eight years ago as a new mother, Ewing found it hard to find books with leading Black characters that depicted kids actually being kids. She was inspired to write her first book after reading a New York Times opinion piece by her now-editor, Denene Millner, entitled "Black Kids Don't Want to Read About Harriet Tubman All the Time." Ewing's goal is for all kids to see children of color in books that have nothing to do with race and everything to do with belonging. She believes that one of the greatest lessons we can pass on to our children is

### Stay Informed:

For the latest news and information about Shaker Heights Public Library, visit our web site at [shakerlibrary.org](http://shakerlibrary.org). Follow us on Facebook at [ShakerHeightsPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ShakerHeightsPublicLibrary) and on Twitter @ShakerLibrary.



Author Clothilde Ewing (right) and illustrator Lynn Gaines.



that differences are for celebrating.

Last March, Simon and Schuster published her debut book, *Stella Keeps the Sun Up*, a hijinks-filled picture book about a young girl who schemes to keep the sun up in the sky so she doesn't have to go to bed. It's a clever little book to read to reluctant sleepers. Publishers Weekly described it as "an epiphany that provides a... reason to embrace nighttime rituals and adult readers with a fresh reason for arguing in favor of a good night's rest."

# YOU'VE GOT A NEIGHBOR IN FLOORING



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Visit [shakeronline.com/fair-housing](http://shakeronline.com/fair-housing) to learn more or hold your mobile device's camera over the QR code.



City of Shaker Heights  
**FAIR HOUSING OFFICE**

The work that provided the basis for this announcement or advertisement was supported by funding under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

In July, the Library hosted a Meet-the-Author-and-Illustrator program with Ewing and the book's illustrator, Lynn Gaines.

The room was filled with excited children who listened to Ewing read the book. Gaines brought coloring sheets, crayons, pencils, and star-shaped sunglasses for children to take home. Both author and illustrator signed books for the children. Ewing donated signed copies of her book to the schools and Library. Her book's dedication reads, "To my village who inspired me to believe anything is possible." And on that happy July afternoon at the Library, Ewing and Gaines showed the many young, aspiring authors and illustrators that indeed anything is possible for them, too.

Simon & Schuster has already contracted with Ewing for a second Stella book (about a hunt for a lost tooth), and Ewing is at work developing ideas for future stories in the series.

Ewing has an impressive portfolio. She is vice president of strategic communications for The Chicago Community Trust, a non-profit that works to close the racial and ethnic wealth gap. A 2000 graduate of Syracuse University's SI Newhouse School of Communications, Ewing began her career in TV news as an assignment editor and producer at CBS News before moving to The Oprah Winfrey Show as a producer. She served in Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's administration as the chief of strategic planning and worked in communications for President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign.



Author Ewing and illustrator Gaines read to the children and personally signed their copies of *Stella Keeps the Sun Up*.



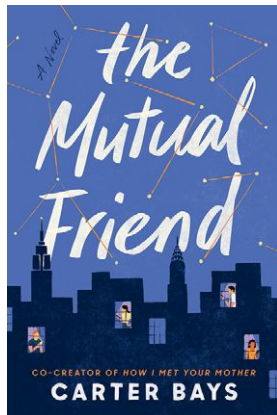
### Early Literacy Outreach

Early childhood education centers within the Shaker Heights City School District are eligible for the Library's Early Literacy Outreach program. The Library's early literacy specialist regularly visits preschool and daycare classrooms to provide story times for Shaker's youngest learners.

Classrooms receiving outreach visits are also eligible to receive books on a rotating basis. Funded by a grant from the State Library of Ohio, the Library's Early Literacy Outreach Collection includes a diverse selection, which is refreshed on an ongoing basis.

### Shaker Grads and Authors in the News

**Carter Bays**, a 1993 graduate of Shaker Heights High School with a B.A. from Wesleyan University, is an author, composer, and television writer. He has written for "The Late Show With David Letterman" and co-created the popular TV show "How I Met Your Mother."

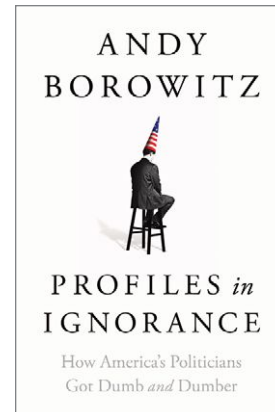


In June, Dutton Books published Carter's debut novel, *The Mutual Friend*, which received a starred review from both Kirkus and Booklist. The Washington

Post has described the book as "A whip-smart comedy of manners for the era of buzzing gadgets." Put down your phones and read this book.

Carter's mother, Martha Bays, served as Shaker Library's Outreach Librarian and co-founded the Play and Learn Station.

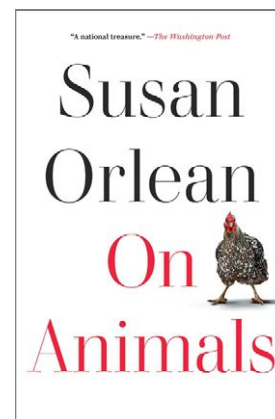
**Andy Borowitz** is an award-winning writer, actor, and comedian. He graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1976 and then from Harvard, where he was president of the Harvard Lampoon.



In 1998, he began contributing humor to The New Yorker's "Shouts & Murmurs" and "Talk of the Town" departments, and in 2001, he created the satirical online news

column, "The Borowitz Report." In his latest book, *Profiles in Ignorance*, he offers a witty diagnosis of our country's political troubles.

**Susan Orlean** is a member of the 1973 graduating class of Shaker Heights High School. She's a journalist, television writer, and bestselling author of *The Orchid Thief* and *The Library Book*. She has been a staff writer for The New Yorker



since 1992, and has contributed articles to Vogue, Rolling Stone, Esquire, and Outside. Her latest book is *On Animals*, a collection of wide-ranging pieces she has written

about animals and the strange power they exercise over us. The San Francisco Examiner has described it as "beguiling, observant, and howlingly funny."

## The Miracle of Metadata

Thanks to a Library Services and Technology Metadata Mini-Grant, the Library's digital collection of old Cleveland Press photographs is now on the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) website.

DPLA serves as a portal to over 46 million cultural heritage items, including photographs, texts, and videos from libraries, museums,



and archives across the country. From October of last year

through May, Local History Librarian Meghan Hays prepared 419 images from the Library's Cleveland Press collection. Before the digital age, editors in newsrooms would write the name of the photographer as well as the who, what, where, and when on the back of the photo. Hays paired all the information from the Press photos – the metadata – with the photos, giving them historical context. Each image in the DPLA links back to its page on Cleveland Memory where all the metadata is displayed.

"It's nice to see the results of that work," Hays says, "Now they are more accessible and findable."

Looking to save photos for your children or to donate them to the Local History collection for future generations to enjoy? Hays can offer tips. The first step would be to organize and label them. The photos of most historical value are of people and events. Select the ones that best capture the event and write the information on the back of the photos. If you have information that can't fit, write it on an acid-free index card and store it with the photo.

For more information contact Local History Librarian Meghan Hays at [localhistory@shakerlibrary.org](mailto:localhistory@shakerlibrary.org)

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## Maintenance

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The Cricut® Maker 3 is a smart cutting machine, compatible with more than 300 different materials including vinyl, fabric, and paper. When combined with the EasyPress 2, users can make customizable iron-on projects like T-shirts, tote bags, and even home décor. The use of the equipment is self-directed, but the Library provides helpful written instructions and online videos.

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### Resource Connections at the Main Library

To make it easier for community members to connect to resources they need, Library staff has scheduled a variety of helpful partners to staff information tables at the Main Library.

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am-5 pm: **Ohio Means Jobs** will be available to help job seekers. Community Development Specialist Deserea Reville will be at the Library to help with resumes and to discuss employment opportunities.

First Wednesdays of the month from 2-4 pm: **Bellefaire JCB** staff will be available to help people connect to the mental health resources they need.

Second Wednesdays of the month from 1-3 pm: **CLE Food Bank** members will offer food assistance information and provide a list of food pantries.

Third Wednesdays of the month from 2-5 pm: **PCs for People** will be on hand to provide information about affordable internet and devices.

Third Thursdays of the month from 1-3 pm: **Benjamin Rose** staff will help seniors and their families learn about resources especially for seniors. (See Six Resources for Seniors on page 10 in this edition of Shaker Life.)

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### Renovation to Bertram Woods Branch to Begin this Fall

At its March 21 meeting, the Library Board voted unanimously to move forward with the planned renovation of the Bertram Woods Branch.

The architect for the renovation is Bialosky Cleveland, and the construction manager is Turner Construction. The architects presented their plans to the Library Board at its June 27 meeting. The building's entire interior will be redesigned to give it a nature-inspired, organic look. Construction is scheduled to begin this winter.

Unlike the Main Library's recent renovation, which was done in phases, this project will be done all at once. The branch will be closed throughout the process.

Repairs will include replacing cracked slate tiles and the fiberglass skylight. The metal gutters, downspouts, and damaged soffits will be fixed. Workers also will replace cracked and spalled brick and stone, repoint areas of deteriorated mortar, replace the glazing at all entries and perimeter seals, and repair corroded steel lintels.

System updates will include replacing the HVAC and upgrading the electrical equipment, the fire alarm system, and security cameras.

As of this writing, construction is expected to take approximately 10 months.

