

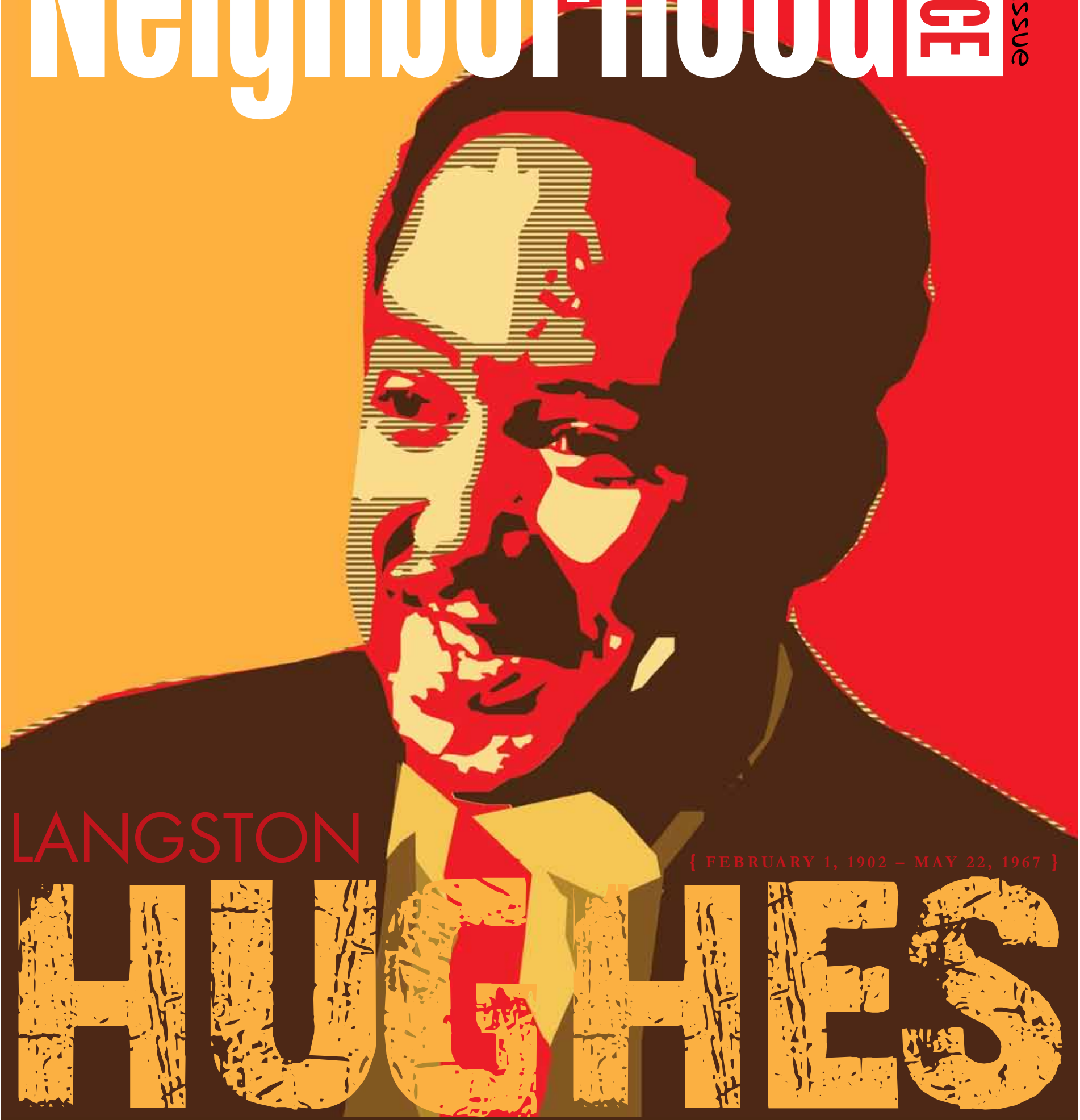
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Neighborhood VOICE

arts issue



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Neighborhood VOICE

arts issue



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Landscape of Greater University Circle atop the W.O. Walker Building at 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN TRAVARCA

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Mission

To inform, inspire and provide a forum for all residents, organizations and businesses in Greater University Circle through relevant, quality print and online media.

Vision

To create educational opportunities for local journalism students and resident writers by cultivating their editorial and entrepreneurial skills.

Submit Letters to the Editor at www.neighborhood-voice.com

Contributors



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Marita Sanders
Is a Buckeye-Shaker-based hairstylist who offers tips on maintaining beautiful hair during and after aerobic exercise (page 3).

Business: Money Matters



The Advantage Claim the Earned Income Tax Credit by April 15th

By Stephanie Turner
NV contributing writer

For many Americans, tax time arouses a sense of fear. This is often caused when people do not know whether they will owe the IRS or receive a refund. But knowing that they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can alleviate such anxiety.

The EITC is a federal income tax credit, which returns money to hardworking Americans who earn low or moderate incomes. Although annually, up to 25 percent of eligible households forego EITC benefits, to which they are entitled, possibly because they are unaware of this law.

If you qualify for the EITC for tax year 2010, you may be eligible to receive between \$457 and \$5,666.

The tax credit is calculated according to the number of qualifying children you have, compared to your "earned income." That means, at the low end, single taxpayers earning less than \$13,460 with no qualifying children

could receive \$457. Married taxpayers who file jointly, and who earn less than \$48,362 with three or more qualifying children would land somewhere in the middle of this scale.

However, your child only qualifies if he or she meets four tests, which are based on the following:

1. Their relationship to you
2. Their age
3. Where they live
4. If parents file a joint return or not.

A tax preparer can help you understand these requirements and determine if your child is considered a "qualifying child."

But to claim the EITC, you must first file an income tax return. The good news is that, in many communities, you can obtain free assistance in filing your tax return and learn if you are eligible for the EITC.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., KeyBank will offer its "Super Refund Saturday," a free tax preparation event in conjunction with Cleveland Housing Network, the United Way, the federal government's EITC coalition and St. Ignatius High School.

To miss an opportunity to receive EITC benefits, which you are entitled to receive, is similar to

leaving free money on the table. Therefore, if you're eligible, be sure to claim this injection of cash and make tax season brighter this year.

No matter where you decide to have your taxes prepared, be sure to bring these important documents with you:

- **W-2 Forms (reporting full-time wages)**
- **1099 Forms (reporting part-time work and interest income)**
- **Unemployment forms**
- **Proof of child care payments**
- **Social Security card for yourself and each dependent**
- **Other IRS forms as appropriate**
- **Bank account information**
- **Valid photo ID**
- **Previous year's tax return**

To make a Super Refund Saturday appointment call (216) 881-8443.

Community News

Bigger Books on Larchmere

Mural competition aimed at community involvement

By Sam Allard
NV online editor

By the summer of 2011, the eastern wall of Loganberry Books will become Cleveland's tallest and fattest bookshelf.

Well, sort of, though you won't be able to read the giant books which comprise Gene Epstein's winning proposal in the Larchmere Boulevard Mural Project. That's not the point.

"It's going to symbolize this unique district and, in particular, Loganberry books," said Lee Chilcote, of Shaker Square Area Development Corporation (SHAD). "This business has been a mainstay on Larchmere for a long time and has really contributed to the success of the area. The mural is going to be very dramatic and iconic."

Epstein is a musician, visual artist and exhibit designer whose mural concept was selected from a pool of 13 other local artists' applications. Her proposal was distinguished for its bold interpretation of the project's theme – "reading, books and literacy" – and for its involvement of community members and area youth.

"Gene is envisioning a 'my favorite book' nomination process where local merchants, residents and students can submit their favorite books for consideration," said Chilcote. "We want these books to represent the community, and people are really excited by that idea."

According to Chilcote, the mural will be printed (instead of painted). "It's the same high-quality, vivid look that you see on the Cleveland Museum of Art's banners for new exhibits," he said.

Each book's print will be constructed individually and then mounted on a substrate platform, which will then be mounted on Loganberry's wall. The medium guarantees that the design won't fade for at least seven to 10 years.

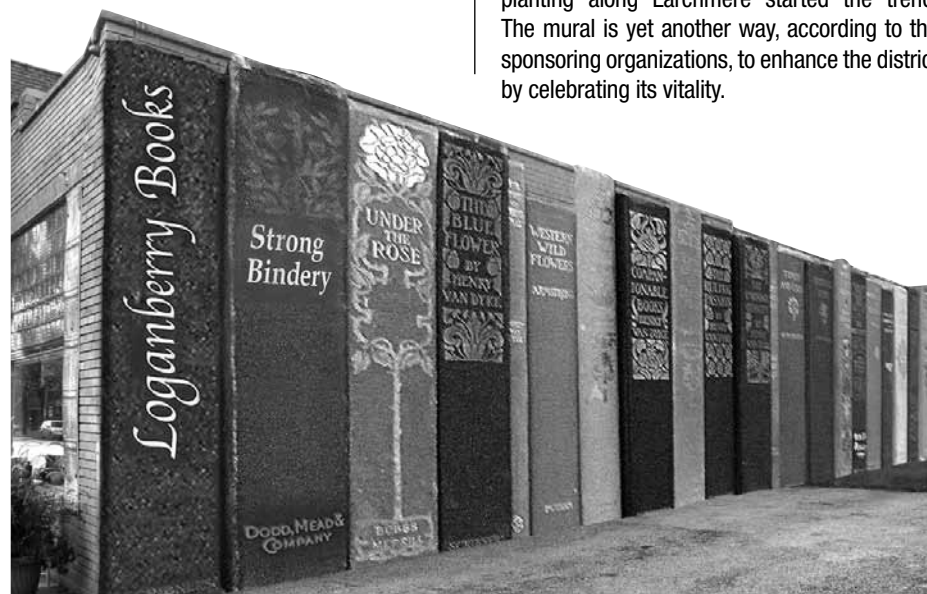


Image courtesy of Gene Epstein

A built-in budget of \$14,000 is at Epstein's disposal for materials and installation. The mural is expected to be completed no later than August, 2011.

Loganberry Books owner Harriett Logan is happy to see the mural go up on the east side of her establishment, but she doesn't get any special treatment in terms of title selection.

"I get the same say as any other resident," she said. "I just hope there's a nice mix of genre, a mix of ages, and some new and some out of print titles."

The mural project follows a series of beautification efforts in the Shaker Square area. Last year, the Knitscape project and tree planting along Larchmere started the trend. The mural is yet another way, according to the sponsoring organizations, to enhance the district by celebrating its vitality.

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Health & Beauty

New Year's Resolution No. 1

Stay in shape while maintaining great hair

By Marita Sanders
MV contributing writer

Are you one of many women who fear going to the gym because of your hair? Or do you struggle to maintain your hairstyle while staying fit?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, do not feel embarrassed. Just know that heart disease and diabetes are the leading causes of death among women today. That's why it is important not to let the fear of a "bad hair day" scare you away from the gym.

