Be a part of Shaker Square history and join SHAD for its first-ever Yankee Doodle Dash. The race will be held on Saturday, July 1.

The Yankee Doodle Dash celebrates the diverse and vivacious community of Shaker Square. Proceeds from this event will assist SHAD in fulfilling its mission to support the Shaker Square neighborhoods, and promote the maintenance and preservation of this historically significant community.

After the race, refreshments will be provided along with family-friendly activities such as a selfie-taking booth, face painting, and a craft activity. Runners and walkers are encouraged to dress in their most creative Fourth of July costume for a chance to win prizes for the Best Fourth of July Costume Contest.

Awards will be given to the overall race winner and to winners from different age groups. Race course and registration information on page 7.

FREE Shaker Square Summer Concerts
Every Saturday from June 17 through August 12 from 6 to 9 p.m., enjoy a wide range of musical styles on the south side of the Square. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets to sit on the lawn. Kids can enjoy free ice cream or popcorn courtesy of Coral Company, LAND Studio and the Saint Luke’s Foundation on select dates.

June 17 The Discovery Band
June 24 Justo Saborit
July 1 Swamp Boogie Band
July 8 Vernon Jones & The Blues Cartel
July 15 Codex Blue
July 22 Timbara
July 29 Mo’ Mojo
August 5 Khatrima
August 12 The Benjaminz

“Bakery Row” Comes to Larchmere
by Bob Yanega

Avon Verduyn dreams. He dreams about more than just pies. But, oh, the pie! He dreams of more than just the “Bakery Row” that he is creating on Larchmere Boulevard with the addition of both Gray House Pies and Poison Berry Bakery in the same building. He dreams of taking Larchmere to the next level. But, oh – the pie!

Frequent North Union Farmers Market attendees – who have needed to stock up on Gray House pies so that they didn’t go through “pie withdrawal” in the week between market days – were rejoicing with Verduyn and Gray House co-owner Joe Schlott as they officially opened April 1. Now, neighborhood residents and visitors can enjoy “big pies for sitting down, little pies for walking around” every day, without having to wait for market day or traveling to Gray House’s other store in Westlake.

And, oh – the pie! Not just sweet pies, although there are plenty of those. They also offer savory pies, meat pies and quiches made fresh every day. The friendly staff also sells other locally produced food and beverage items, and serves up a delicious cup of fresh-brewed coffee.

Gray House Pies at 12204 Larchmere is in the same building as Poison Berry Bakery, which offers vegan treats.

New Vet Office to Open this Summer
Growing up in Providence, R.I., Kim was living in New York City when he realized Wall Street just wasn’t right for him.

“It got to the point where I couldn’t see myself doing this for the next 20 years,” Kim recalled. “So I quit the next day.”

He started working as a full-time veterinarian’s assistant while taking the science prerequisites at City University of New York before enrolling at Ross University in the Caribbean, then doing his clinical work at Ohio State.

On the other hand, the career choice for Dr. Allison Spanksy was a bit more clear-cut and direct.

“I guess I was always a little more focused; I’ve been playing vet since I was 4 years old,” Spanksy recalled, having grown up in the Akron area, earning her Bachelor’s degree in biology at Wittenberg University.

From there, she attended Ohio State’s College of Veterinary Medicine, and most recently has been working at an office in Madison, Lake County.

Two very different career paths have led to the soon-to-be-opened Shaker Square Animal Hospital.

With a 90-day construction build-out that commenced at the end of April, and the opening of the practice set for early August, the two vets sat down recently for an interview at Dewey’s Coffee Shop across the Square.

For Dr. Nam Kim, veterinary medicine actually required a career change, after earning his master’s in finance and working for years in that field.

“As an undergrad, I thought about medicine actually required a career change, after earning his master’s in finance and working for years in that field.

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“An interview at Dewey’s Coffee Shop across the Square.

For Dr. Nam Kim, veterinary medicine actually required a career change, after earning his master’s in finance and working for years in that field.

“As an undergrad, I thought about med school but I was impatient, so I went with business,” Kim said.
Join Shaker Square Area Development Corp.

Your support sustains, maintains & grows our neighborhoods!