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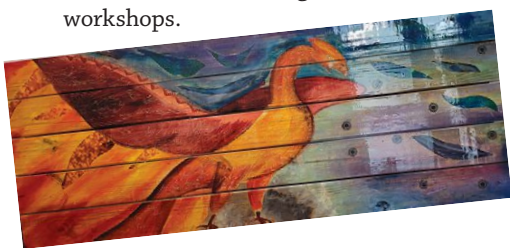


**Arts for Resilience in Our Community Project Creates Colorful Picnic Table at Main Library**

In 2021 the Library applied for and was awarded a \$39,000 grant from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The purpose of the grant was to help libraries and their communities respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Library's project was called Arts for Resilience in Our Community (AROC), a nine-month arts series targeting young adults ages 15–24. The aim was to use the arts to foster confidence, build resilience, and increase social and community connectedness.

Shaker resident and artist Dina Hoeynck, who designed the utility box at the corner of Ashby Road and Van Aken Boulevard, facilitated the visual arts component of the project. She engaged with a group of young adults to explore text, texture, and collage in a series of workshops.



As a result of their effort, the group created a work of public art to be enjoyed by the Shaker Heights community for years to come – a picnic table colorfully decorated with a large phoenix in flight. It's located on the east side of the Main Library. A little bit of fresh air and sunshine can do wonders, and the AROC picnic table awaits anyone who needs a little bit of respite from the stressors of the day.

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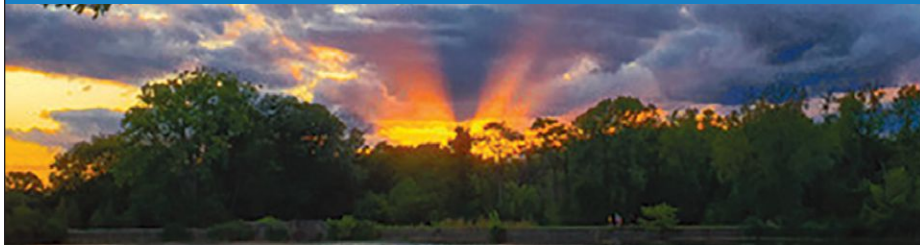
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Let's Keep All Options on the Table

## Don't be Fooled by the Sewer District's Claims

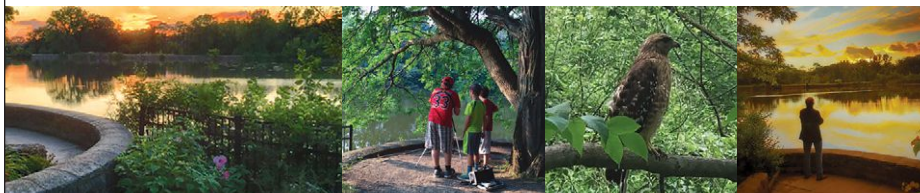
The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District plan to destroy Horseshoe Lake is not the only option!

Friends of Horseshoe Lake developed an alternative plan that saves Horseshoe Lake.

	Sewer District's Plan	Friends of Horseshoe Lake's Plan
Saves Horseshoe Lake	✗	✓
Considers community input	✗	✓
Manages flood & stormwater	✓	✓
Safe	✓	✓
Preserves history	✗	✓

## Friends of Horseshoe Lake is dedicated to saving Horseshoe Lake

- FOHSL worked with a team of engineers and experts to find a solution that replaces the dam and preserves Horseshoe Lake
- Our plan is safe, costs less than or equal to the Sewer District's plan, and most importantly, saves Horseshoe Lake
- We shared our plan with the Sewer District and elected officials, but they have not been open to alternative solutions that save the lake



## Continuing the Legacy

Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights came together to save Horseshoe Lake in the past, and Friends of Horseshoe Lake formed to continue that fight today and for generations to come.

**We Need Your Help!**  
SaveHorseshoeLake.com



## Friends of the Shaker Library Elect Officers, Plan Fall Book Sale

At its annual meeting, Friends elected its officers for the 2022-23 year. They are: Julie Mizener, president; Tamar Calland, vice president of communications; Woineshet Zenebe, vice president of membership; Christine Bretz, treasurer; and Anthony Mangoff, assistant treasurer.

Friends also introduced a new collaboration with Playhouse Square: corporate exclusive online (CEO) ticketing. The program offers savings up to 65 percent on select seats to the hottest shows as well as other benefits. To take advantage of this offer, go to [tickets.playhousesquare.org/g03](https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g03) and enter the promo code SHAKERLIBRARYFRIENDS to unlock pricing options.

In January, Friends re-started its Book Sale-sorting efforts in preparation for its fall sale, scheduled for October 12–16. Residents interested in volunteering should email [friends.shakerlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friends.shakerlibrary@gmail.com) and leave a name, phone number, and email.



Susan Gall (left), outgoing Friends president and incoming President Julie Mizener at the Friends annual meeting.



### What's New at Main Library?

New in town? Stop by the Main Library and sign up for a library card. Check out a book or movie, browse the Friends Never-Ending Book Sale shelves, or access free Wi-Fi if yours isn't set up yet.

Better yet, stop in for Coffee and Community on Wednesday mornings and enjoy a cup of coffee (or herbal tea) while expanding your community. Not only is the Library a place to gather information, but it is also a gathering place.



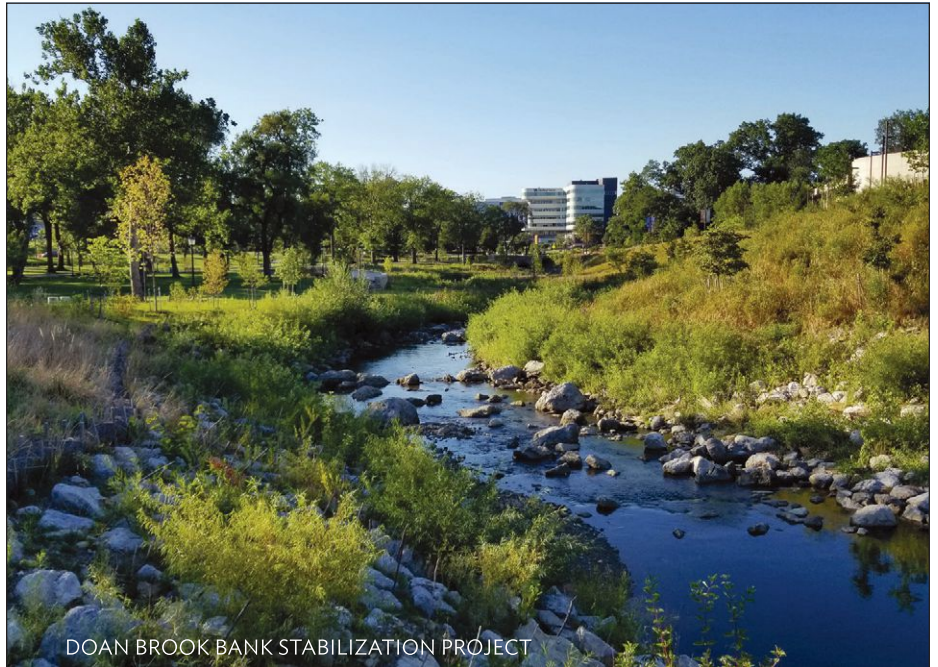
Coffee and Community's focus will vary each week – there may be a speaker, a craft project, a conversation prompt, puzzles and games, or a combination of the above. Just drop by Wednesday mornings at 10 am and gather with other community members.

### Library Holiday Hours

Shaker Libraries will close at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, November 23 and remain closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Libraries will be closed Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday.

Libraries will close at 5:30 pm on Saturday, December 31, and remain closed on Sunday, January 1, 2023. **SL**



DOAN BROOK BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

# Restoring Doan Brook.

Stormwater management projects like stream restoration, bank stabilization, and dam removal benefit water quality, improve natural habitat, and address regional flooding issues.

Learn more about the history and plans for the Doan Brook Restoration Near Horeshoe Lake Park and find upcoming educational community events scheduled along Doan Brook. [neorsd.org/doanbrook](https://neorsd.org/doanbrook)