Here I will provide tips on how to maintain a "fly" hairstyle between salon visits that will save time, money and improve your health.

If your hair is relaxed, consider styles with definitive shapes such as chin-length bobs, long-layered or short pixie cuts. These particular styles retain their shape long after a strenuous workout.

PIXIE CUT

If you are wearing a short pixie cut, mold your hair flat to your head. Use a ventilated mesh wrap and tie a head-band (e.g., silk or satin scarf) around the hairline to absorb sweat.

Post-workout: Remove the scarf and leave on mesh wrap. Use a hair dryer (adjust temperature to cool). Then remove mesh wrap and apply a light pomade. To add finishing touches, style with fingers.

Note: Use of a flat iron is only recommended when absolutely necessary.

LONG LAYERS AND BOBS

With long layers and bobs, you should begin by using a paddle brush to wrap the hair. Start from the crown (center) and wrap hair around the entire head. To add volume, place six magnetic rollers in crown, and wrap remaining hair. Tie a head-band (e.g., silk or satin scarf) around the hairline to absorb sweat.

Post-workout: If you are wearing rollers or a scarf, remove both, and comb hair down with a wide-tooth comb. Apply a small amount of gloss to hair for shine.

NATURAL HAIR

If you wear your hair natural, possibly consider styles that compliment your natural texture. If your hair is curly, styles such as two-strand twists, braids or locks, are ideal. These styles

require less maintenance and are long lasting. When exercising, use a hair-band to pull your hair back into a loose pony tail. Then place a *head-band* around your hairline to absorb sweat.

Post-work out: Remove hair-band and loosen ponytail.

Marita Sanders is the beauty expert at Luxe Hair Studio located at 12011 Buckeye Rd. For additional beauty tips or questions, please call (216) 751-8835.



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Community News

Spotlight On:
Men of Central

By Sam Allard
NV online editor

Though there may be a shortage of positive male influences in the Central neighborhood, there are certainly a few courageous men working overtime to compensate.

In our last issue, we featured James Upshaw and his youth leadership program at Marion Sterling. This month, we honor a similar organization: the Men of Central.

Jerome Baker, in collaboration with Demetrius Smiley and Larry Wanzo, founded the grassroots community organization in 2006 specifically because of the lack of positive role models in the lives of his community's youth.

The Men of Central has now taken the shape of an afterschool/weekend mentoring program for boys between the ages of 8-15; Baker and his small team have implemented programs for tutoring, arts, recreation, hygiene, health awareness, and education about Central's rich history.

They run their programs out of the Lonnie Burten Recreation Center and the Central Recreation Center and see anywhere between 10-35 students at each facility every week.

Though the Men of Central's influence is already significant, Baker was thrilled in 2010 when his organization expanded. The Women of Central began programming in late October with four dynamic female mentors.

Baker says that this year, his organization will be more active in its recruiting methods, going into neighborhood schools to talk to students and encourage involvement.

Another goal is teaching youth writing skills through a community newsletter. (The *Neighborhood Voice* is especially interested in this element of the program.) Along with a website, the newsletter will continue to update residents about the organization's events and neighborhood news.

Baker acknowledges that Central has a lot of problems. In particular, he hates to see conflict among the neighborhood's youth.

"The kids who live down at 30th don't necessarily get along with the kids who live at 40th," Baker says. "That's why right now, we're running our programs out of Lonnie Burten and Central Rec."

But that's a trend that Baker wants to buck. He hopes that through the organization's activities and events, the youth of the neighborhood will not only have an outlet for safer, healthier after school alternatives; they'll learn to interact productively with their neighbors.

After all, a place called Central can't be divided.

Arts

Art Attack
Despite cuts, local nonprofits fight for arts education

By Ami Rizek
NV graphic designer and contributing writer

Since the passing of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001, America has seen a dramatic cut in public education funding. Not surprisingly, programs in art and music education have been the first to go – especially in Cleveland.

School officials' lust for higher scores on standardized tests has accelerated the push for academic excellence in math, science and reading. Given that American students score lower than their global counterparts, changes in the public education system were an obvious necessity. But the assumption that the arts are not as important to a child's intellectual capital as math and science is severely misguided.

Research has shown the benefits of the arts on student achievement in reading, communication, math and social skills.

In the 2007 book *"Studio Thinking,"* a team of researchers sought to determine the benefits of visual arts education. They concluded that high school students who were enrolled in art classes developed a specific set of thinking skills that standardized curricula do not inherently nurture.

"There is no right or wrong in the arts, so it gives some children a chance to develop and explore," says Stacy Goldberg of the Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, an arts nonprofit. "It allows them to take risks in a way that may not be possible otherwise."

Indeed, another study by arts advocate and research psychologist Jessica Hoffmann Davis argues that "the arts, like no other subject, give children the opportunity to shape and communicate their feelings."

Furthermore, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, released data which shows the relationship between the arts and standardized testing. It revealed that high school students who have taken art classes have scored better math and verbal SAT scores than students who have not taken any art classes.

In Cleveland, organizations are hard at work to integrate arts education in public schools. Progressive Arts Alliance (PAA), one of Northeast Ohio's most prominent arts nonprofits, tries to incorporate engaging arts activities like printmaking, web design, animation, hip-hop and filmmaking into students' daily curriculum.

The benefits are widespread, according to PAA Executive Director Santina Protopapa.

"There's been a lot of examples where teachers will tell us there was someone who never spoke up in front of class and wasn't very excited about coming to school," she says. "Then, for example, this past spring we did an architecture project at [George Washington] Carver, and

there was a boy who suddenly was excited to come to class and started drawing. He figured out he was into art and started becoming more engaged in school."

The benefits can be seen outside the classroom as well. As Protopapa points out, "It helps develop self-esteem, leadership skills, attention to detail, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving skills."



But, she says, the arts also teach people about things that are different from themselves. "It helps build an appreciation for diversity and different voices and opinions."

That's something with which Stacy Goldberg can certainly empathize. She understands that schools have to focus on teaching test preparation, however, "the arts help students think creatively and develop as global citizens, and that is something we need to compete in the world economy."

Maybe school administrators ought to go back to the drawing board.

Health
Art Therapy

By Tamara Shella
NV contributing writer

When I tell people that I am an art therapist, a common response is "Oh that sounds like fun."

While art therapy is certainly a rewarding and enjoyable profession, it is more than "arts and crafts time." First, you are required to hold a Masters of Art Therapy degree from an accredited institution. Second, art therapy is a mental health profession, which uses artwork to facilitate emotional growth and change. This can be done with people of all ages, in groups and individual sessions.

Art therapy has been part of the Cleveland Clinic health system for more than 10 years. It was originally based within the psychiatric units at Lutheran Hospital. But with the advent of the Arts & Medicine Institute at the Clinic, this program has expanded into the medical units at its main campus.

Our most successful art therapy programs are in the Heart & Vascular Institute. We began the "Art for the Heart" group two years ago to help patients cope while awaiting heart transplant surgery.

Patients who are in the hospital for long periods of time face a myriad of difficulties. Some feel as though they have no control over their daily lives. So art gives them an opportunity to work

at their own pace, to have control over the art process and make active choices. With the assistance of the art therapist, patients can process emotional issues and experience personal growth.

Patients, however, are not the only people who can benefit from art therapy. The Arts & Medicine Institute offers weekly sessions at the 360-5 wellness store at the Clinic's main campus for visitors and hospital employees. These sessions provide an opportunity for stress reduction, creative expression, and yes, even a little bit of fun!



Tamara Shella is the art therapy program manager at the Arts & Medicine Institute at Cleveland Clinic

Photo by Tamara Shella



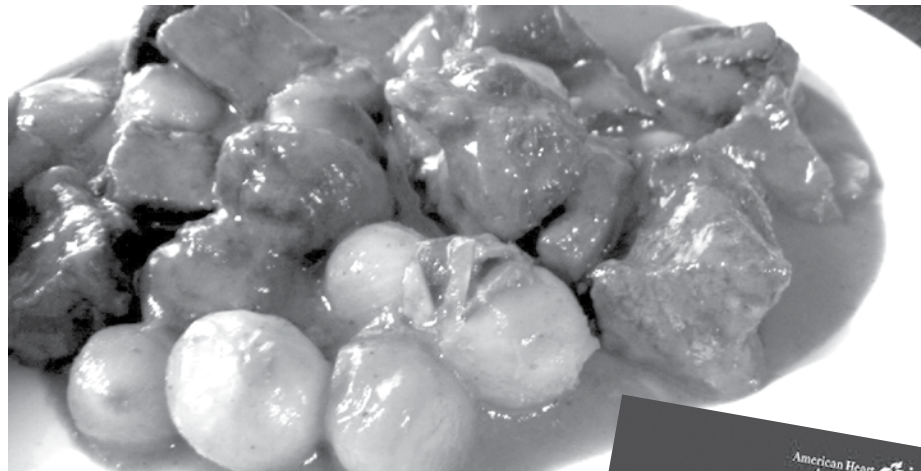
Health

RECIPE

Beef Bourguignon

INGREDIENTS

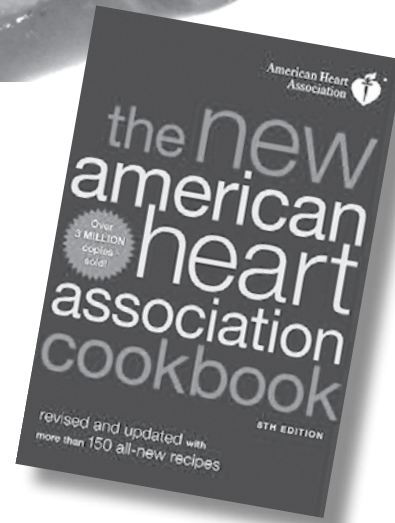
- 5 Medium onions, sliced
- 4 Tablespoons of oil
- 2 Pounds of lean beef, (cut into 1-inch cubes)
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons of flour
- 1/4 Teaspoon marjoram
- 1/4 Teaspoon thyme
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 Cup of beef broth
- 1 Cup of dry red wine
- 1/2 Pound of fresh mushrooms, sliced



DIRECTIONS

1. In a heavy skillet, cook onions in the oil until tender. Then move them to another dish.
2. In the same pan, saute beef cubes until browned. Sprinkle with flour and seasonings.
3. Add broth and wine. Stir well and simmer slowly for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Add more broth and wine (1 part stock to 2 parts wine) as necessary to keep beef barely covered.
4. Return onions to the stove, add mushrooms and cook, stirring 30 minutes longer, adding more broth and wine if necessary. Sauce should be thick and dark brown.

Serves: 8 Calories per serving: 375



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Arts
Changing Worldviews

By Angel Moss-Parkham
NV general assignment reporter

Artist Larry Tinsley likes to crack jokes.