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN SHAD:**
- Maintains our charming, artistic, accessible residential community
- Preserves this architectural gem
- Encourages local businesses and restaurants to thrive
- Contributes to fun, area activities
- Provides you with discounts from our merchants

**MEMBER BENEFITS:**
- Tax deductible membership fees
- The SHAD Connection mailed to your home or business
- Special discounts from participating local merchants listed here in Neighborhood Shopping Savings

**THE SHAD Connection Deadlines Fall Issue**

**Ad Deadline:** Friday, June 23
**Drop-off Deadline:** Monday, July 24

**Contact Information:**
- Send to info@shad.org
- Call 216-421-2200
- Mail to: Shaker Square Area Development Corporation, 1330 Ludlow Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44108
- Interior Design: Call 216-421-2100
- Press releases/Editorials: Monday, July 24

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Cleveland Leadership Program Seeks 2017 Applicants
by Sandra Kluk

In 2006, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, along with former Cleveland Mayor Michael White, established a leadership training program for engaged community leaders. The Neighborhood Leadership Development Program is a free, 16 session community engagement training program for residents of Cleveland, and its inner ring suburbs, who are working on projects within the City of Cleveland and who are determined to make a positive impact on their communities.

After the application process, 20 committed individuals are chosen for the program year. NLDP participants and graduates have many interests and are working on a wide variety of community building and development projects. Linda Thomas-Jones / Mama Fasi is one such person.

She has been a musician for 47 years and has taught children and adults at many community centers and schools. But without her own place of business Fasi was forced to haul sometimes up to 30 drums in a vehicle to teach at the centers. She was finally able to realize a lifelong dream of opening her own business and having a home for her programs, Fasi's Cultural Experience at 12806 Larchmere, and her programs are open to everyone.

She is dedicated to the arts and welcomes and encourages those passing by to stop in and see her store and maybe try out a few drums or look over the many items she sells. Those who have stopped in have left with a positive attitude about the impact of her presence there. Her granddaughter now teaches ballet and hip hop classes. There are sewing classes for those interested in making their own clothes.

Fasi credits the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program and says “NLDP gave me the confidence to finally move forward with my dream and validated that what I had been doing for so long held real value for my community. Through sessions on program planning, fundraising and more, I learned how to move forward. I got to work with other participants who encouraged and supported me in my efforts and still do to this day.”

For information about Fasi's programs you can contact her at 216.254.9485. The application period for the NLDP program runs through August 4.

The 16 sessions take place on Saturdays at Trinity Commons at 2230 Euclid Avenue beginning August 26.

For more information and an application, visit nldpi.cleveland.com or call 216.776.6167.

It's unbelievable what can be accomplished when you have a team of people united for the same cause. On Thursday, April 27 the Shaker Square Area Development Corporation celebrated its 2016 accomplishments at its annual member meeting. During this gathering of members, we shared the long list of projects that our members had a hand in completing and are still seeing through.

William Beard
President’s Message

All Hands on Deck

- I, along with Vice President Mary Ann Kovach, have met with University Circle Inc. to discuss the possibility of a free shuttle bus to take Shaker Square area residents to University Circle to benefit the many students that live in our area.

- SHAD continues to own and manage the Robbins Shaker West Professional Building (11811 Shaker Boulevard). Crossing $150,000 in 2016, the building provides affordable options for small businesses and non-profit organizations, and reduces vacancies in the neighborhood.

- A new, more robust website was created by our board member Amy Bucaida. Our social media accounts also have been more actively updated by fellow board members Emma Visnic and Tina Haldisman, allowing SHAD to better communicate with the community.

- For the first time ever, a three-year strategic plan has been developed to help our organization road map our future successes. Thank you to all of our members for their contributions, and I look forward to working with you to make this year the best yet.
coming down Shaker Boulevard with the houses and the trains. They got in touch with the Coral Company and then LDA Architects, who came up with an innovative design for the “wedge-shaped” space of over 2,500 square feet. Although they could not have separate entrances, they are designing a “cat-friendly” practice, with a diagonal hallway connecting to two dog exam rooms, as well as a separate “cat-free” room for cats, and a smaller “quiet therapy” and acupuncture room for holistic medicine.

Kim has found a new home in the Shaker Square neighborhood, and Spansky is planning on moving to Cleveland with her family, including a cat named Mercapto and soon, a daughter.