## Doan Brook Restoration

NEAR HORSESHOE LAKE PARK

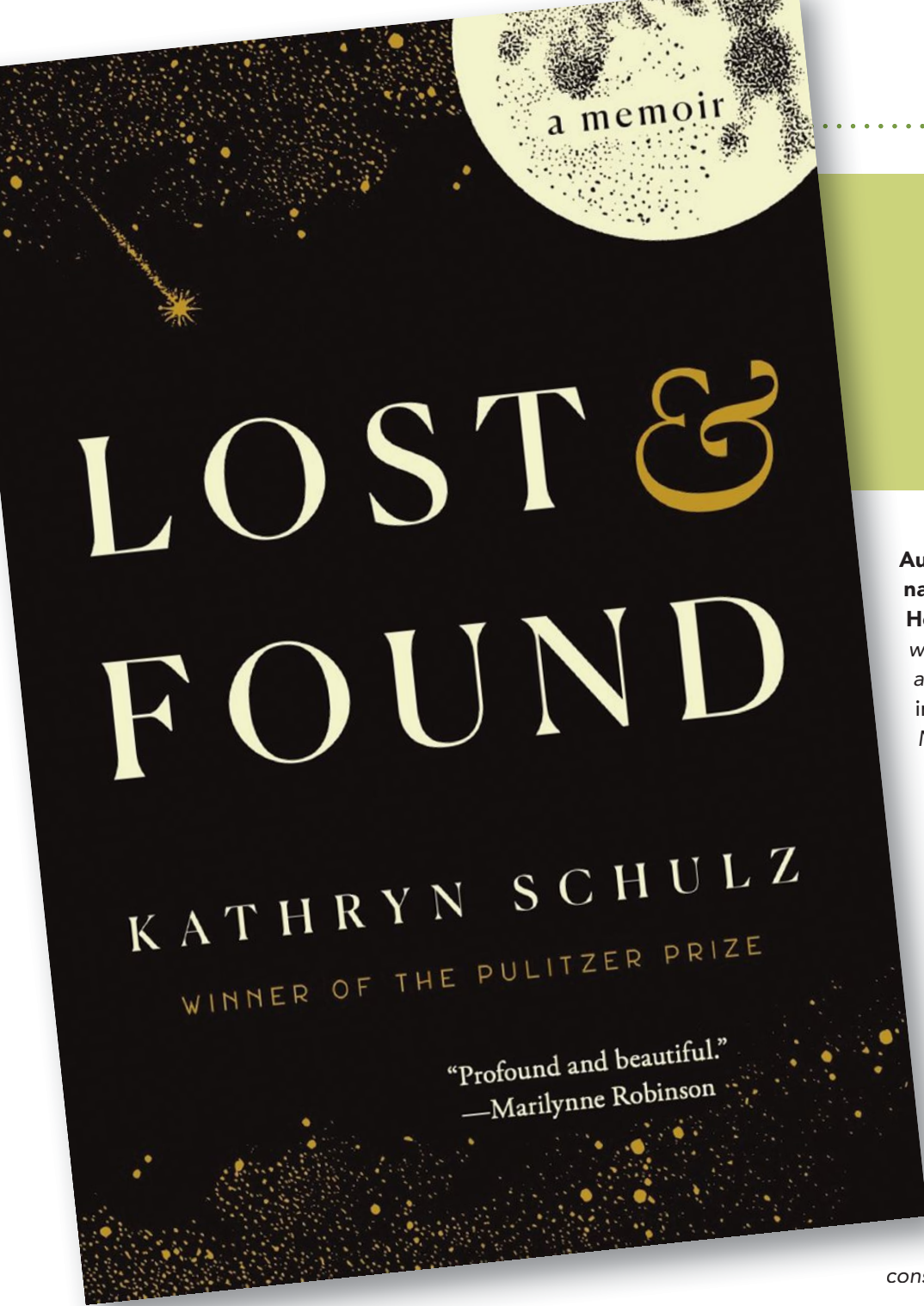


A portrait of Kathryn Schulz, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage and a path. The image is framed by a light green rounded rectangle on the left and a dark green rounded rectangle on the bottom right.

Q&A

with Kathryn Schulz:

A Trajectory



**Author Kathryn Schulz is a Shaker native and a 1992 graduate of Shaker Heights High School.** She is a staff writer at *The New Yorker* and the author of *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error*. She won a National Magazine Award and a Pulitzer Prize in 2015 for “The Really Big One,” an article about earthquake risk in the Pacific Northwest. She lives with her wife, writer Casey Cep, and their daughter on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Shortly after she fell in love with Cep, her father, Isaac Schulz, died. Isaac was a lawyer who served for eight years on the Shaker Heights School Board and for four years with the Shaker Schools Foundation. In her new memoir, *Lost & Found* – originally published as an essay in *The New Yorker* – Schulz interweaves her two stories of joy and grief and considers the ways that they shape a life.

Margaret Simon has been the public relations manager for the Shaker Library for more than 30 years. Early this year, her husband of 50 years died. Last spring, Schulz took the time to speak with her about her book and answer her questions about love, loss, and finding.

# Towards Joy

By Margaret Simon | Photography courtesy of Kathryn Schulz

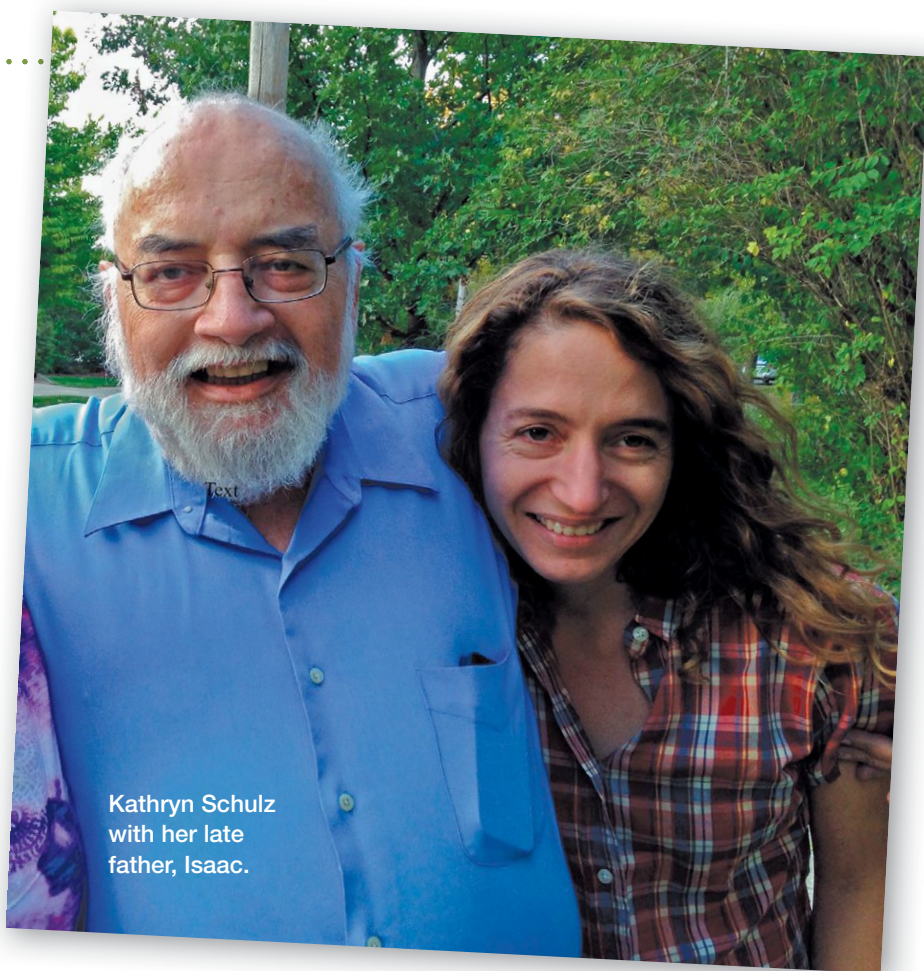
# Q&A

**Margaret Simon:** How did you come to write your book? And how did you choose the names for your chapters?

**Kathryn Schulz:** This is a three-part book. The first two parts are self-explanatory – “Lost” and “Found.” The third one – “And” – is strange, but it’s also the reason I wrote the book. After my father died, I wrote an essay for *The New Yorker* that was partly an elegy for him, and also an exploration of this very strange category of loss and the question of why on earth we would put someone we loved and lost into the same category as a sock we never find in the washing machine, or a lost wallet or a set of car keys.

I had thought about that for a while, and a few people had asked me if I were interested in expanding my essay into a book. I loved my father and there’s an infinite amount I could say about him, but I didn’t want to spend two, three, or four years of my life thinking about grief.

And then very late one night while driving on a back road in the middle of nowhere, Alabama, my partner and I were talking about whether I would ever turn my essay into a book. I thought there was a flip side of the story I could tell – an exploration of the equally strange category of discovery that would be grounded in the greatest thing I ever found, which was the woman I love.



Kathryn Schulz with her late father, Isaac.

The idea of telling our love story seemed exciting to me. While we were talking about this, my partner used the totally everyday phrase – “lost and found.” The mind at 2 a.m. on a back road in Alabama is a strange thing. I heard the word “and” echo throughout the car. Because I had the experience of finding my partner and losing my father in quick succession and had been thinking about that conjunction, about the fact that we all love to be in love, but sometimes we’re in love and also grieving.

And that’s what life is like. There are always many things going on at once. I was interested in this link between these two seemingly very different experiences in my life and how we go about living with this endless emotional conjunction.

Literally, right there in the car, that was the moment my essay became a book that I very much wanted to write. In that sense, the “And” section – although it’s clearly the strangest and most surprising – is the reason the book came about.

**“Fundamentally, this is a memoir about happy families – my family of origin, my partner’s family of origin, and the very happy family that we’re making together.”**



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# Q&A

**MS:** When you write about loss, you make an association with losing everyday objects. Was that part of your grieving process or did you make that association right away?

**KS:** Surprisingly, I made it right away and even before my dad died.

I had been thinking for a long time about the weirdness of the category of loss. I had toyed with writing about it and it never went anywhere, but when my father died it was immediately apparent to me why I hadn't been able to write it before. It just did not have the gravitas or emotional stake it needed. And then as soon as he died, it did. That felt liberating.

I think my father would have been happy to lend himself to this particular kind of writing project. And, of course, by chance, my father exemplifies the whole category of loss, and his death gave it its emotional anchor. My father had a history of the most extreme historical kinds of loss, which was the nature of his childhood – losses he experienced through the Holocaust and exile. But he also embodied the comic and trivial side of the category of loss, because for the life of him he could not hold on to his glasses or his shoes. It felt natural that this elegy for him should come together as an exploration of this larger category.

**MS:** Was it easy to go from writing the essay to writing the book? Or was it harder to write because your essay was complete?

**KS:** It's such a great question. It's a real writer's question. And the answer is it was absolutely harder. In other respects, this book was not as hard to write as I might have thought, partly because I already had the structure. I knew from the beginning that it would be a book in three parts, and I had a broad sense of how they worked.

"Found" was a delight to write because it was a love story, but "Lost," which is the section about grief, was hard – not for the reason a reader might guess, but as you intuited. I had already written this very personal essay. Then I basically had to take a sledgehammer to it because it wouldn't work intact in the book. It was hard to dismantle the essay and let go of certain things that I liked. So absolutely. It was the single hardest thing about writing the book.