One joke in particular is that he can recreate everything inside the Cleveland Museum of Art.

“Yeah, I say that all the time,” says Tinsley. “The only thing is that when you say something like that, some will take you up on it and if you can’t produce that’s one thing. But if you can, it’s another thing.”

Luckily, Tinsley never had this problem. Art has always been something he could do well.

Now at age 55, he teaches drawing to seniors at the Helen S. Brown Senior Center in East Cleveland. His portrait classes deal with the five senses of perception, which incorporate edges, spaces and relationships to light and shadow.

“If you were going to draw a vase and work with the lines,” he says, “the shape of the vase is developed

by negative and positive space around it. So I try to get my students to understand the logic behind art.”

In 1998, Tinsley graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, where he originally set out to become an illustrator, but later changed his major to graphic design. Soon after graduation, he was offered a job as a storyboard artist in New York City, turned it down and started work in Pittsburgh.

There, Tinsley worked as an art director for Images Fine Art Gallery, and an artist at the Wayne Glenn Arts Studio.

Eventually, he returned home to Cleveland where he has developed a strong reputation for the quality and speed of his artistry.

“Fast art gets to the point,” says Tinsley. “In my mind, it’s getting the job done. So if someone says, ‘I need a portrait right now,’ I can do it.”

What’s the downside?

“Well,” he says, “painting fast is not really...well, I always say it like this: I think it’s about how well it is done and not how long it takes.”



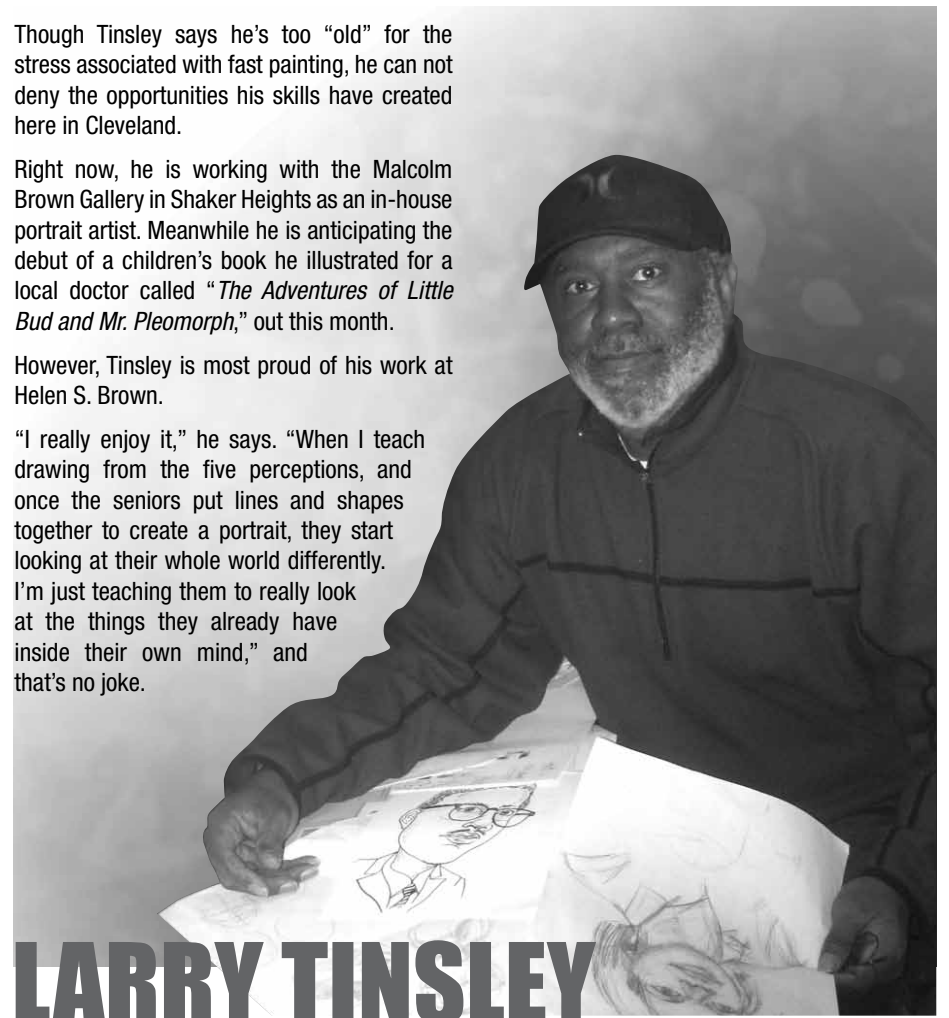
Tinsley’s “Rejoice Bride”

Though Tinsley says he’s too “old” for the stress associated with fast painting, he can not deny the opportunities his skills have created here in Cleveland.

Right now, he is working with the Malcolm Brown Gallery in Shaker Heights as an in-house portrait artist. Meanwhile he is anticipating the debut of a children’s book he illustrated for a local doctor called “*The Adventures of Little Bud and Mr. Pleomorph*,” out this month.

However, Tinsley is most proud of his work at Helen S. Brown.

“I really enjoy it,” he says. “When I teach drawing from the five perceptions, and once the seniors put lines and shapes together to create a portrait, they start looking at their whole world differently. I’m just teaching them to really look at the things they already have inside their own mind,” and that’s no joke.



LARRY TINSLEY

Uncovering Ed Parker’s Snickerfritz Gallery

By Courtney L. Green
NV contributing writer

Last month, I met artist and Snickerfritz art gallery owner Edward E. Parker.

I have many questions about him and the gallery. For one, I notice that Snickerfritz offers more than just art. There are many services such as event planning, a hair salon, a bed and breakfast, apartment, office and class rental space and murals.

Why so many services? I ask. “We need more,” says Parker, as though to imply that what he has is still not enough.

Born and reared in Pittsburgh, Parker moved to Cleveland in 1966, a year after he graduated from Central State University in Wilberforce, OH. Though he’d traveled to Chicago and California, he decided on Cleveland because of its art museum.

After settling on Cleveland, he then chose to move East of the City. Parker remembers people asking him “Why East Cleveland? That’s a bad choice.”

“At the time, East Cleveland was different,” Parker says. The people who criticized his decision to move there, he says, “didn’t see the vision I saw when driving down the street.”

That vision was more intuitive than anything else. For example, the address at Snickerfritz – 13240 Euclid Ave. – added up to the number 10, a special number for the artist.

Snickerfritz, derived from Parker’s childhood nickname, has sat on the corner of Rosalind and Euclid Avenues for 28 years. Although retired, Parker continues to teach art classes. Last year, his students assisted him in painting murals on the garages of his bed and breakfast

properties. He also placed pillars on the outside of Rosalind, he says, to represent the start of a historical district.

Back inside Snickerfritz, the art pieces that stand out to me are the sculptures. Parker created a life-sized statue of Chicken George, the character in Alex Haley’s seminal book “*Roots: The Saga of an American Family*.”

But Parker is now working on a religion series. “I’m a faith artist,” he says, “I pray about the art.” Sometimes, Parker says, he will even stop and stand back from a painting and things “will just appear. Art is a faith walk,” Parker says.



Outside the Snickerfritz Creative Arts Complex.

Photo by Josette D. Compton

Did You Know?

The Cleveland Museum of Art

has over

30,000
works of art
that range over

5000 years
and has one of the
most distinguished
Asian art collections in
the West.

Community News

East Cleveland to Demolish 150 Abandoned and Vacant Properties

By M. LaVora Perry
MV contributing writer

A bulldozer punches into a rickety house on East Cleveland's Brightwood Avenue, producing a thick cloud of smoke.

As dust settles over the pile of debris, I inhale a rank odor that - in the words of Bob Deskin - comes from "rotted wood and rugs, mold" and raccoon, dog and other animal's smelly droppings.

Deskin is president of Lightning Demolition and Excavation, which is commissioned to tear down dilapidated houses in East Cleveland.

The City's Mayor Gary Norton said that they targeted 150 homes for demolition that pose safety threats due to their unstable structures and the fact that drug addicts and criminals frequent them.

To tackle its vacant properties problem, the City received a \$2.25 million grant from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), an initiative created under President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan. With the grant, the mayor says the City's options were either to demolish vacant and abandoned houses or acquire, renovate and resell them.

A community-organizing group called Northeast Ohio Alliance of Hope (NOAH), led by Executive Director Trevelle Harp, is at the forefront of this issue.

In 2009, NOAH staff and volunteers, along with students at Case Western Reserve University's



Photo by Ami Rizek

Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, surveyed East Cleveland residents to gauge which of the city's problems concerned them most. Vacant and abandoned properties topped their list.

East Cleveland corralled help from the non-profit Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (also known as the Cuyahoga Land Bank). Funded by fines on delinquent property taxes, the Land Bank helps East Cleveland set long-term goals for demolishing or rehabilitating vacant homes and redeveloping cleared land.

However, not all of East Cleveland's newly cleared land is slated for development. Some



Photo by M. LaVora Perry

lots will become community parks, gardens and extended yards for existing homeowners.

Grandmother and foster parent Beverly Nelson, 66, a 43-year Brightwood resident, welcomes the possibility of new properties being built on her street.

"I'm glad they tore [the houses] down," says Nelson. "They were roach and rat infested."

In the summer of 2005, when Harp moved into a house on Hower Avenue it broke his heart to see a girl, his neighbor, surrounded by drug activity, blighted buildings and heaps of garbage that were routinely dumped on the street. Harp says he now has hope for Hower, his former street, because "several of its worst houses have been demolished and the resulting stretches of open land are assembled for redevelopment."

Land Bank president Gus Frangos believes the City is on track for long-term recovery because stakeholders such as residents, the mayor, University Circle Incorporated, University Hospital, the Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University "are arm in arm and serious. I think the stars are lined up to do good," Frangos says.

If he is right, the dust and deafening "boom!" of falling bulldozed houses may be signs that, like a star, East Cleveland is rising.

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PHOTO ESSAY

Soul of a City

By Josette D. Compton
NV editor and publisher

Donald Black Jr., walks across the railroad tracks off East 116th and Harvard Avenue. He stands before them, then snaps a photograph. On the west side, Gabriel Gonzalez rides his bike through a residential neighborhood and at his hip is a camera, which he uses to shoot a tire sitting on the street.

It's serendipitous moments such as these that continue to define the 15-year friendship and recent collaboration of photographers Black and Gonzalez. In an exhibit set to run next fall, the two will tell the story of Cleveland through images they've photographed since 2008. Their collection highlights the obscure beauty of Cleveland that lurks in alleys, on bridges and in neighborhoods. It also speaks to the juxtaposing, yet coincidental bond they share.