Spansky, who was about two weeks away from her due date at the time of the interview, added that she will be back at work by the time Shaker Square Animal Hospital opens. In keeping with the community feel, Kim and Spansky also plan to offer care in homes, making house calls to pets and pet owners in need. Shaker Square Animal Hospital, 13210 Shaker Boulevard, will preside over the PTO at Boulevard School. So give them some very square help when they call.


Kudos to Leslye Arias who was the creative force behind the opening of the Shaker Community Gallery at Christ Episcopal Church on Warrensville Center Road.

The Rotary Club of Shaker Heights wanted to make sure Shaker children were never at a loss for words so they gave each third-grader a Student’s Dictionary & Gazeteer. Now that speaks volumes about the civic organization! If you thought journalism was dead you haven’t read the Shaker Heights High School newspaper, The Shakerite. Student writers distill the news in cogent terms under the leadership of student advisor Natalie Selicky. Read it online at http://shakerite.com.

Heard Around the Square

The “square” connection to some of this year’s inductees into the Heights Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame includes Burton Saltzman, chairman of Cleveland-based Dave’s Market, and LeTasha C. Watts, foster care alumna, author, advocate, inspirational speaker, and founder and executive director of The Purple Project based in Shaker Heights. Julianna Johnston Senturia, executive director of the Heights Schools Foundation, organized the induction party last May. Nicol Conon and Tracy Peebles will preside over the PTO at Boulevard School. So give them some very square help when they call.

When Judi Kovach closed the book on her career at Progressive, she opened a new one by co-founding Kids’ Book Bank, which provides gently used children’s books to organizations that can distribute them to children and families in need. To register your organization, go to kidshookbank.org.

Lee Haas led a successful Friends of the Shaker Library Spring Book Sale with the friendly assistance of Connie Naugle and Roni Glassberg. Their hard work paid big dividends for the Friends and proved that folks are still reading books in print. And speaking of reading . . . swing by the Shaker Library and sign up for a summer reading program with a musical theme and tune in to all the Library has to offer. Meet authors Thrity Umrigar, author of “Everybody’s Son” at 7 p.m. on July 17 at Main Library; and Celeste Ng (SHHS Class of 1998), author of “Little Fires Everywhere” at 7 p.m. on September 19. Enjoy the sun and fun and LMNOP (Let’s Meet & Nosh on Patio) around the Square. And, of course, keep your ears open for me. heardaroundtheshares@gmail.com

East 130th Clean Up Project

East 130th Corridor Cleanups are scheduled for the last Saturday of every month June through October from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the gazebo at Drexmore Road and East 128th Street. Everyone is invited to come by and help. Please bring gardening-type gloves if you have them. Questions? Contact Julie Donaldson, Chair, East 130th Corridor Cleanup, 216.224.8687.
Ludlow Community Happenings

by Susan Rotatori

Ludlow Community Association Teams Up with Shaker Arts Council

The Ludlow Community Association (LCA) is hosting the Shaker Arts Council’s (SHAC) premiere “SHAC on TRAC - The Road to Arts & Community” event on Saturday, June 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Pep School (formerly the Ludlow School) at the corner of Ludlow and Southington Roads.

The event, which is free and open to the community, features an art project theme “everyone has a story to tell.” Residents of all ages are invited to participate in making an individual visual image that will be combined with others to create a free-standing sculpture. Participants can bring items such as photos, magazines, wrapping paper, wallpaper scraps, shoes and CDs to tell their story. This art project will be transported to other “SHAC on TRAC” events traveling around Shaker Heights this summer.

The school’s baseball outfield will be the stage for Ronnie Love, LCA member, who will play the drum and lead a group of kids in creating and sharing a musical performance.

“SHAC on TRAC” events with the same theme of “everyone has a story to tell” will include the participatory art project and musical entertainment. The event is scheduled for Friday, July 21 at the Shaker Plaza (site of this year’s Van Aken Boulevard to Livingston Road and Onaway Boulevard).

These one-time funds may go toward options such as tutoring/ private lessons, band camps and swimming lessons, and extracurricular Shaker Heights school activities. The funds were generated from a benefit organized by the Shaker Arts Council.

Anyone interested in applying for these educational funds should send a brief letter of interest to the Ludlow Community Association, Attn.: LCA Youth Funds, PO Box 20232, Cleveland, Ohio 44120. Or visit ludo hurlowcommunity.org where the educational form is available along with additional information.