**MS:** Grief is a messy emotion. Was it hard to write about your vibrant father in the past tense?

**KS:** That's an interesting question. One of the things I really liked about my essay was that it was hard to let go of it when I was writing the book. In a sense, in the essay, my father dies almost in real-time. It begins on a comic note when he is alive and losing his wallet and keys. And I structured it so that we get the love story after the loss, so the overall trajectory is towards joy.

**MS:** Were there rules in writing this memoir? Did you feel you had to ask permission from your family and your partner as you were writing? What was your process?

**KS:** I certainly wouldn't say there were rules. I'm not a very rule-oriented person. Fundamentally, this is a memoir about happy families – my family of origin, my partner's family of origin, and the very happy family that we're making together. I didn't have some of the tensions that come with many contemporary memoirs because I wasn't writing about dysfunction.

Any story you tell is inevitably many other peoples' story. I was mindful of that. I talked to my family before I wrote the essay published in *The New Yorker* after my dad died. And I talked to them when I thought maybe I do want to write a book. I checked in to make sure they were comfortable with that.

I'm grateful to my mother and sister for letting me write about such a tender thing as the death of a beloved family member and helping me at every step of the way – filling in my memories and fact-checking and generally championing it. And I'm grateful to my in-laws, who embraced the fact that this interloper was going to tell some of their stories.

My partner was incredible. She is a much more private person than I am, but she never wavered about the project, and she's been an incredible champion of it. Plus, she is always my first and best reader. During the writing of the "Found" section, I would write all day and then bring the pages up to her at night and read them to her like a bedtime story. So she had a front-row seat to the process as it unfolded.

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# Q&A

**MS:** You don't really tell much about yourself in the book. How did you choose to be a writer? Was there a moment in your Shaker education when that happened, or a particular teacher who inspired you?

**KS:** Readers accompany me through two momentous experiences of falling in love and grieving for my dad, so I think they get a sense of being with me, but it certainly is not a chronology of my life in any way, shape, or form. I think it's always a little mysterious how anyone becomes who they are.

I grew up in a family of literary-minded people surrounded by books. My father and mother both love to read. I grew up with my father telling me stories in an environment where reading was the natural pastime.

My home front was formative, but absolutely the Shaker schools were, too, and the Shaker libraries as well.

I cannot begin to describe how fortunate I feel to have had the education I did. My teachers were remarkable from elementary school on. I worshipped my teachers and they were so generous. They took the time to recognize what interested me and nurtured it.

I wrote an enormous amount in elementary school and had these fabulous teachers at Moreland School who just let me write, read, gave me feedback, and made sure I had access to any kind of literary offerings that were available. Whether it was Young Authors Conferences I attended with teachers in elementary school or just making sure I had time to go to the library and get new books and people to talk to about reading.

So my teachers were incredible and that continued all the way through junior high and high school. I had exceptional teachers across all subjects, but I'm especially grateful to the English teachers who understood that I had a passion for writing.

**MS:** Are there places in Shaker that are hard to go back to, or do you seek out particular places for comfort?

**KS:** I find going home pretty wonderful with respect to thinking about my dad. I can't go to my actual home on Falmouth Road. We moved my parents out before my dad died, but there's so much of him and our old house in the condo where my mom lives now. My dad was a wonderfully gregarious guy. He served on the Shaker School Board and did a ton of pro-bono law work, so it's really gratifying for me to go home and just be with people who knew him. It's always a little bit bittersweet, which I think is true of returning to your childhood home, even when everyone is alive and well. But mostly it lands on the side of sweet and I have a lot of friends who stayed in town. It's wonderful to get to go home and connect with them. And of course, with my mom, who's my fundamental and deepest connection to my dad.

**MS:** Have you received feedback about the book from your father's friends?

**KS:** A fun part of the process is what's happening now that the book is out in the world. I occasionally get emails from complete strangers who knew my father who say how wonderful it was to encounter him on the page or to tell me a story I didn't know about him. And that is delightful. And I send them immediately on to my mother.

**"My father never turned his back on the suffering in life. His childhood was such that he was intimately familiar with it, and yet somehow he always took the side of joy and laughter."**

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# Q&A

**MS:** Throughout your book, you cite different poets, Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Frost among them. Who do you suggest readers choose for comfort?

**KS:** I do find consolation in poetry. It was striking to me how in the immediate aftermath of my father's death, that was really all I could read. On the other hand, to some extent, this book came about because I didn't quite find the book I wanted to read. I think I ultimately tried to write the book.

It's difficult to recommend a poet to find comfort in because most of the poets I love write about wildly disparate things. But the contemporary poet Kevin Young did us all the great favor of putting together an anthology of poems, *The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief*. I would certainly encourage people to start there. I am a huge Robert Frost fan and I quote him on grief, but I also quote him on love.

**MS:** When you finished your book did it feel like another loss because it was over?

**KS:** Oh, my goodness, no. I felt satisfaction and relief. I was so happy when it was done. As a writer, it's always a real relief when a project of that length is finished. I hope readers feel both satisfied and a little bit sorry it doesn't go on and on.

**MS:** What was it like to record your audiobook?

**KS:** When the publishing house approached me about reading my book, my immediate reaction was, "Aren't there professionals who do this kind of thing?" I don't think of myself as a great reader or having a particularly great voice, and I have absolutely no acting experience or training. But they said that readers like it when authors read their own books.

It was all a bit comic because it was recorded during the pandemic when they weren't bringing people into studios. I recorded it in my house in a tiny closet with a chair and a million pillows and blankets to try to soundproof it with my wife very patiently taking care of our child throughout. It was kind of an odd experience, and I hope it sounds okay. But if it doesn't, don't tell me.

**MS:** Now that you have a daughter who never met your father, what will you tell her about him?

**KS:** We tell her about him all the time, actually. She's only eight months old, but we show her pictures and talk to her about her grandpa. I'm terribly sad she'll never get to meet him and that he never got to meet her, but it's interesting how generations pass themselves along to the next one. When my daughter was around two months old, she went down for a nap one day, having never laughed a day in her life. She woke up from that nap laughing and she's never stopped. My father's name was Isaac, which means *laughter* in Hebrew.

But my father never turned his back on the suffering in life. His childhood was such that he was intimately familiar with it, and yet somehow he always took the side of joy and the side of laughter. That's what I want my daughter to know about him.

**MS:** When will your book come out in paperback, and will you celebrate its release at Shaker Library?

**KS:** It is due for publication in paperback in January, and it would be my pleasure to come to Shaker Library. **SL**



Kathryn Schulz  
and her partner,  
Casey Cep.

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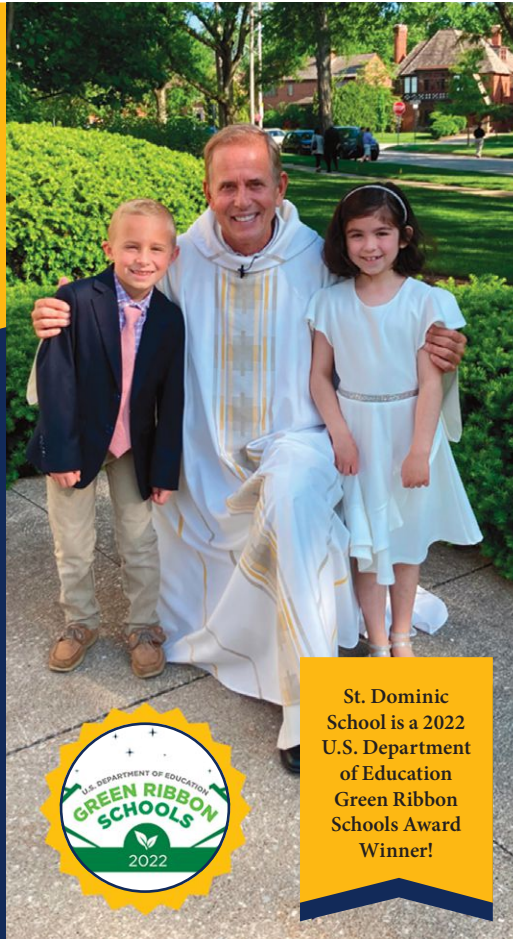
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 **SHAKER HEIGHTS**

# Women Rising:

How to  
ignite the  
political  
power  
of suburban  
women.

By Sharon Holbrook  
Photography by Jason Miller

As from the epicenter of an earthquake, political power is radiating across America from Shaker Heights, from one suburb to the next, from woman to woman. That epicenter is Katie Paris, a Boulevard neighborhood mother of two.







**P**aris is the founder of Red Wine & Blue, a political advocacy group that aims to ignite and multiply the political power of suburban women – particularly in swing states like Ohio.

She started the group after noting the remarkable role of suburban women in swaying the 2018 mid-term election. She saw that suburban women, though a diverse group, seemed to coalesce around some common principles in that election.

This wasn't a novice attempt to enter the political arena. Paris has been a force in politics for more than three decades. Around age 9, she volunteered for her first political campaign. By senior year of high school, she was playing key campaign roles and was credited as a volunteer coordinator for Harvey Gantt's close but unsuccessful bids in the '90s to defeat Senator Jesse Helms in North Carolina.

Before founding Red Wine & Blue, Paris spent decades in Washington, D.C. – and later, working remotely for D.C. organizations from Shaker – building her political chops in a series of powerhouse roles at organizations including Media Matters, a media watchdog organization; Faith in Public Life, a progressive coalition working for social justice; and The American Independent, a progressive news platform.

Then she met her future husband, Jeremy.

"At that point I had never even been to Ohio, but I think probably by the second or third date, I knew that I would one day live in a place called Shaker Heights," laughs Paris. Jeremy attended Shaker schools all the way through high school. His parents, Debby and Zack Paris, still live in the Mercer neighborhood.