Black was reared on the east side and Gonzalez on the west side. They attended the Cleveland School of the Arts, and Ohio University. Then they left Cleveland – Black to New York City and Gonzalez to Athens, OH. Now back in Cleveland, with over 800,000 images in their portfolios, respectively, the two continue to flow with the City's whimsical rhythm, photographing its metamorphosis through optimistic lenses. Here's a sneak peak.



by Gabriel Gonzalez

Beware of Dog

"I've seen the spectrum of the U.S., ... and for me, photography is cultural."

Urban Divisions

"I've been fascinated by bridges and railroads my whole life; and in urban environments, those are the things that section off [neighborhoods] from one another."

Enjoy the Ride

"Cleveland gets slack all the time. So the muse for this project is that we're tired of people talking bad about our city. It's a beautiful place."



by Donald Black, Jr.



by Gabriel Gonzalez



by Donald Black, Jr.

Teamwork

"We realized that the images we had complement each other. We grew up in two different parts of Cleveland. Gabby is Puerto Rican and grew up on the west side and I'm [African-American and] from the east side."



by Gabriel Gonzalez

Vanishing Point

"I look for shapes and line patterns. But a lot of it for me is going out and just shooting my journey from the west side to the east side. It's a stream of consciousness...I came across a catwalk, it was one of those days when it was snowing and no one was walking across it. It was beautiful."



by Donald Black, Jr.

Cool Running

"The muse...hmm...It's personal. It's a personal subject matter because it's home. Cleveland is an awakening of the senses. We know the smell. Our senses are alert."



by Donald Black, Jr.

Divided We Fall

"When shooting, I try to find something where there's nothing. This image is playing on how we look at pigeons...it's my take on how the outside world looks at urban communities. But it also speaks to the concept of freedom. I like how birds can pick up and fly away because they can."



by Gabriel Gonzalez

Remember 1954

"Named after the year my father was born. He had this fascination with 1940s bikes, so I tend to photograph them a lot. But with this photo, my car broke down, and I had to walk to the rapid station and while I'm walking across the Abbey Road bridge, I look down and I just see this bike hanging on a tree. I'm serious. So, of course, I'm thinking 'I got to get down there...of course I'm going to be late for work.' But I took that chance [laughs]...It's about getting your camera and just shooting and through that, we're telling this cultural story of Cleveland."

STAFF PICKS – BEST OF 2010

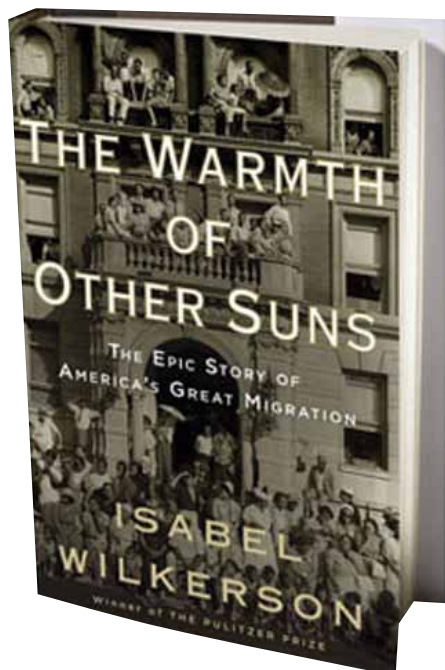
BOOKS

MOST MEMORABLE READ

“The Warmth of Other Suns”
(Random House) \$30
Isabel Wilkerson

Between 1915 and 1970, over six million African-Americans left the South for northern and western cities. This exodus – largely motivated by racist Jim Crow laws – is the story that Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist Isabel Wilkerson tells in *“The Warmth of Other Suns.”* The title, which is derived from the words of author Richard Wright, captures the hopes and aspirations of three African-Americans, who represent the millions of Blacks who courageously escaped the whiplash of economic and racial discrimination in southern states such as Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. Wilkerson leads with Ida Mae Gladney, who left sharecropping in Mississippi for Chicago and seamlessly introduces George Starling, who fled Florida for Harlem in 1945. Finally, there’s Robert Foster, a California physician by way of Louisiana, who could not practice medicine in his home state because he was Black. For 15 years, Wilkerson interviewed more than 1200 people for what she calls “the greatest untold story in America.” Through meticulous research, *“The Warmth of Other Suns,”* adds clarity and meaning to an otherwise uneven Black history that is too painful for many of our grandparents to ever tell.

-Josette D. Compton



MOST REVEALING READ

“Decoded”
(Spiegel & Grau) \$18
Jay-Z

In November, Brooklyn rapper Jay-Z released his book, *“Decoded,”* a memoir about his rise from the projects to superstar hip-hop status. Ghostwritten by Journalist Dream Hampton, *“Decoded”* covers a 30-year lifespan in which Jay-Z, born Shawn Carter, breaks his silence and discloses his innermost thoughts. Prior to reading *“Decoded”* I thought Jay-Z was just another haughty rapper, but after reading about his background and struggle, I developed a newfound respect for him and his art. In this book, Jay-Z finally relinquishes his reserved, ultra-cool cover, and for once, introduces us to the real Shawn Carter... at least, we think.

-Angel Moss-Parkham

GALLERY



HIPPEST GALLERY

Love going on gallery hops but find the cold weather a bit too daunting? Then check out 78th Street Studios at 1300 West 78th St., in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood. At 78th Street Studios, which is now housed in the old American Greetings building, you will find artists’ personal studios and galleries, plus watch them as they work – this is exciting for art aficionados. But truly, it’s an experience for anyone. The Studio is open to the public the 3rd Friday of each month.

-Ami Rizek

INSTALLATION ART

MOST IMPORTANT PUBLIC ART

Cleveland artists Kidist Getachew, Michael Lehto and John S. Thomas are working to expose Clevelanders to something we all take for granted: Water. Last year, they created a large-scale waterfall installation, titled *“Lifeline,”* at the Detroit-Superior Bridge, in hopes that we will all celebrate our abundant freshwater supply from Lake Erie. The project also symbolizes a call to action for Cleveland to help Getachew’s home country Ethiopia. The country is desperately in need of freshwater. Although the team of artists is no longer accepting donations, you can still help the water crisis facing other communities by going to www.water.org.

-AR



FILM

BEST ANIMATED MOVIE

The popularity of Disney Pixar’s *“Toy Story”* and *“Toy Story 2”* generated so much excitement in the ‘90s that it nearly redefined the cash-making potential of traditional kid-flicks. Its follow-up *“Toy Story 3,”* debuted last June and grossed \$415 million, making it the second most profitable animated film ever. The hilarious, but touching movie about our favorite toy heroes, *“Woody the Cowboy”* and *“Buzz Lightyear,”* made it difficult to say farewell to the toys we’ve never owned, but come to love.

FROM SCREEN TO SKATES

You thought it was over with *“Toy Story 3”*? Well, guess again. *“Toy Story 3 On Ice”* will travel stateside this year, and will stop in Cleveland at the Quicken Loans Arena from Jan. 7 to Jan. 17. Tickets start at \$15.

-AMP

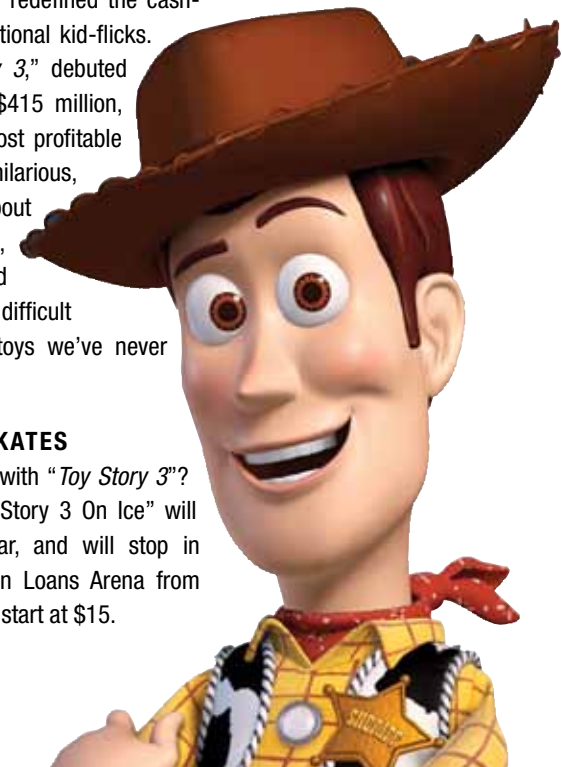
BEST MOVIE YOU WANT TO HATE

“The Social Network”
(Sony/Columbia)
Director: David Fincher
Writer: Aaron Sorkin
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, and Justin Timberlake



David Fincher’s Facebook movie got such unequivocally positive reviews that I wanted to hate it. No way could it be as awesome as everyone was making it out to be, right? People seemed to spazz-out with adulation for all the wrong reasons (i.e. it’s one of the few fact-based films of the 21st century that transcends the facts). But *“The Social Network”* deserves almost all the critical acclaim it garnered. Subject matter notwithstanding, the film is technically superb. Aaron Sorkin’s electric dialogue snags you from scene one and doesn’t let you go until the credits roll. The cinematography is slick, the editing crisp and clean. The technical elements manage to simplify a plot with the complexity of a political thriller and the emotional angst of an afternoon soap. To ice the cake, perennially annoying Jesse Eisenberg has found in snarky tycoon Mark Zuckerberg perhaps the only role he can play that Michael Cera couldn’t play more convincingly.

-Sam Allard



Music

The Cleveland Effect

By Gezus Zaire
 NV contributing writer

In the last two years of music, it seems that nothing matters except what is hot.

As an active member of Cleveland's hip-hop community, many young artists under age 25 tell me that they want to be the first to put the City "on the map." Of course, they know about Bone Thugs-n-Harmony who, in 1996, won a Grammy for their hit "*Crossroads*." Yet these young artists do not know about Bone's massive influence on the music industry.

Their fast-paced raps and harmonized singing has been borrowed by some of R&B and hip-hop's most successful artists. Mariah Carey, Usher, Destiny's Child, Nelly, 50 Cent, Ja-Rule and Justin Timberlake have all copied this sound, which was created on East 99th and St. Clair.

Before Bone's Grammy win, however, a group of guys from the Kinsman area were arguably the hottest R&B band in the early 1980s. They called themselves the Dazz Band, and in 1982, they also earned a Grammy for their song "*Let it Whip*," a song that could be heard in any dance club in the country.

During the 1970s, Ohio was a hotbed for musical talent. Buzz-generating acts such as The Isley Brothers and Bootsy's Rubber Band emerged out of Cincinnati while the Ohio Players fiercely represented Dayton. Canton's O'Jays gained significant mainstream success, working with Gamble & Huff's Philadelphia sound; and Steubenville's Wild Cherry funk-ed-up the charts with the platinum-selling "*Play that Funky Music*."

Cleveland's most unsung artist of the 1970s, however, may be Bobby Womack. He became one music's best soul singers and musicians. Known by soul music enthusiasts for chart-topping records such as "*Woman's Gotta Have It*" and "*Lookin' For a Love*," Womack was also a well sought after session player.