Reminder:
LCA Monthly Meetings

The LCA community meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. (ending promptly at 8:30 p.m.) at the Ludlow/Pep School (corner of Ludlow and Southington). The monthly community meetings feature sharing of community news and resident issues, safety reports from both Cleveland and Shaker Hts. police officers, and occasional special speakers. Meetings are not held in August or December. Look for the posting of LCA yard signs in the neighborhood as reminders of the meetings.

Coming soon!

Barroco Arepa Bar and Concert Café, the Columbian-themed arepa bar that has a Lakewood location, is coming to 12718 Larchmere. Mayor Jackson stopped by to see his work and you can too, until July 15. corcoranfinearts.com

Larchmere resident and Cleveland Orchestra member Dane Johansen produced Strangers on the Earth, an orchestra member of the Cleveland Orchestra, who was born and raised in Larchmere. Mayor Jackson stopped by to see his work and you can too, until July 15. corcoranfinearts.com

A Warm Welcome to Langston Wesley: New Directions at Corcoran Fine Arts, 12619 Larchmere. Mayor Jackson stopped by to see his work and you can too, until July 15. corcoranfinearts.com

Rock the Blocks returns! June 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bring a chair and spend the day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Academy Tavern, 3420 Larchmere. On the summer reading list: • June 12: “The Painted Girls” by Cathy Marie Buchanon • July 10: “Night” by Elie Wiesel • August 14: “Fates and Furies” by Lauren Groff

11th Annual Larchmere Festival, Saturday, July 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cleveland’s street of Indie shops extends its quirky spirit to the festival. Find a chess challenge, martial arts, and a mix of crafts, antiques, boutiques and more up and down the boulevard. Be sure to visit Author Alley, Loganberry Books’ annual spotlight on 50 of CLE’s “local literati.” 216.231.9400

It’s the 9th Annual PorchFest on June 17. Meet up with 5,000 fellow Clevelanders who love spending a musical summer afternoon on Larchmere. There’ll be 30 Bands on 30 Porches and a few more surprises too, as the music lasts into Saturday night. Plan your day out at larchmereporchfest.org

Shaker Quality Auto Body continues going green. Its new paint booth is 100 percent efficient as far as air pollutants. Stop by, learn more and drop off canned goods for the OLP Pantry too!

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The SHAD Connection Summer 2017 5
Putting Your Best Foot Forward:
What to Consider When Choosing Running Shoes (and Socks!)

by Maeve Metheny

Whether you’re walking a 5k or running a marathon, the shoes you wear can make all the difference.

Jeff Fisher, owner of Cleveland Running Co., says his least favorite question asked by customers is, “What’s your best shoe?”

“Be careful if anyone recommends a shoe or brand to you,” he says. “Everybody’s foot is so different. Even if a doctor recommends one, it doesn’t necessarily mean it’ll fit your foot.”

When choosing your shoes, begin the process by determining what your goal is; take into consideration any recent injuries. Old, worn shoes can also be helpful in choosing a new shoe. “They’re like a road map: they show how the shoe wears and where you put more stress on. This helps determine the category of shoe to recommend,” Fisher explains.

If you’re a walker, it’s better to wear a lighter-weight, more flexible running shoe.

Fishers states that “Walking is still a moving forward motion, but you don’t need all the structure of a running shoe.” He continues, “Walking is more heel-oriented, running is more full-foot. But for most people, a light and more flexible running shoe works out very well for walking.”

Running shoes on the other hand vary from person to person. The most important aspects to consider in choosing running shoes are how balanced you are in them and how comfortable they feel. “You want to make sure the shoe improves your balance. A good test is a one legged squat; if a person’s arch collapses, then he or she will tip to the inside. You want to make sure your foot isn’t tipping inside or outside. You want it to be flat, or what we call neutral.”

Fisher then says, “From there, buy what feels more comfortable, even if it has less bells and whistles.”

Shaker Heights High School Cross Country Coach David Englander agrees. “I’ve always thought that personal comfort is what matters most. Everyone lands a little differently, and there is no one shoe that works for all runners. Your body should do a good job of letting you know which shoe feels right.”

“Some people like absolutely no cushion,” Fisher says. “Some like as thick of a cushion as you can get.” It ultimately comes down to what you’re most comfortable in, he suggests. Fisher also says you should try on shoes from at least three different brands. Even if you know what you like, it’s important to see what other brands have to offer.