Jeremy was convincing. "I loved the sound of it, honestly, even before I'd been here," says Paris. "He talked about this diverse community that really invested in its public schools and valued public education. And that sounded like a great place to raise a family to me. I loved being in D.C. at the time – we both did – but we knew eventually we'd want to raise family around family."

Visits sealed the deal, says Paris. "Once you've been to Shaker Heights a few times, it's hard to not think it would be a good place to settle one day. It just completely reflected my values."

Friends and colleagues, Paris jokes, thought the politics-obsessed couple would never leave D.C. But in 2012, just after the election, the Parises made the move. Ten years later, their roots are deep, and they have a son at Boulevard School and another in preschool. Paris is officially the "suburban woman" that Red Wine & Blue seeks to reach.

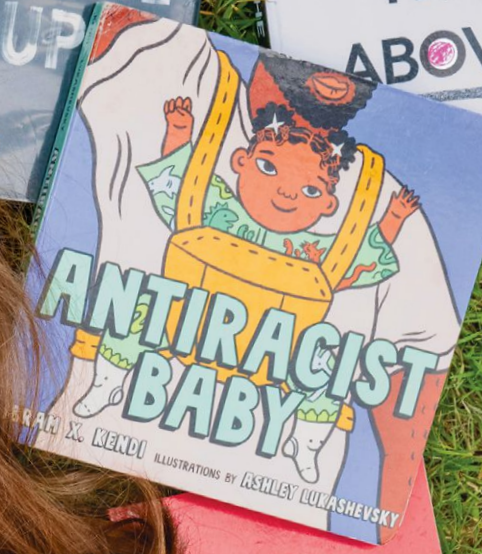


Red Wine & Blue



From top: The BBC filming a piece on the power of Suburban Women 2020; Red Wine & Blue PAC hosts an Ice Cream Social for Nan Whaley for Governor; Red Wine & Blue members at a VINO the Vote party, RW&B's version of an organizing house party.

Cleveland is my Paris



# Mission-Driven Work

That realization after the pivotal 2018 election – that she was herself a suburban woman – was a driving force in Paris’s move to found Red Wine & Blue.

Suburban women are not a monolith, says Paris, but they are connected by a desire both for the community that suburbia offers and for the advantages of living near cities. Relationships are at the center of everything for suburban women, she says. In sharing life experiences, supporting each other, and building connections, they accumulate wisdom about what they want to see from this country and its politicians.

The name comes from not only a patriotic nod to America’s red, white, and blue, but is also a tongue-in-cheek nod to the sociable mood she sees when women gather, even for political purposes. The actual beverage doesn’t matter, Katie says, but there’s always that desire to welcome and connect. It’s more than just business – once again, it’s relationships.

Red Wine & Blue is focused less on particular political positions than following the lead of the women in different communities. The focus may shift somewhat in different places and at different times, but “opposition to extremism” is always a focus. Recently, that means that the women of Red Wine & Blue have been organizing around opposing book bans in school districts and advocating for reproductive rights.

One way to get involved, Paris says, is by signing up for “The Great Troublemaker Turnout,” in which women commit to do more than just vote in the 2022 election. Participants, through a one-hour training and access to ongoing support from Red Wine & Blue, learn how to talk with their friends and others in their social networks about issues and elections.

These resources aren’t just available in Ohio; Red Wine & Blue also has suburban women organizers in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, with plans to add Virginia next year. The national Facebook group, Troublemaker Trainings, and other resources are available anywhere.

Many people vote for the high-profile positions on the ballot, such as governor or senator, but don’t vote “down ballot” for offices such as state supreme court judge or state school superintendent because they feel they don’t know enough about the candidates or the stakes of who fills those positions. This is a way, says Paris, that Troublemakers can be really helpful to people in their networks – by sharing information about those down-ballot elections. Elections matter right down to the local level, and it can often be easier and feel less partisan to discuss those races with family, friends, and acquaintances, she says.

This “relational organizing” is effective, and also easy for busy women to fit into their lives, because they’re already texting and calling friends. There are dozens of Shaker Heights women who are already participating in the Red Wine & Blue Ohio Facebook group – Decanted OH by Red Wine & Blue – and who are signing on to The Great Troublemaker Turnout.

Paris loves connecting with so many women in the community. She and Jeremy chose Shaker for its high-quality, diverse public schools, and she says the sense of community she has found here makes her love it even more.

“It’s amazing to live here. Honestly, Shaker influences me just in terms of the ethos of who I am and to be the person who would start this organization,” says Paris. “In Shaker, you are involved in your community – that is part of the ethic here: We fiercely love our families and our community, and we see those things as a mixture. And so, you know, being a suburban mom in Shaker Heights... for the first time in my life, I feel like what I do professionally is wholly who I am.” **SL**





Empowering Voters  
Defending Democracy  
1911

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LWV LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS

**VOTE  
VOTE**  
LWV LEAGUE  
WOMEN VOTERS

# 102 Years of Engaging Voters, Defending Democracy:

Left to right: Frank Goforth, Joan Savitt, Anne Batzell, Susan Vodrey, Monica Gurbach, Annette Tucker Sutherland, Lynn Lilly, Erin Connell, Vicki Elder, Lynn Roth.



GETTING OUT THE VOTE: Registering and Informing



# The League of Women Voters...

By Sharon Holbrook | Photography by Jason Miller

**One hundred and two years ago**, in February 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, six months before the Constitution's 19th Amendment was actually ratified by the 48 states. Two months later, the Cleveland chapter of the League was formed; its predecessor, the Cuyahoga County Woman's Suffrage Party of Greater Cleveland, was retired. At last, the vote had been won. But how would it be used?

**F**rom its beginning, the League was staunchly nonpartisan, and it would not endorse any candidate. Instead, it would focus on growing the electorate and deeply studying the issues and sharing the results of those studies with voters.

Today, these twin legacies – increasing the number of voters and informing them of the issues – carry on in Shaker Heights. The League of Women Voters of Shaker Heights, which is part of the Greater Cleveland chapter, directs significant attention to voter registration. Volunteers attend public events, especially those that pertain to elections, and offer voter registration documents.

"We will help people understand the document, make sure that they fill it out correctly, and submit it to the Board of Elections. Or people can take them with them and mail them in themselves," says Annette Tucker Sutherland, chair of the Shaker chapter.

In addition, the League helps the public exercise voting rights by distributing information about registration deadlines, election dates, and how to get a vote-by-mail application. One way the League does this, in addition to online and in-person outreach, is by setting up "Voter Info Stations" at most of Shaker's 20 Little Free Libraries and Little Free Pantries.

The stations, which the League has run since 2020, include voter registration forms, vote-by-mail forms, the League's nonpartisan voter guides, and information on

researching and casting the ballot. "It's useful for people with limited internet access, and also just as a prominent reminder about upcoming elections," says Lynn Lilly, former co-chair of communications for the Shaker chapter.

The goal is always more voters. "We're not here to pick a side, whether it's Republican or Democrat or independent," says Monica Gurbach, voter services chair for the Shaker chapter. "We want everyone to exercise their right to vote regardless of political affiliation."

That focus on voter access and the power of each vote is behind the League's opposition to gerrymandering, too. The League was behind a statewide petition to put redistricting reform on the 2018 ballot, a measure which overwhelmingly passed.

"In Ohio, the issue of voter access has gotten very contentious," says Sutherland. "But the League, back to its foundation, has always opposed gerrymandering. So if this were a Democratic state, and it was heavily Democratically gerrymandered, we would still be in opposition to gerrymandered districts."



League of Women Voters of Shaker Heights chair Annette Sutherland (left) and voter services chair Monica Gurbach.

## Understanding Issues

In keeping with its nonpartisan roots, the League still stays away from evaluating or recommending candidates. But the League does study issues and share the information with voters including information both for and against any proposed measure in order to make complete, balanced information available to voters. And the League will often take a position when it comes to issues on the ballot, after a detailed evaluation.

Those topics might be a broad range of issues on the state level, or they might be local issues that affect only Shaker Heights – things such as a proposed change to the Shaker charter, a Library bond vote, or a school levy.

“When there’s an issue on the Shaker ballot, the League will have an ad hoc study committee that looks very carefully at the issue from every angle,” says Sutherland. “And then we will publish a report and vote on whether to endorse the issue.”

Another key way that the League helps to inform voters is through its Observer Corps. Observer Corps volunteers attend local government meetings as representatives of the public to ensure openness in government operations and to document the meetings. The meetings covered by the League in Shaker Heights include the Shaker Heights City Council and its various committees, as well as the Shaker Heights Board of Education and Shaker Library Board of Trustees. Reports are available on the League of Women Voters Shaker Heights chapter’s website.

## Reaching Out

Despite its name and history, men are welcome to join the League. Membership is typically \$65 but operates on a sliding scale and is open to all who are age 16 and up. Members are invited to League meetings, receive regular communications, and are invited to volunteer with the League in whatever way works with their schedule. “People can volunteer for an hour a year or an hour a day,” says Sutherland.

Young people, including students not even old enough to vote, can become part of the League’s Student Corps of high school students who help at events, assist with voter registration, document government meetings, and dig into other projects.

Students who want to take it to the next level can apply for the League’s Legacy Fellowship, in which a student is selected to commit to volunteering and learning over the course of a school year, at the end of which the student earns a \$500 stipend. Applications are typically due each August.

No matter which way people participate, the League is always eager for more members and volunteers. “We’re always looking for new members to help work to defend democracy,” says Sutherland. **SL**

## NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION CHECKLIST

Whether you’re voting in person or by mail for the November 8 General Election, here are some important reminders.