His guitar is best heard on records by music icons such as Aretha Franklin, Sly Stone and Janis Joplin. A protégé of Sam Cooke, Womack's songs were covered by the Rolling Stones, Rufus and Chaka Khan, Jodeci's K-Ci Hailey and former Destiny's Child Kelly Rowland. His work, like many '70s soul singers, has been sampled by L.A. rapper Snoop Dogg and Mariah Carey.

With no major music awards under his belt, Womack finally received his proper respect in 2009. That's when he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame during a rare ceremony in Cleveland.

Budding Cleveland artists have tough acts to follow if they plan to ever achieve the greatness of those who came before them. Over the past 40 years, Clevelanders have found little to celebrate besides its professional sports franchises. But its musical stars have been nothing short of champions.

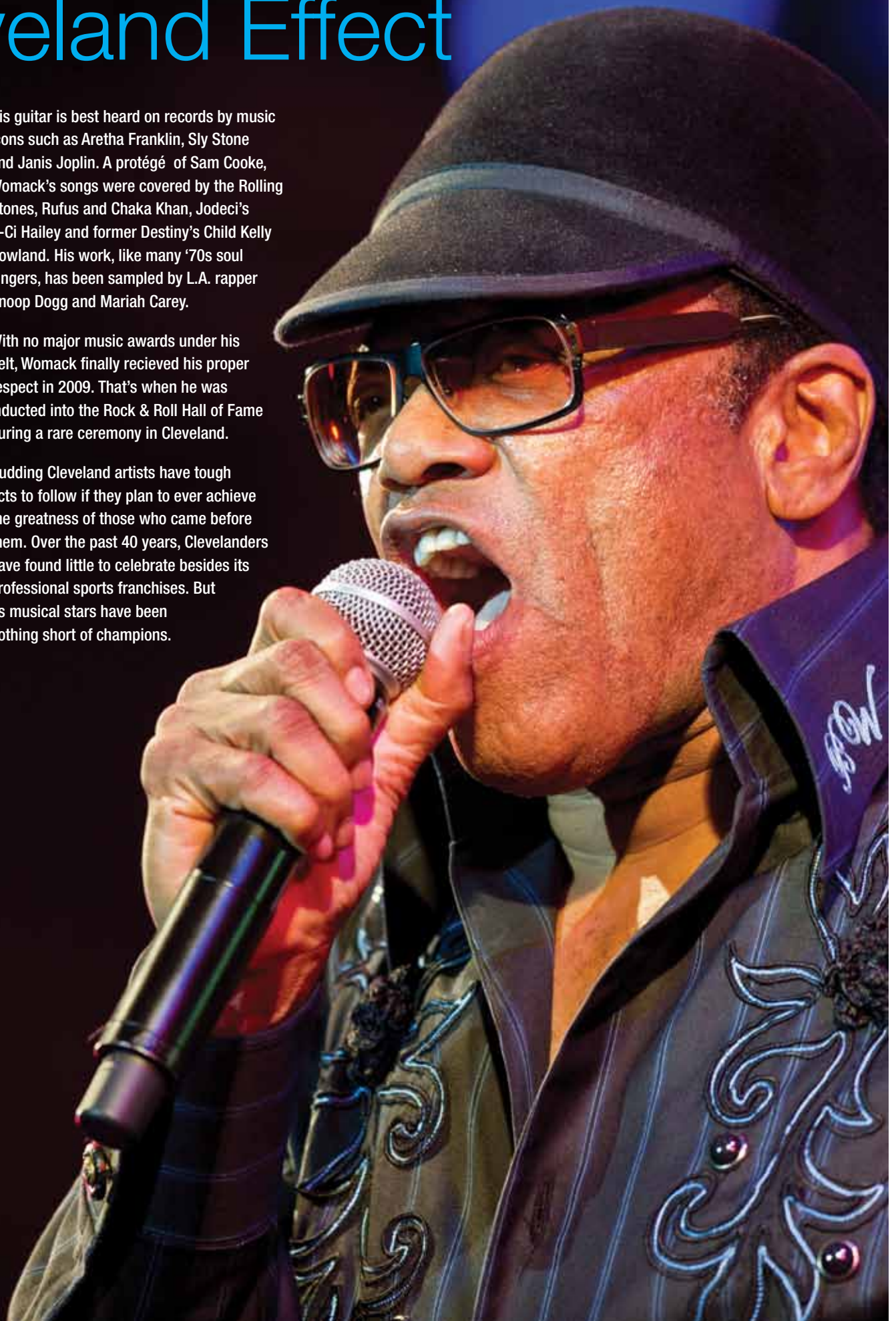


Photo by Bill Ebbesen

Community News PBS Eyes Glenville

By Dairian Heard
NV contributing writer

When you hear the word co-op, you may think grocery store. But there are many kinds of co-ops [short for cooperatives], which are member- owned businesses.

Take for instance, the Evergreen Cooperative Laundry located in Glenville. This worker-owned business has received national attention for training, then employing local residents and providing them with opportunities to become business owners.

In fall of 2010, the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) visited Cleveland, to film workers at the Laundry for a special called "Fixing the Future," which aired in December.

The series focuses on communities throughout the U.S. who are using innovative ways to create sustainable jobs and build prosperity in this economy.

The segment on Glenville profiles Laundry manager Medrick Addison. The camera follows



Addison at the Laundry in Glenville.

Addison, who was reared in one of many poor Cleveland neighborhoods. When walking through the area, he finds a condemned house where he used to live. Addison says that looking at his old home is motivation to improve his community.

PBS then follows him to the University of California, Berkeley. There, he shares his experiences with students and staff, by emphasizing the importance of making a difference in the world.

After watching the special, it was clear that through the Laundry, Addison is trying to "walk-it" like he "talks-it." By hiring local residents, and offering them an opportunity to understand and become part of a co-op, he is leaving an indelible mark on the world, starting with his community.

You Make Me Feel Like I'm Living a Pee Wee Dream

Glenville Titans take Florida by storm

By Sam Allard
NV online editor

Cleveland Browns head coach Eric Mangini ought to spend a few afternoons taking notes with Glenville football coaches.

Not only is the Glenville High School team one of the most formidable in the country, but their pee wee squad is off the hook.

Now, the 12-year-olds who comprise the Glenville Titans of the Greater Cleveland Pop Warner Football League can say something that the poor Browns have never been able to say: "I've been to a Super Bowl."

That's right. The Titans traveled to Orlando, Fla., Dec. 6-11 for the ESPN Pop Warner Super Bowl, where they faced off against other U.S.



regional champions. The Glenville team was invited to the tournament after winning the city, state and Midwest titles.

They competed in the second division against 15 other teams. The ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex hosted the contests. The Titans lost their first match 36-20 to the College Station Raiders, of Texas. But they bounced back in a big way against the Winston-Salem Rams of North Carolina, dominating the consolation match 20-12.

Sometimes, championships come by dint of victorious lineage. Other times they just come from having the right attitude. Fortunately for Glenville, there's no shortage of either.

Arts

Wax Poetic

Glenville students embrace the art of spoken word

BY Justin Rutledge
NV contributing writer

The room where students at Glenville High School eat lunch is dimly lit. It's set up to mimic a coffee shop on an open mic night. Before them is a podium, a microphone, a stack of books and a woman, who is their guest speaker.

A group of students, staff and parents is at Glenville to celebrate the written and spoken word as part of Family Literacy Night. Hosted by the Cleveland-based tutoring program called City Year, the event was established to encourage students to read and write outside the classroom.

"I was impressed," says R. Williamson, an intervention specialist at Glenville. Williamson believes it is important that students express themselves orally because it will help them in future situations such as job interviews.

Williamson also said that due to an increased focus on technology, the eagerness to read and write has declined. After all, the number of students attached to their cell phones is staggering. According to the International Association for the Wireless Telecommunications and the marketing research firm Harris Interactive, 45 percent of U.S. teens reported that their social lives would "end" or "worsen," without a cell phone.



Glenville students peruse titles at Family Literacy Night.

Photo by Justin Rutledge

But at Family Literacy Night, the students were not concerned about technology. Their attention was set on local author and guest speaker Victoria Ellison, who talked about her early life of physical abuse, drug addiction and homelessness. This inspired her book "Angels Only Stand Where Cherubims Take Flight."

"It was sad," said Tyshawn Gates, a senior at Glenville, "but at the same time it was deep. It shows that no matter what happens you can push and do better things with your life."

After Ellison's lecture, several students stood before their peers to recite poems. Some talked about finding the perfect man, while others covered issues such as conduct and social change.

"I felt like people had a chance to open up and speak up," said Gates, who admits he felt nervous since he had to speak first. "But I came out of my shell. Usually, I don't speak in front of large groups."

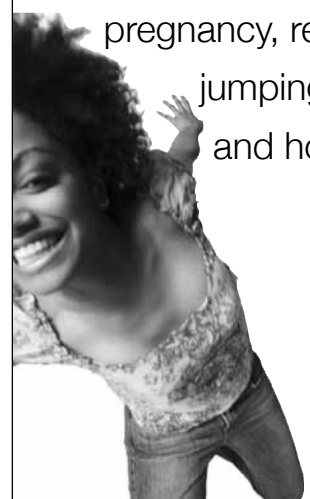
The stack of books placed at the front of the room were part of a book-potluck in which students were encouraged to peruse titles and take some home. This, coupled with the poetry slam, inspired them to request another spoken word event that City Year is now planning.

"New experiences and opportunities need to be brought to students without the aid of the Internet," Williamson said. "It shows them that a world exists outside their neighborhood."

Health

Dancing is one of the safest methods of exercise during pregnancy. It helps with balance, posture and muscle training, all of which are important to maintain during pregnancy as your body changes. However, during your last six to eight weeks of

pregnancy, refrain from jumping, leaping and hopping.



My Voice

More than Just Talk

By C. Victoria Trotter
NV contributing writer

Not long ago, while listening to one of my favorite radio talk shows, a guest was asked what he thought about citizen journalism.

"It's just talk," he said.

This shocked me, because I think citizen journalism is like the reality TV of the newspaper industry. It has the power to impact communities in negative and positive ways. In fact, it called to mind the new kid in town, the Neighborhood Voice, and the impact it will have on our communities.

Will it be just talk? Will it be an outlet for communities to empower themselves? Or an opportunity that will galvanize Clevelanders so that our actions speak louder than our words?

As I thought about this, I was reminded of a 12-year-old girl in my community who needs our help. She needs more than just talk; she needs a community that's listening and prepared to act.

I believe, similar to the famed animator Walt Disney, that we are wasting our most valuable resource: our children. I think a strong community newspaper could be a powerful tool in helping us to become better stewards of our communities.