Don’t get too attached to your shoes. After you’ve put some miles on them, it’s important to not keep them too long.

“We all have a tendency to run too long in our old shoes. At some point, the cushion or the tread break down, and the shoes you’re left with are altering your gait,” Englander explains. “Running doesn’t have to be an expensive sport, but you need to be willing to buy new shoes when necessary. Waiting too long can cause injuries.”

The last thing to consider: socks. Fisher says to stay away from cotton while running. Cotton t-shirts or socks will stick to skin, creating friction and the potential for blisters. Technical polyester socks are great for running and walking because they wick water away from the skin and don’t stick.
The race begins at the Cleveland Skating Club and makes its way along the Lakes-to-Lakes bike trail, which follows the Doan Brook. Runners and walkers will then continue on the scenic path along Shaker Lakes. Finish at the Cleveland Skating Club and enjoy an early Fourth of July celebration with food, drinks and fun activities for the whole family.

Getting Ready to Run (or Walk): From the Inside and Out

by Kristen Romito

The old school of thought of “carbing up” the night before a race is just that: old. Newer thinking offers a more balanced approach to preparing for cardio events like a race or even a long walk.

Patricia Ellins, a wellness strategist and owner of FullSun Wellness Studio, 4457 Lee Road, - a studio that provides personal training and Thai massage services - says runners should fill up on complex carbs like vegetables, oats, sweet or white potatoes; this should be done before and after a walk or run.

“When you want to replenish after a workout, use whole foods as much as possible,” advises Ellins.

Because they have preservatives, protein bars and protein powder should not be used as a main source to fuel up for exercise. Ellins says they’re fine for an on-the-go option.

Determining how you’ll fuel your body is just half the battle plan. Warming up your body is just as important as it helps prevent unnecessary injuries.

“Typically I don’t encourage runners to stretch before they run,” explains Ellins. “I don’t believe in stretching muscles that are inactive because you can pull the muscle and it can reduce the power output from the muscle.”

The trainer suggests jumping jacks, jump roping, walking up and down stairs or even walking for a couple of minutes as effective ways to warm up before an exercise.

“It’s always easier to warm up to it [an exercise] than jump into an exercise,” she says.

Even walkers need to warm up before they exercise. “If you’re walking fast your body mechanics are different than when you’re walking slowly,” Ellins adds. She recommends walkers should rotate their ankles, scratch their feet and relax.

Ellins goes on to say that “Posture starts in your feet. If you’re not taking care of your feet, you can have kinetic changes, joint to joint... you can be more prone to injury or chronic pain.”

These same stretches have just as much impact on the very body part that takes brunt of these strenuous workouts: the feet.

Dr. Jeffrey Halpert, a podiatrist with Podiatry Health Care of Greater Cleveland, 3825 Ridge Road, Parma says stretching exercises for the calves, hamstrings, quadriceps and gastrocnemius all impact the integrity of the foot muscles and can prevent common foot ailments such as achilles tendon and plantar fasciitis. Specific stretching exercises for particular foot concerns are available at clevelandfoot.com.

Even some common household products can aid in stretching your feet. Dr. Halpert suggests rolling your foot along a can of soup or a frozen bottle of water before and after a walk or run to massage your feet. The frozen water bottle will even help prevent the development of blisters. Soaking your feet in Epsom salt will also soothe your feet after a run/walk.

If stretching and soothing strategies aren’t enough, Dr. Halpert says orthotics are helpful in preventing common foot ailments associated with frequent running and walking, such as achilles tendinitis. “We make custom orthotics by making a cast molding of the foot,” he says. “There are different types of [orthotics] for different foot ailments.”

There’s even a difference in orthotics for runners and walkers.

“For my patients who are runners I prescribe functional orthotics, which are a bit more rigid and reduce abnormal motion of the foot.” For walkers and older patients, Dr. Halpert recommends accommodating orthotics, which are softer and redistribute the weight more evenly across the foot.

If you don’t have the means to get prescribed custom orthotics, Dr. Halpert says over the counter versions can be pretty decent and are available at specialized shoe stores.

But Dr. Halpert’s most important advice: “I recommend that people take their shoe purchases seriously.”