### General Information:

- Election date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
- Polls are open from 6:30 am–7:30 pm.
- Early in-person voting starts October 12 at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Avenue.
- Whether voting in person or by mail, the deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, October 11. Mailed registrations must be postmarked by that date. You may also register in person at any Board of Elections office in the state of Ohio, or online at [boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters)
- Requests for vote-by-mail applications must be received by November 5 at noon. Get applications at [boe.cuyahogacounty.gov](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov). Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 7.
- Polling locations sometimes change. Check your location at [boe.cuyahogacounty.gov](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov) before heading to the polls.

### ID Requirements:

- Ohio Driver License/Ohio Interim Documentation
- State of Ohio or Federal Government photo ID
- Ohio Concealed Weapons ID

The following documents are also accepted; they must show your name, current address, and be dated within 12 months:

- Utility Bill
- Bank Statement
- Government Check
- Payroll Check
- Government Documentation
- Military ID issued by Department of Defense


**Learn more at [boe.cuyahogacounty.gov](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov) or [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). Or call 216-443-VOTE (8683).**



Great  
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# A MODERN FAMILY in a Historic District

This Winslow Road renovation is ideal for the close-knit Ciuni clan and their commitment to family, faith, and food.



By  
Michael Peters  
Photography by  
Kevin G. Reeves



### **One of the most distinctive streets in Shaker Heights**

is almost hidden between Van Aken and Chagrin boulevards. Maybe that has helped Winslow Road, designated as an historic district in 2007, retain its unique character for nearly 100 years.

The plan for Shaker Heights as envisioned by the Van Sweringen brothers was to offer a variety of housing options – apartments, two-family homes, single-family homes – on a variety of lot sizes. Winslow Road was an important piece of this plan, offering exclusively two-family homes that were designed to look like large single-family homes. That character remains today, with most visitors likely unaware that each house is in fact two separate units.

The majority of the houses on Winslow Road were built between 1924 and 1929. As with all Shaker Heights homes, they had to be architect-designed, built in English, French, or Colonial style, and be of high-quality material. Several prominent architects designed homes on Winslow, with George Burrows designing 43 out of 170.





O

ne of these, in a Tudor Revival style, was built in 1928 between Lynnfield and Norwood roads. Situated on the south side of the street, its large double-height leaded glass windows capture the northern light, almost like an artists' studio. This obscures the fact that it is a large three-story house, with one unit on the first floor and the second unit encompassing both the second and third stories.

The first-floor unit has a spacious main bedroom with an en suite bathroom and large walk-in closet. The second unit has a nearly identical layout, with two additional bedrooms and another full bath on the upper, or loft, level. Both units also have a half bath off the dining area.

This was not, however, the layout in 1928. While changes to the floorplan were likely made over the years, by 2017 each level had three small bedrooms and two bathrooms. That was also the year that an electrical fire started on the first floor and burned its way to the roof, opening up a gash in the center of the house.

The house had been in the same family for over 30 years. They made repairs to the roof, but the house remained unoccupied for several years after they put it on the market. The right buyer was elusive.

Fortunately Joe and Mary Jo Ciuni had been looking for a home after downsizing, and Winslow Road was on their wish list. Joe grew up in the area. He and Mary Jo, who grew up in suburban Chicago, settled in Cleveland after attending college in Indiana. Several of Joe's siblings along with his children and grandchildren had also settled in Shaker Heights or the surrounding communities over the years.

Joe also has another long-standing connection to the City: He has been a consulting civil engineer to the Public Works Department since 2008. His father, who is also a civil engineer, was also a consulting engineer for the City starting in the mid-1970s, through an engineering firm where he was a partner. That firm merged with GPD Group of Akron in 2007, where Joe is director of Public Works in the Cleveland office.

Renovating a nearly 100-year-old house gutted by fire may have needed a family of engineers. "Many people told us not to do it," Joe says. But with access to a nationally-recognized office of architects and engineers, along with family members in the building trades, the Ciunis closed on the purchase in January last year.

## Details Matter

Family, religion, and food are the guiding principles of life that Joe's Sicilian grandmother instilled in him from a young age. As they designed the renovation of the house, the Ciunis were able to incorporate all three seamlessly.

One of the motivations for choosing the Winslow Road house was the ability to move Joe's parents closer to the family. After retiring, his parents moved to the East Coast near the ocean, but as they aged the family wanted them nearby. They live on the first floor. Fortunately the homes on Winslow Road were designed to have no more than a step or two up to the front door, allowing for easy access. And with so many family members in the area, the house is a multi-generational gathering place. Mary Jo – a retired childhood educator – has created a play and crafting area in the loft adjacent to the bedrooms where the grandkids can enjoy sleepovers with their grandparents while popping downstairs to visit with their great-grandparents.

The house sits directly across Winslow Road from the Church of St. Dominic, where the Ciunis are parishioners and Mary Jo was on staff before retiring. During the pandemic, St. Dominic's began holding an afternoon outdoor mass on Saturdays. This allows Joe's parents to sit in the front yard for mass.



Back: Mary Jo and Joe Ciuni  
Front: First floor residents  
JoAnne and Steve Ciuni.



And with spacious open-plan kitchens in both units, food for the entire clan can be served and shared in the dining room, in the double-height living room of the upstairs unit (especially while watching a game), or on the expansive rooftop deck.

The deck is one of many creative features built into the house, and one of the most remarkable. As part of the renovation, the old garage, which was in poor repair, had to be taken down as the foundation was waterproofed and other exterior upgrades were completed. In designing the replacement, the Ciunis worked with the City's Board of Zoning Appeals and Architectural Board of Review to create an attached garage with a connecting laundry room (so the senior Ciunis could enter without going outside). The rooftop deck was the master stroke: a maintenance-free back yard that has been moved to the garage roof.





# Details

The new kitchen tile (upper left), door knobs, bathroom tile, and flooring keep true to the home's historical period.





This design created usable space in an area that was otherwise underutilized, providing extra storage and featuring an electric vehicle charger.

Details such as entering the garage directly from the house, wider doors on the lower level to potentially accommodate a wheel chair, and a low maintenance yard were intentional: They will allow the Ciunis to age in place. However, all of the upgrades were integrated into a home that retains its historic character. The Ciunis knew they wanted a combination of an architecturally distinctive house but with modern amenities. The house they found, still gutted on the interior from the fire, provided them with a blank slate for the interior, while the exterior remained true to its original appearance.

Mary Jo, who grew up in the architecturally-rich Chicago suburb of Oak Park – the location of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio – explains, “We wanted to be true to the history of the house and the neighborhood.” This can be seen through the color choices, the custom iron railing for the staircase up to the loft, and even to the choices for the door handles.



The rooftop deck was a masterstroke.



As with any Shaker Heights renovation there were a few surprises along the way. Early in the demolition process they discovered a small powder room on the first floor that had been walled over. The price of lumber skyrocketed so they built the garage with metal studs – which are typically more expensive than wood but suddenly became the more economical choice. And, because this was happening in the midst of a pandemic, there were supply chain delays with the windows.

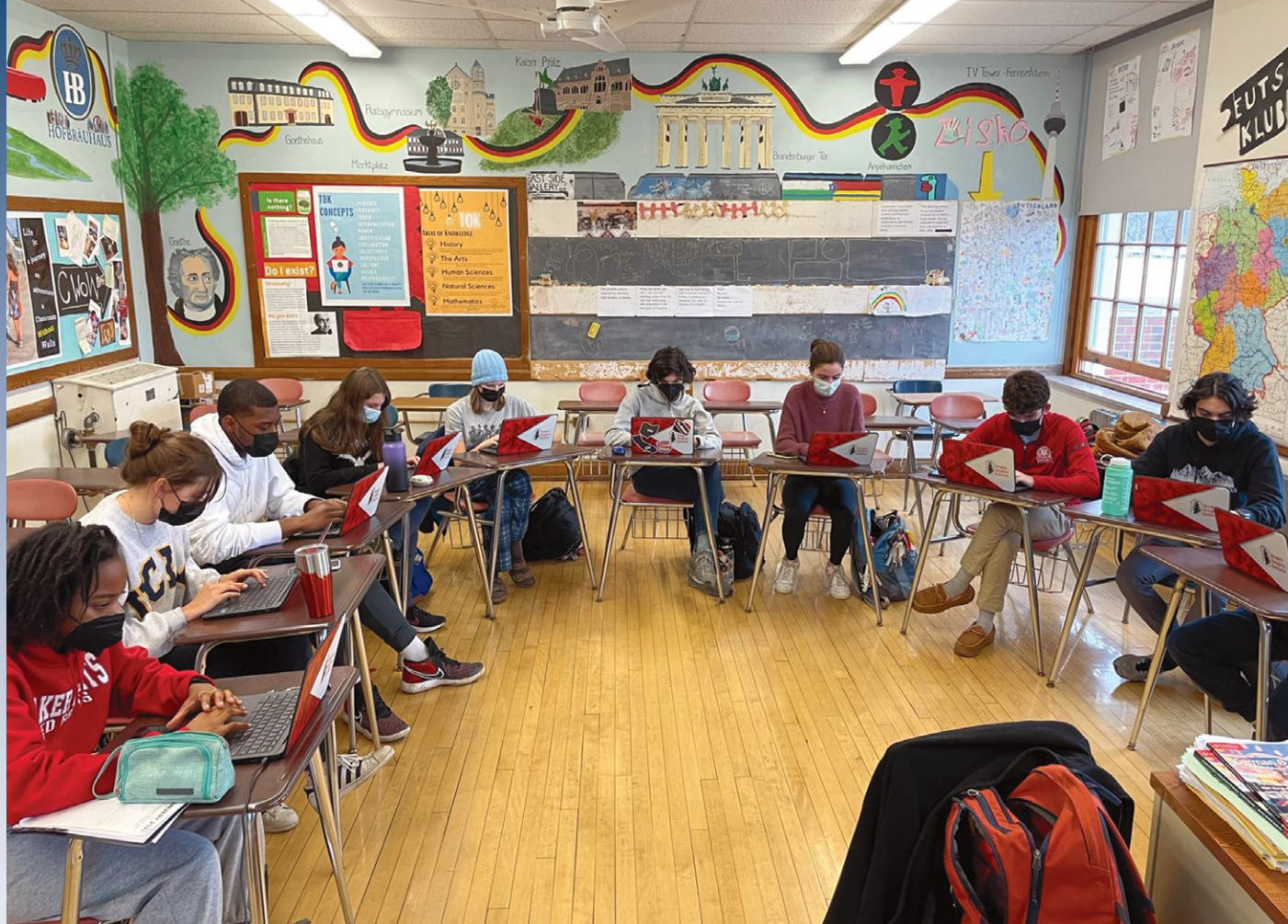
Given all of this, it is all the more remarkable that the Ciunis moved in 11 months after they closed on the purchase. While a few small items remain, the renovation demonstrates that an historic house, in an historic district, can be modernized to provide the perfect place for another hundred years of faith, family, and food. **SL**

# The Wondrous Life of Max Reiner

Shaker students in advanced German are translating the memoir of an eyewitness to some of the most significant cultural and political events of the 20th century.