So I interviewed the 12-year-old girl in Glenville, not too long ago, and here's what she wanted to share with the NV:

My name is Desiree Jones. I am 12 years old and I'm in jail.

I'm here because I decided to steal, stay out past 10 p.m. on school nights and do other things adults do. I knew it was wrong, but I just didn't care. So I got sent to DH [Detention Home] for two weeks.

At first, I thought that if I didn't care things couldn't get worse. My mom, aunt and uncle tried to help, but it didn't make a difference. Now I realize that I was diggin' a deep hole for myself.

I'm going to court next Wednesday. I don't know, they may tell me I'll be coming back here or going to another jail for kids. Although I don't like nothin' about where I'm at now, it

keeps me out of trouble. It helps me to think about my actions and focus on what's in front of me, not behind me.

I want to go to college and finish school. And I think the community could help by coming to visit and talk to me. They could give me stuff to do...take me to colleges, show me how college students live or take me to a prison, so I can see what it's like for adults there. I want to see what I can do good with my life while I'm still young.

I used to think because I was getting older, I could do what I wanted to do, but it can't be that way anymore. I have to follow the rules and listen to my mother, who I want to apologize to for the things I did. Also, I'd like to tell other kids to listen to your own self and your parents.

I want my community to know that I feel sad because instead of being in here, I could be helping you by getting my education and graduating school.

So hopefully, this is my last time in jail. I'm ready to come home.

I hope Glenville is listening.

Did You Know?

Every year

Cleveland celebrates

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

by hosting a series of events, activities and performances. Also, many museums offer **free admission.**

This year MLK Jr. Day is

January 17

for more information

on upcoming events, check out **www.**

positivelycleveland.com

Grant Funds Available for Neighborhood Groups

Do you and your neighbors have an idea on how to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood? Neighborhood Connections, the small grants program affiliated with The Cleveland Foundation, provides grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to neighborhood groups. Funding is intended to support neighborhood projects done by neighborhood people in the City of Cleveland. Neighborhood Connections money is available throughout the City of Cleveland and groups that apply do not need to be incorporated non-profits (501(c)(3)s).

Want to learn more about Neighborhood Connections and the application process?

We invite you to join us for one of these workshops:

Grantseeker Orientation
Get key information on the Neighborhood Connections' grantmaking process at our orientation sessions. Learn what our grantmaking committee looks for in the application, and get specifics on how to complete the application, including the budget.

- Monday, January 10th, from 6pm to 8pm at the Five Points Neighborhood Center, 813 East 152nd Street in Cleveland
- Tuesday, January 18th, from 6pm to 8pm at Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Avenue across from Cleveland State
- Wednesday, January 26th from 4pm to 6pm at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue

The next deadline for proposals is Friday, February 11th at 5pm.

Applications can be downloaded from www.neighborhoodgrants.org, by calling 216.393.4642 or by emailing us at neighborhoodconnections@clevefdn.org.

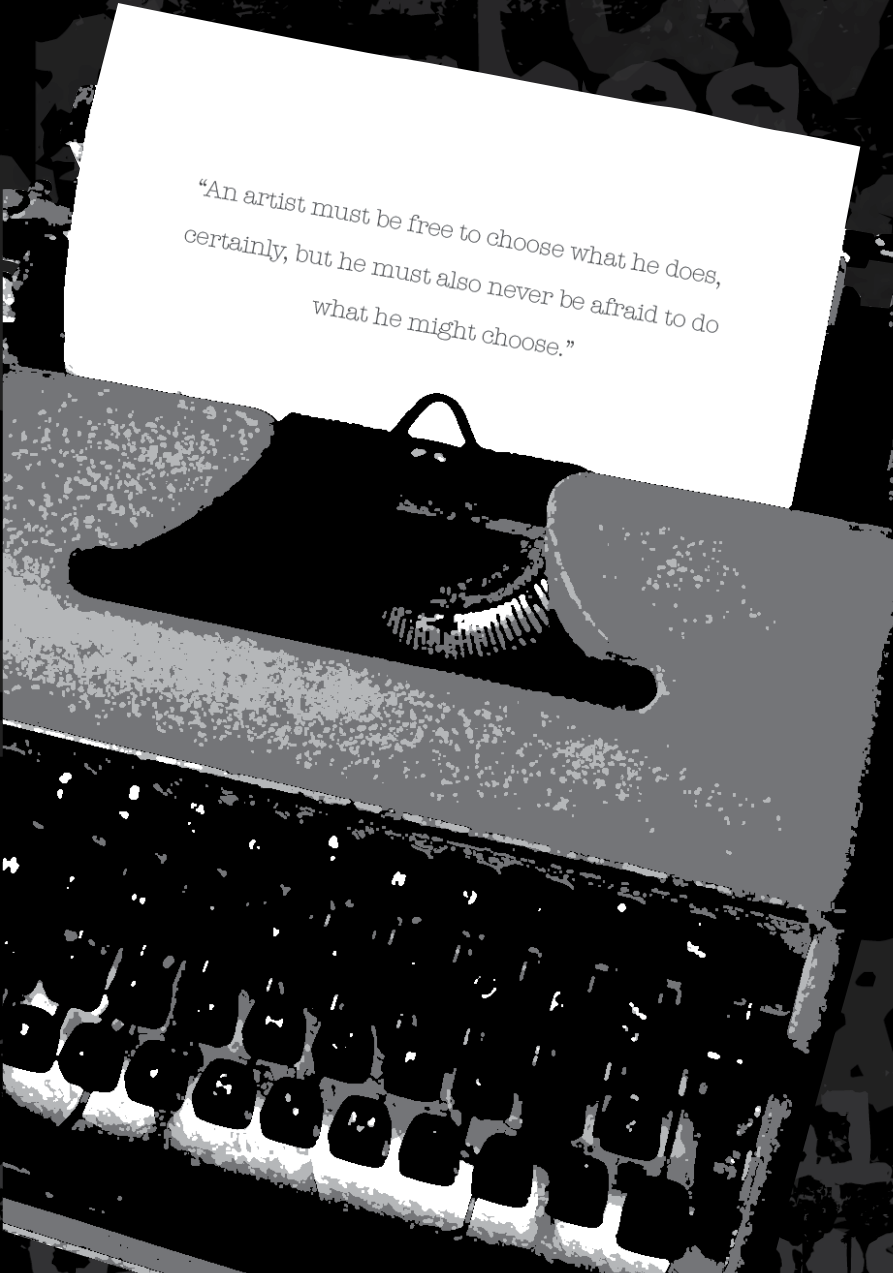
Cover Story

LANGSTON

HUGHES

By Sam Allard
NV online editor

A RETROSPECTIVE



"An artist must be free to choose what he does,
 certainly, but he must also never be afraid to do
 what he might choose."

In Langston Hughes, the most outstanding thing to see was his wonder at the world.

Karamu House co-founder Rowena Jelliffe wrote as much in a 1937 letter. "It shone through his deep hurt, his struggle to understand, his gaiety, his fine sense of humor, his sensitiveness to beauty and his deep liking for people."

As Karamu House opened its annual production of Langston Hughes' *"Black Nativity,"* the saga of the great writer's relationship with Cleveland, Ohio, bears repeating. Repeating and rediscovering.

It's a bittersweet love story. James Mercer Langston Hughes arrived in Northeast Ohio in 1916 with his mother and half-sister at a time when Cleveland was flourishing. Detroit and Chicago now had the precocious city on the lake vying for dominance in the mineral industries. Manufacturing was the city's motor and moxie. An extraordinary demand for manpower had summoned an unprecedented migration of African-Americans from the south.

Langston loved Cleveland, loved the bustle and buzz. He enrolled at Central High School and immediately found academic and social success. But his home life was constantly in flux. He'd barely become accustomed to his new situation when his mother followed her husband to Chicago, leaving Langston alone.

He moved to an attic room on East 86th Street, where he survived on hot dogs, rice and literature.

Karamu House, on East 89th Street, is close enough to Langston's attic refuge that, had he been there on Dec. 10, 2010, he probably would have heard the opening night applause for *"Black Nativity."*

Hughes' play, reincarnated once again at Karamu – this time by tech director Richard Norris – is a potent theatrical event. It's presented in two tonally distinct acts. The first is a dramatic retelling of the nativity story through hyperactive choreography and traditional Christmas songs, re-orchestrated with gospel flare.

The second act feels more or less like you're at church. And it is awesome. The gospel numbers feel more organic and the performers feel more at home on stage.

In a 1962 review of the original Broadway performance, Walter Kerr of the *New York Herald Tribune* remarked that there was an "inherent piety in syncopation." The same is true in 2011 at Karamu. The singers belt their praises in defiance of their own vocal chords, clap and sway and undulate at the command of their spirits, not their dance coach.

In the song *"Jesus is Love,"* ensemble member Glen Burchette began in a wispy tenor falsetto, like a crystal cobweb, the delicacy and finesse of which silenced the audience. But the song grew. Grew and grew such that by its climax, Burchette had transformed his voice – himself – into a thundering engine of praise. He was screaming, stomping, red-faced and jubilant. Even his fellow cast members were in awe. As if compelled by some magnetic force, the audience had no choice but to stand.

Langston Hughes was commissioned to write the play that became "*Black Nativity*" in 1961 for a Broadway run later that year. But Hughes' involvement at Karamu transpired long before his success in New York, long before his reputation was established at all.

As a teenager living alone in Cleveland, Hughes found solace in a small cottage on East 38th Street. It was the home of Russell and Rowena Jelliffe, a young couple who had recently moved to Cleveland after finishing graduate school at the University of Chicago. The Jelliffes were undertaking a life of community philanthropy and saw in Langston an ebullient mind who could contribute to their "Community Settlement."

He taught visual arts there – the settlement which would later become Karamu House – and began writing poetry in earnest.

In 1921, Hughes ventured to New York to study at Columbia University, but vanquished college life after a year for the spunk of Harlem. After trotting the globe, and energizing the literary contingent of the Harlem Renaissance through the 1920s, his Cleveland homecoming in the 1930s was a far cry from joyous.

His mother was suffering from advanced breast cancer in Oberlin and Hughes found himself in dire financial straits. After early critical acclaim, he failed to inspire publishers with new material. He considered giving up writing altogether.

But once again, the Jelliffes kept him afloat. Refusing to give up on Langston, they offered him what amounted to a playwriting residency at Karamu and purchased his work to keep him writing.

At the Western Reserve Historical Society Library, the Karamu file is thick. Every container, hefted from dusty repose for the purposes of investigation and research, seems promising.

There's an alphabetical listing of Karamu performances and publications dating back to the 1940s. There's a chronological correspondence between the Jelliffes and Cleveland philanthropic organizations. There are meticulous financial records, personnel directories, date books, memorandum and newspaper clippings galore.