By Scott Stephens  
Photography by Gus Chan





## Max Reiner had a front-row seat to history.

Some 100 years later, Shaker Heights High School students have pulled up a chair beside him.

Reiner, an important but little-known Jewish-German journalist who lived and worked in Berlin, wrote extensively about his experiences in pre-World War II Germany from 1904 until 1938 when he, his wife, and foster daughter escaped to Palestine. His memoir, which vividly describes life leading up to the pogroms and the Nazis seizing power, has fairly much languished in the dustbin of history, untranslated from German and largely forgotten.

Until now.

For the past 18 months, Shaker students in advanced German classes at the High School have been translating Reiner's 254-page memoir as a part of a two-year project for the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Entering the 2022-2023 school year, the students have 50 completed pages, with another 100 nearing completion.

The unique assignment came about after Joseph Reiner Bialock, a nephew of Reiner and a board member of the Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) of Cleveland, asked if anyone knew of a reasonably fast translating service that could work on his great-uncle's memoir. JFSA received a copy of the memoir from the Holocaust Museum, where it has been in the permanent collection since 2015.



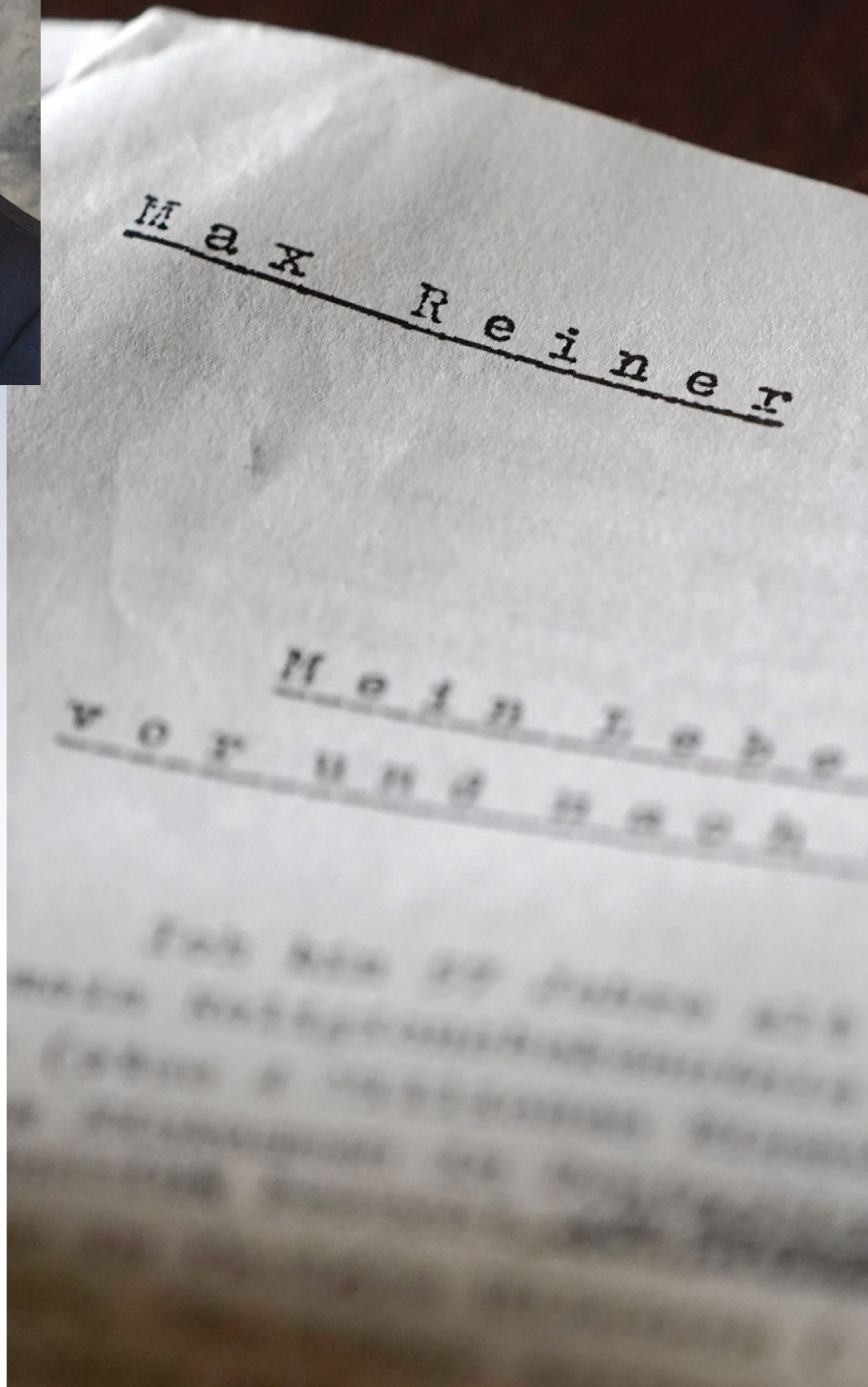
Eric Juli

Susan Bichsel, president and CEO of the JFSA of Cleveland, happened to be a Shaker Heights resident with a daughter in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at the High School. Knowing that IB is grounded in critical thinking skills, inquiry, teamwork, and community service, she reached out to Shaker Heights High School Principal Eric Juli with a proposal: the Holocaust Museum, it seemed, was overwhelmed by translation projects. German translation services, in particular, are in short supply in the United States. Could Shaker students studying German help?

"I was aware that kids are looking for various projects to attach themselves to and thought this would be a great one for maybe someone in the German program," Bichsel says.

Juli, whose grandparents were Holocaust survivors, jumped at the chance. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

"It's projects like this that give our students an opportunity to learn by doing," he says. "Our students can connect with history while doing something meaningful for the community."



## Colloquialisms and Nuances

German teachers Andrea Bradd Cook and Keith Szalay, pictured right, were equally enthusiastic. Reiner was an eyewitness to some of the most significant cultural and political events of the 20th century. Translating his memoir provided their students with college-level courses in language, political science, history, geography, the arts, and other academic disciplines.

"We are learning things I didn't know about life back then," Bradd Cook says. "I'm a lifelong learner. This has been a gift I didn't know I was getting."

Working in teams, the students translate sections of the memoir and turn them over to Bradd Cook and Szalay, who refine the translations and ask additional questions. The teams also add links for additional information about events and personalities mentioned in the text. The biggest challenge: colloquial language and nuances that can, a century later, confuse and confound even the most advanced German student.

"It's 100 years old," Szalay says. "We come across things that don't exist anymore in the language."

Adds Bradd Cook: "It's given me a new-found appreciation for the skill of translating. You can know the language, but not know how to translate it."

Part of the appeal of the project was the richness of Reiner's story. Originally from Czernowitz (now part of Ukraine) and Vienna, Reiner describes with arresting prose his experience in Austria and Germany prior to his emigration to Jerusalem. In his text, Reiner describes his impressions of turn-of-the century Czernowitz, which was then part of Austria-Hungary, his move to Vienna to begin his career as a journalist, his move to Berlin at the age of 23, his





subsequent career with the Ullstein publishing house, his service in the army during World War I, and his eventual return to Berlin.

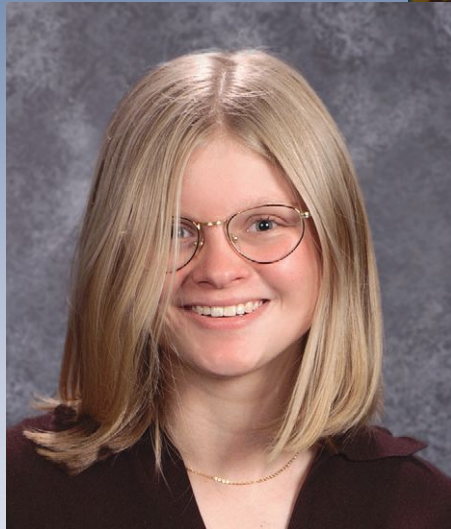
Reiner provides detailed descriptions of key events and personalities of the Weimar Republic, including political figures such as Stresemann, Ebert, Rathenau, and Wirth, as well as cultural figures such as Max Reinhardt and others in the musical and theatrical circles of Berlin, a cultural hothouse during the first half of the 20th century.