In one folder, there's a letter from scholar W.E.B. DuBois to the Jelliffes followed by a play he sent them for consideration at Karamu. In another, there's a booklet of tips for canvassers in a 1930s fundraising campaign. Everywhere there are drawings, handwritten stage notes, line-item budgets. The files are comprehensive.

So where is Langston? Both director Richard Norris and Karamu's marketing wizard Vivian Wilson claim that boxes of Hughes' manuscripts were recovered from Karamu in the late 1970s by then-artistic director Mike Malone.

"He lived here at the facility," said Wilson, of Hughes. "So it makes sense that his stuff was found. If someone came here snooping around after I'd left, they'd probably find 10 or 12 boxes of mine."

Norris thought the manuscripts had been donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society. But any handwritten work by Hughes was impossible to find – maybe the Karamu materials are simply too vast.

Cities are in the habit of claiming famous people for their own. A lot of it probably has to do with regional pride. People like to think that affinity with – indeed, ownership of – celebrities entitles them to a status upgrade. But most of it's false advertising.

Not here. At Karamu, as you tap your toes to a play that Langston Hughes penned, in a theater which bears the names of his mentors and advocates, where the desk at which he wrote still sits in the hallway, mere blocks from his high school home and the library which was christened in his memorial, you come to understand that words are more enduring monuments than statues, and these are his.

This is Langston's voice. This is Langston's indomitable spirit. This is Langston's home.

{ FEBRUARY 1, 1902 – MAY 22, 1967 }



Arts

Banks Shot

Cleveland filmmaker chills out on the cutting edge

By Josette D. Compton
NV editor and publisher

Robert Banks makes movies. Not “Black” movies or “poser” movies, or those passing as movies (elongated music videos). He makes art movies. Period.

But do not misunderstand; Banks is not a snob about this. Condescending geek-talk is not his thing. *Although*, you may want to do your homework before initiating a conversation with him on motion pictures ... or risk getting lost in a proverbial kaleidoscope of movie history.

When talking to Banks, 44, it is not unusual for him to reference a U.S. film that dates as far back as 1896. He may even mention later influences such as Sam Peckinpah’s 1969 film “*The Wild Bunch*” and George Romero’s iconic “*Night of the Living Dead*.” But it is this kind of depth that solidifies Banks’ 20-year career as a short-film producer and director.

While living in Cleveland, he has created 16 theatrical shorts (less than 20 minutes) and one full-length feature. Now a resident of Hough, Banks continues to create movies that play in

major cities such as New York and London.

“My films are basically about how I think,” Banks says. Visually, “they are a cross between graffiti and moving images. I’ve never used computers or Photoshop, so everything you see on the film is done by hand.”

In 1992, Banks debuted “*X: The Baby Cinema*,” a critically acclaimed short on the sudden popularity and appropriation of Muslim leader Malcolm X. Four years later, he released the documentary “*You Can’t Get a Piece of Mind*,” about a struggling Cleveland musician named Supie T. It opened to mixed reviews. But in 1999, he turned the camera on society’s obsession with female beauty in a short called “*Outlet*,” which played at the national Sundance Film Festival.

“With ‘*Outlet*,’ it was my take on modern lifestyle,” Banks says. “When you take away a woman’s smile, what do you have? So that’s why, in the film, I had women squashing tubes of toothpaste.”

Critics tend to toss Banks’ work into the “experimental” category, perhaps for his sometimes eerie (“*Motion Picture Genocide*”), yet poignant social commentary (“*Jaded*”) on issues such as beauty, sensationalism, violence and family. His latest project (tentatively titled “*Domestic Paranoia*”), is on domestication.

“The act of the happy, beautiful housewife making pancakes is something women of my

generation are still tied to...” Banks says. “Though I’m not a fan of too many mainstream films, that [character] is still perpetuated. So no matter how hard we think we’ve progressed, we’re still tied to those images.”

Though it has taken Cleveland some time to acknowledge his work, Banks continues to produce quality, contemplative films that transcend race and genre, which is not easy.

The biggest atrocity in art, says Banks, is that it has become “all hype and sensationalism. More people can’t decipher the two and it has created a multi-billion dollar film industry.”

At the start of his career, Banks admits that he wanted to create movies that provoke thought. But with age, that mission has changed.

Now, says Banks, “People need a good kick in the rear-end. They need to be reminded about how to live. The downside of technology is that it fragments us and sadly, we are becoming just as rude and disrespectful to one another as those divided on race, politics and religion. This behavior is dumbing us down. So yes, at one time I did want people to think. But now I want them to look at who we are and where we are going.”



Banks on the set of a film.

Photos courtesy of Robert Banks



Photo from “*The Films of Robert Banks & Bruce Checefsky*” presented at the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque.

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My Voice My Generation

By Chanda S. Bynum

Today, teens seem eager to morph into adulthood without enjoying where they are now. I know, because this is my generation – the millennials, as some call us.

Instead of listening to advice from our elders, we are, in so many ways, hopping on the horse and falling off of it, fast.

Teens no longer try to “fit in”; we “get in,” which is when we jump into life without any idea of how volatile and hard it really is. Most of us dream big without realizing that we have to work hard to achieve our goals. There are no hand-outs, plain and simple.

We are also distracted by drama and sex. This sex thing consumes us. It’s like the coolest fad next to skinny jeans and color rinses.

Everybody makes sex sound like it’s the coolest thing in the world. When really, all we are doing is playing house before our time.

Speaking of which, my generation is also fascinated with everyone’s sexual orientation. They want to know who is heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual; and this sometimes leads to bullying.

In my generation, bullying has gone from being shoved into trash cans and lockers to cyber-bullying and humiliating someone in public because they are different. We sometimes ostracize others to the point of suicide.

Although some teens choose to take the negative path in life, some of us choose the right one. I, for one, feel comfortable being young. I will have a chance at adulthood eventually, but for now, I’m okay with where I am.



Did You Know?

Many famous **artists, writers, musicians and actors** are from the Cleveland area such as

Tracy Chapman,
Victor Schreckengost,
Harvey Pekar,
Halle Berry and
Kid Cudi.

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Health

January is National Blood Donor Month.

The need for blood in the U.S. is constant, and yet only **3 out of every 100** Americans donate. So help your community by getting together with friends and family to donate blood this month.

Donating blood is **easy** – just remember these tips to help prepare yourself for the procedure:

Do not smoke or drink alcohol 24 hours before donating blood.

Rest for an hour beforehand.

Know your health history.

After donating, **drink lots of liquids** with electrolytes to help replenish your body.

Don't worry about feeling light headed or dizzy after donating blood, it's common. However, make sure to take any snacks or juices they provide to get your sugar level back to normal, which will help ease the symptoms.

Do not drive until you are no longer light headed or dizzy.

CALL
1-800-RED-CROSS
to schedule an appointment at a location near you.

Arts

In Search of Community

By Christine Lee and Tom O'Brien
NV contributing writers

The murder of a long-time neighbor forever changed Peter Lovenheim. The incident made him realize that he and his neighbor knew almost nothing about each other.

So Lovenheim, 50, started to think what might have been different if he knew more. He asked himself, "What do we lose living next to strangers?"

Such reflections led Lovenheim, who lives in Rochester, NY, to write the book *"In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time,"* based on his newfound relationships with his neighbors.

He stopped in Cleveland, recently, on a book tour, and shared what he has learned from interviews, observations and actual sleepovers with neighbors.

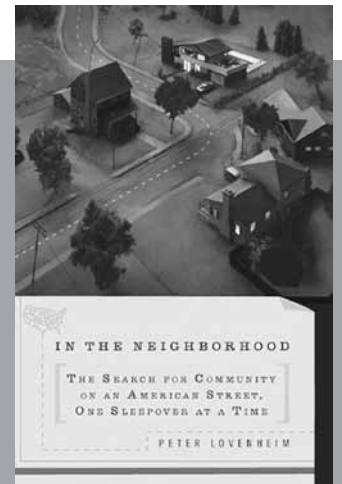
"Honestly, I didn't think it [sleepovers] was crazy," said Lovenheim. "What's crazy is living next to people, sometimes for decades, and not knowing them. There is no social stigma for this, and maybe there should be."

At some point, it seems we have all been guilty of shuffling to and from work without ever uttering a "hello" to someone we may see every day. The direction in which American society is headed makes it difficult to connect with others. Busy work schedules, more time in front of the TV, air conditioning, fences and the disappearance of front porches isolate us. In addition to these conditions is the phenomenon of "stranger danger" that has encouraged people to fear those they do not know.

Given all of this, one might think that it was difficult for Lovenheim to ask his neighbors for sleepover dates. Besides his daughter's embarrassment, Lovenheim experienced little trouble. Over half the people he approached said "yes," and even those who declined were still interested in connecting with neighbors.

In addition to fostering a greater sense of trust between neighbors, Lovenheim says that such community-building is also practical. For example, if neighbors know each other, sharing tools, recipes or even a repairman's phone number can save time and money. Also, in an emergency, knowing your neighbor can save your life.

In essence, knowing your neighbors can build skills that we all need to live peacefully in this world.



How do you connect with your neighbors?

Neighborhood Connections would like to hear your story. Send us an email (neighborhoodgrants@clevelandn.org) or call us at (216) 393-4641 to let us know!

Sadly, Hadley Cleveland author Paula McLain's forthcoming novel tells the story of Hemingway's first wife

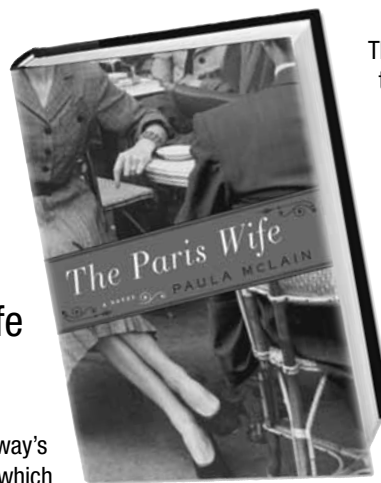
by Sam Allard
NV online editor

It was a line in Ernest Hemingway's memoir *"A Moveable Feast"* which inspired Cleveland author Paula McLain to investigate the story of Hadley Richardson, the first of Hemingway's four wives.

"I wish I had died before I loved anyone but her," said Hemingway.

McLain began reading biographies of both Hemingway and Richardson, along with Hemingway's early novels, to try to get to the bottom of their story.

The fruit of her research became the novel *"The Paris Wife,"* out April 2011, from Random House. Hadley is often known as Hemingway's "Paris Wife," which is where the title originates, but McLain says that she was much more fundamental to the rest of Hemingway's life and career.



The book chronicles their romantic (and ultimately tragic) love story through the eyes of Hadley herself. McLain read through the correspondence of Hemingway and Richardson in an effort to accurately depict the cadence and rhythm of the way they spoke to each other.

In an interview with her publisher, McLain said that the portrait of Hemingway in her novel will be slightly different from most readers' image of him – the hyper-masculine swagger, all beer and cigarettes and sports.

"As a young man, he was sensitive and easily hurt," McLain said. "That vulnerability alone will surprise many readers I think."

For lovers of Hemingway's work, and for those fascinated with the Parisian literary ex-pat scene of the early 20th century, this novel promises to be a winning summer read. Also, for those interested in supporting the works of authors living and writing in Cleveland, *"The Paris Wife"* is a necessary addition to the library.

Community News

A new market is scheduled to open in Little Italy later this year, according to Ray Kristosik of Little Italy Redevelopment Corporation. Murray Hill Market, on the corner of Murray Hill Road and Paul Avenue will be run by the husband-and-wife tandem Bill and Michele Buckholtz in a roughly 1,000 square-foot facility, and will sell specialty Italian foods. Yummy.



Arts

Learning From an Expert

The abridged history of a Cleveland artist and teacher

By Angel Moss-Parkham
NV general assignment reporter

I walked into the classroom of Nancy C. Murnyack at the Cleveland School of Architecture & Design at John Hay Campus. The walls are decorated with art work that encompasses photography, drawings and paintings.

Her students work quietly as though this display is as normal as any classroom's dull appearance. But they are here because of hopes to one day create art similar to the work around them.

Murnyack was once like them. She has been interested in art since childhood, and now she is an expert in graphic design, photography, drawing and painting, examples of which hang on her classroom wall.

I sat down with Nancy for a quick interview, and here's what she had to say.

AMP: When did you start studying art?

NCM: I actually began taking private art lessons in the first grade.

AMP: Did you always want to be an artist?

NCM: Yes. Later, I attended Lake Erie College just outside of Cleveland, and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BFA (Bachelors of Fine Arts).

AMP: So what was your first job as an artist?

NCM: I started off as an advertising artist and kept that career for 11 years. I also worked for Saks Fifth Avenue, Walt Disney, and J.E. Caldwell Jewelry, just to name a few. That's when I decided that it was time for me start my own business, which led to NCM Studio Incorporated.

AMP: What is NCM Studio, Inc.?

NCM: It is a corporate studio, and also an online website that allows people to purchase many things that I create and personalize myself. I sell gifts, awards, yacht club and golf trophies, custom dinnerware, and crystal and glass engravings.

AMP: Is it difficult to run your business and teach at John Hay? And what do you teach at the school?

NCM: No. I used to teach in private schools in Buffalo, NY, but now I teach classes on digital photo, ceramics, graphic design, digital imaging, architectural studies, and drawing and painting.

AMP: In which city do you prefer teaching?

NCM: I definitely enjoy teaching in Cleveland better than other cities. The students here are more friendly and open. They're like sponges, they're interested and absorb the things I teach.

AMP: I do know that the School of Architecture & Design is a part of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Do they provide the proper funding for the courses you teach?

NCM: The courses I teach require professional supplies. I bring my personal equipment and I sometimes have to write grants and find other sources to help supplement the funds.

AMP: What do you enjoy most about teaching at John Hay?

NCM: Students make a world of difference. Advanced art courses aren't offered in most Cleveland schools, so they appreciate it and take advantage of these opportunities.



*Murnyack inside her classroom at the John Hay Campus.
 Photo by Angel Moss-Parkham*

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Business



Today, we remain committed to that vision.

Over the last five years, we have built a strong relationship with the Geauga County farmers and now offer their delicious cheeses, among other things. We also continue to provide the best bulk and herb sections in the metropolitan area. In addition, the Co-op's deli service is matchless, offering members some of the best fresh foods and sandwiches in town.

Our history is long and rich. The Co-op sits inside a building we rehabilitated and extended on land rented from University Circle Incorporated. Needless to say, after 40-plus years of serving Cleveland, our store has become more like a favorite old sweater than something fresh off the catwalk.

Right now, we have an in-store campaign that will raise funds for several arts projects we hope

will enliven the Co-op. One of several projects includes the painting of our walls, which will complement our most recent renovation of a kid's corner. Here, children are free to play while their parents shop.

Some may remember a second Food Co-op on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights. Unfortunately, our attempt to expand failed and cost us dearly.

Despite such changes in the last several years, we are still in business. Although, lately, times have been a little tough. The Euclid Corridor Project once made accessibility to the store quite an adventure; and the influx of shiny new grocery stores is impacting our sales. However, we remain optimistic and determined to continue providing excellent service to all Clevelanders.

In the '80s, when the Co-op opened, conventional food was increasingly processed and packaged. So consumers who wanted an alternative to industry-produced food started their own buying consortiums or stores. Interestingly, this movement away from industrialized food production has come full circle, giving rise to a multi-billion dollar natural foods industry. As the result of building consumer demand for nutritious, safe food, even the most conventional of grocery stores now carry organic or local products.

The market for food is relatively inelastic — there is not much room for expansion since people can only consume but so much food, limiting how much food can be sold. The rise in demand for "natural" and organic food, however, has provided opportunities for growing new businesses catering to this demand and the Cleveland Food Co-op is now facing some serious competition.

Nonetheless, we remain true to our mission of providing reasonably priced, high-quality, natural food products while exercising environmental responsibility. Keep in mind too that if you shop with us, since we are locally owned and operated, much of every dollar spent in our store stays in our community.

For 40 years, we have been planted in this community, and despite all that has changed, we hope to stay here another 40 years.

Visit the Co-op at 117th Street and Euclid Avenue.



Photo by Josette D. Compton

Staying Alive

Pioneering organic store struggles in competitive health food market

By Allyson L. Robichaud
NV contributing writer

In the early 1980s, the Cleveland Food Co-op opened its doors in University Circle.

We started as a member-owned [cooperative] operation, whose purpose was to provide locally produced and organic food to Clevelanders.

Health

The Sound of Music

Using music, arts therapy to heal children

By Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
NV contributors

When we think of therapy, we tend to think of medicinal therapy, physical therapy or psychotherapy. But there is one form of therapy that, when combined with traditional medicine, can help bring a person from the clutches of disease to the blessings of good health.

Art therapy at University Hospitals is present in many different forms. We offer painting, photography, sculpting, as well as music therapy. This is beneficial to our patients because it helps to distract their minds from the illness or disease that they are fighting. It also transports them to a more comfortable, happier place.

At Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, child life specialists travel each floor with carts full of arts and crafts. On many carts there are musical instruments that help to calm children and move their thoughts away from their

treatments to the happiness that comes from learning to play a song.

When you walk into a child's room and you are able to divert her attention away from being sick and unhappy, it changes that child. In fact, it gives the young patients something to look forward to every day. Art and music therapy can boost a child's morale, which we know can help immensely during recovery.

The goals of art and music therapy at University Hospitals Case Medical Center are to encourage the expression of thoughts and feelings related with illness and hospitalization. This helps patients process and work through traumatic experiences associated with long-term hospital stays, and it promotes a sense of independence and self control.

Furthermore, art and music therapy give voice to children and families. When words are not available for creative communication, art speaks, providing a non-verbal avenue for problem solving and an opportunity to learn how to positively cope with a dire health condition. It is a language without words, offering a means for individualized and unique personal expression.



Photo courtesy of UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospitals Leonard and Joan Horvitz Tower, opened in 1997, is home to the new Quentin & Elisabeth Alexander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and will have its outdoor Healing Garden dedicated in early 2011.

My Voice

Golden Girl

By Josephine "Jo" Steinhurst
MV contributing writer

As a resident of Judson Manor in Greater University Circle, I feel this area has enhanced my career as an Oriental brush painter.

I started studying this art form in my seventies after raising a family and serving as the director of a public health organization.

I began painting at the Morikami Museum in Florida, which specializes in Japanese art and culture. There, I continued training with artist Henry Wo and later at the Armory School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, where my art won first prize.

I am now 87 years old, and have lived with chronic arthritis and back pain for many years. Since my move to Judson, Dr. Daniel Mazanac at Cleveland Clinic's Center for Spine Health has cared for me. The treatments I have undergone have allowed me to continue my career as a painter at full speed.

Oriental brush painting, to me, is a contemplative art form that supports a sense

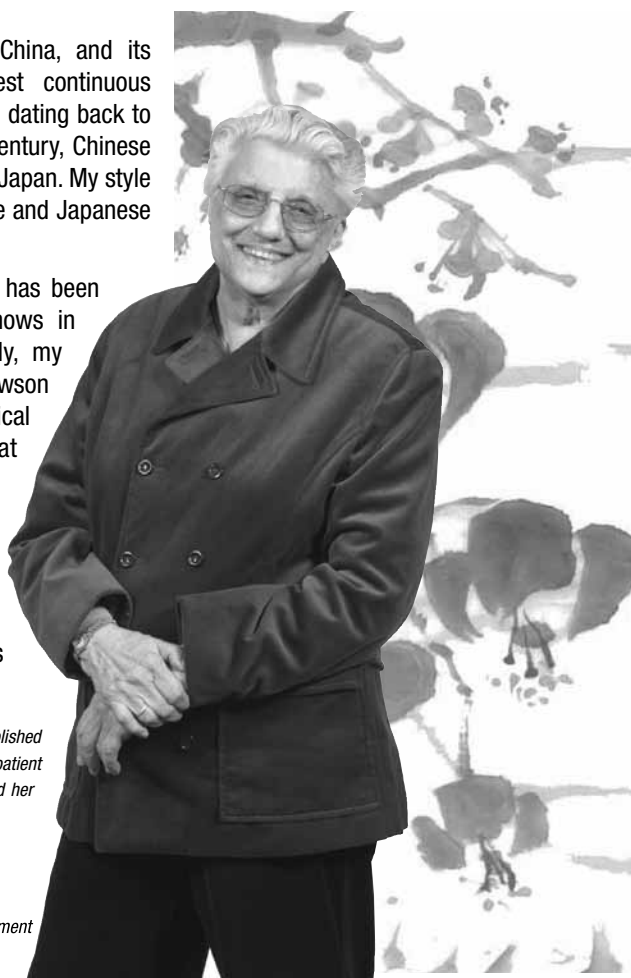
of peace and tranquility. This artistry originated in China, and its heritage includes the oldest continuous artistic tradition in the world, dating back to about 1600 BC. In the 5th century, Chinese art styles began flowing into Japan. My style is influenced by both Chinese and Japanese painting techniques.

I am pleased that my work has been exhibited in one-woman shows in Vermont and Florida. Locally, my work has shown at the Howson Art Gallery, Cleveland Botanical Gardens and Eels Gallery at Blossom Music Center.

The rich, cultural environment fostered by living at Judson Manor has cultivated in me a sense of peace and harmony, which is reflected in my artwork.

Josephine "Jo" Steinhurst is an accomplished Oriental brush painter, Cleveland Clinic patient and Judson Manor resident. You can find her artwork at www.steinhurst.net/Jo.

Photo courtesy of Cleveland Clinic Department of Medical Art & Photography



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