Reiner was a guy who knew how to live: He once had a 24-hour game of spades with the legendary composer Richard Wagner, and dined with Felix Salten, the author of *Bambi*, a book intended as a parable of the dangers and persecution faced by Jews in Europe.

"He was an arts critic for much of his career, but for the first part of his life he was really into politics," Szalay says. "The breadth of the history he covers is amazing."

More harrowing is his account of the impact that the Nazi takeover of power had on him, the growing anti-Semitic measures, increasing censorship of his work, his expulsion from Ullstein and finally Kristallnacht – a two-day blitz in which the Nazis torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools, and businesses, and killed close to 100 Jews. In the aftermath of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass," some 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to Nazi concentration camps.

After fleeing to Palestine, Reiner wrote his text, titled "My Life in Germany," in response to a project at Harvard University in 1940 seeking autobiographical texts from German and Austrian emigres. He received British citizenship there in 1941 and died three years later.



Aggie Augustine



## Witnesses to History

Reading and translating the drama that was Reiner's life had an impact on the Shaker students. Aggie Augustine, who graduated last June, says she is grateful for the opportunity the translation project afforded her and other students. She worked on the translation as part of the IB CAS (creativity, activity, and service) Project, in which IB learners are asked to demonstrate engagement in all three areas.

"The work was certainly daunting, but the chance to help legitimize a piece of German history was an honor," she says. "When the process of translation began, it was clear that Reiner had fascinating experiences in early 20th-century Germany, and I felt that my understanding of a more conversational level of German increased greatly.

"Obviously the project was an opportunity to improve our relationship with the German language, but Reiner's memoir also served as a personal connection to some of the darker periods of German history, especially considering his Jewish identity," she says. "The first-hand account of both German life and the rise of fascism developed my understanding of history and the pervasiveness of prejudice."

To augment the translation project, German students at the High School have had the opportunity to participate in several discussions with first-person witnesses to history. In March 2021, the students had the chance to meet Bialock via Zoom. During the call, the students also had the opportunity to hear from Erika Gold, a Holocaust survivor who serves on the JFSA Holocaust Survivor Program's advisory committee.

Gold shared her own story and provided historical context for students. Last February, the students met with the Kol Israel Foundation members and Steve Wertheim, a family member of a Holocaust survivor who shared his father's story.

Once the project is completed, the translated work will be presented to Max Reiner's family and to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Bradd Cook and Szalay hope the project doesn't end there. They would like to see their colleagues consider translation projects in other languages, as well as a translation class, so that others can enjoy the learning experience they and their students benefited from.

"We don't plan to stop here," Szalay says. "It feels like we're working on something really important. It's a unique style of learning."

*Scott Stephens is executive director of communications and engagement for the Shaker Heights City School District. **SL***



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 [City of Shaker Heights](https://www.youtube.com/CityofShakerHeights)

 SHAKER HEIGHTS

A man with a goatee, wearing a purple dress shirt and a patterned tie, is smiling and holding a Wilson NFL football. He is standing on a grassy field with a blue sky and clouds in the background. A green pole is visible on the right side of the frame. In the top left corner, there is a red box with a white leaf-like graphic and the text "Work. Live." in white.

Work.  
Live.

# For Tackling a New Career, Shaker was the Place

By Jennifer Proe  
Photography by Jason Miller



**Who:** Terry M. Billups, Esq.

**Where:** Mercer

**Business:** Billups Law, LLC. We provide a full range of legal and investigative services, focusing particularly on labor and employment matters, K-12 and higher education, school law matters, contract negotiations and disputes, litigation under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, and workplace investigations.

**Mission:** To provide my clients with excellent legal advice and services by carefully listening to them, understanding their situation and concerns, and working diligently towards achieving their stated goals, all while keeping them informed and educated about the process along the way.

**What I Love About My Work:** I love the ever-changing nature of the law, and the mystery and challenges that arise with each new legal issue that I face. No two days are alike, and each legal issue has its own unique set of facts with many twists and turns.

**Personal Background:** I'm a military brat. I was born on a U.S. military base in Wiesbaden, Germany, while my father was stationed overseas in the Air Force. We moved back to the States while I was still a toddler, and I grew up mainly in Orlando, Florida, where I graduated from high school.

I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a full athletic scholarship, where I played football and ran track for the Tar Heels. After graduating UNC with a Communications degree, I played professional football in the NFL for the New England Patriots, the Miami Dolphins, and the Dallas Cowboys. I also played in the inaugural season of the XFL for the World Champion Los Angeles Xtreme.

Upon retiring from professional football, I already knew exactly what I wanted to do. Ever since I was 9 years old, I wanted to be a lawyer or a judge. So, I went to law school and graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University. Before starting up my own legal practice, I served as the Chief Legal Counsel & Corporate Secretary at Ursuline College.

My wife and I currently have two children attending Mercer Elementary School – Isabelle (3rd grade) and Lincoln (kindergarten).

**On Working and Living in Shaker Heights:** I've now lived in Shaker Heights for 15 years. What drew us to this community is its rich diversity racially, culturally, and socioeconomically, and the wonderful and friendly people and neighbors that make Shaker Heights one of the best places to live in Northeast Ohio. My office is located at home, so most days I'm able to roll right out of bed and begin work without even stepping off my property except when I'm in court or taking in-person depositions. The amount of time and money I save from not having to commute back and forth to work on a daily basis is invaluable. You simply can't beat that.

My favorite place to shop and eat is the Van Aken District. As a family, we often walk to Mitchell's during the summer to get ice cream, and the kids love playing on the big rock.

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## Scene in Shaker

# Ice Skating at *30 Miles an Hour*

By Sue Starrett

On the afternoon of Ryan Shane's Shaker Heights High School 2022 graduation, his life changed in still another significant way: the U.S. Short Track Speed Skating National Training Program publicly announced that he had been named to its 15-member team.

Ryan grew up on Manchester Road with his older sister Hannah and their parents, Lynn Schneider and Scott Shane. The siblings took figure skating at Thornton Park and the Cleveland Skating Club, but figure skating didn't appeal to him. So he took up speed skating at the Cleveland Heights Speed Skating Club and, later, at Lakewood's club.

From the first day, Ryan knew he loved speed skating. "But it took me a long time to be any good. I worked up from the bottom and often was last in competitions. But I turned disappointment into motivation," he says.

The step between local clubs and the national team is the Facilitated Athlete Sport Training (FAST) Development Team, which uses the rink and facilities from the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Utah is a mecca for serious speed skaters, and Shane spent the summer of 2019 there. In 2020, the Utah FAST team accepted him because of his talent, drive, and attitude.



Photo by Stephen Cutri

This coincided with the pandemic shutdown, which shifted his junior year classes online. Thanks to an agreement with his school counselor, he also completed his senior year online. At the same time, he had a breakout season, winning two U.S. junior championships.

Now he is taking a gap year, because the next 18 months are crucial to his advancement. He plans to enroll at the University of Utah in 2023.

During his breaks every April, Ryan returns home to see his family. He also makes time to coach members of the Cleveland Heights Speed Skating Club. The rest of the year, he sees his dad during ski season and both parents at his major competitions.

Short track speed skating was accepted for competition for the first time at the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France. It uses a 111-meter oval track, on which groups of four to seven skaters compete at speeds up to 30 miles an hour. In addition to speed, skaters practice strategy, passing, positioning, and blocking.

Their training is mentally and physically rigorous. Doing so at 4,300 feet above sea level in Salt Lake City adds to the challenge, but strengthens the lungs and makes the cardiovascular system more efficient. Six days a week, Ryan devotes 30 to 40 hours to activities both on and off the ice. Half the time



Photo courtesy US Speedskating

he runs, bikes, lifts weights, and participates in technique sessions; the remaining hours are on the ice.

His ultimate goal is to qualify for the 2026 Milan Winter Olympics. His intermediate goals include making the World Cup and Four Continents competitive speed skating teams and winning their championships, and, early next year, becoming the junior short track world champion in Dresden.

Ryan credits experiences from his childhood with shaping his attitude. A swimming coach taught him the value of fair play and how to be coachable. "Growing up in Shaker's diverse community helps me interact with and make friends with people from all over the world."

Speed skating is an expensive pursuit, and Ryan is grateful to his sponsors, Filip & Co. Watches and Kaulig Companies, both of which have Northeast Ohio connections.

For more information, visit [ryansshane.com](http://ryansshane.com) **SL**

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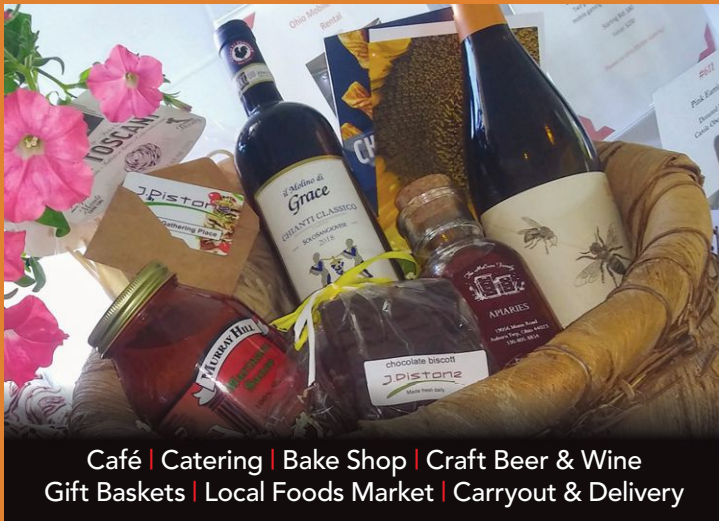
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journalist who has lived in Paris, Santa Fe, and New York City, he arrived in July 2020 via the suggestion of a fellow resident. He's been delighted ever since.

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