Getting fitted by a certified shoe fitter is essential according to Dr. Halpert. The certified shoe fitter will perform a gate analysis or walking analysis, and evaluate your stride in order to make an appropriate shoe recommendation. He or she may even take an impression of your foot with a Harris Mat, which will further help determine the best shoe for you.

Not adhering to any of this advice, Dr. Halpert warns, “Eventually, you’ll experience shin splints, knee and back pain and ankle discomfort.”

“Everything is connected. You can’t ignore one thing or another. You can’t exclude the inside from the outside and vice versa,” Ellins summarizes. “You want to treat the body as holistically as possible.”

Register at shad.org.
Save when you pre-register
5K run: $25
1-Mile walk and kids run: $20
Families: $70
ShAD members: $20

After June 24
5K run: $30
1-Mile walk & kids run: $25
Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at
1-Mile walk & kids run: $25
5K run: $30
After June 24
SHAD members: $20
Families: $70
1-Mile walk and kids run: $20
5K run: $25

Save when you pre-register
Register at shad.org.
Shaker Square Architect Shares Story to Help Save His Daughter from Heroin Addiction

by Mary Patton

In his new book, “My Journey Down the Big Muddy,” Bill Ayars chronicles the ups and downs of his 1,700-mile jet-skiing journey down the Mississippi River with his two young daughters, Jennifer and Jackie. A registered architect, Ayars is founding principal of Perspectives Architecture, located on the second floor of the southeast quadrant of Shaker Square since 2001 (perspectivesarch.com).

Co-authored with local journalist Susan Valerian, the book follows Ayars’ trip from St. Paul, Minnesota, to New Orleans while simultaneously following the family’s journey through Ayars’ non-Hodgkin lymphoma cancer, his heartbreaking divorce and Jennifer’s drug addiction. The idea for the adventure came while Ayers was undergoing cancer treatment in 2006. His survival motivated him to find a mission, both to celebrate his life and to nurture his relationship with his daughters. The trip became a turning point in their relationship, and they became a team determined to reach the finish.

Originally, the book was meant to be a gift from Ayers to his daughters, Jennifer and Jackie. A registered architect, Ayars was intended to be a gift from Ayers to his daughters, Jennifer and Jackie. A registered architect, Ayars is founding principal of Perspectives Architecture, located on the second floor of the southeast quadrant of Shaker Square since 2001 (perspectivesarch.com).

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Lucy’s Sweet Surrender Makes its TV Debut

by Kristen Romito

This summer if you walk into Lucy’s Sweet Surrender, you’re walking into more than just a bakery but the backdrop for the reboot of “Out of Darkness: Cleveland,” a crime/sf television series created by Cleveland native Alex P. Michaels.

The show is a reboot of the original series, which aired from 2004 through 2008. Like the original show, the new version is about a female Spanish homicide detective who must work with distrustful colleagues and corrupt politicians. However, the most disturbing part of her life is a mysterious shadow-like creature that takes over her body and literally eats criminals. Lucy’s will serve as the hangout for the agents of the federal task force assigned to keep the city safe.

“Owner Michael Feigenbaum of Lucy’s was the first sponsor of the original series. So, when I decided to reboot the show, he was the first business to support it,” Michaels says.

“We are working on a three episode arc with a Senator coming to town, and Lucy’s will be showcased in all the episodes.”

Michaels added that Feigenbaum will even make a few cameos.

The Emmy-winning writer will reprise his role as an unethical prosecutor from New Orleans, and the bakery will serve as his character’s hangout as well.

Michaels grew up off of East 105th Street near Cedar Road and then moved around Shaker Square. He currently lives off of Buckeye Road. He studied screenwriting at Stanford University, and playwriting and acting at Karamu House. He is the founder of his production company Prelude2Cinema.

“Out of Darkness: Cleveland” will air a 30-minute episode online before the end of 2017, and the premiere of more episodes will be at Cleveland Concoction next March, the 9th to 11th, 2018. Prelude2Cinema plans to air the episodes online with Amazon and also do theatrical screenings of the series. The production company also plans to do a continuing blog from the Senator about the events going on in the story.

“Cleveland has changed a lot since we created the original series, and as part of the renaissance, Prelude2Cinema felt the title ‘Out of Darkness: Cleveland’ would show our pride in our city to the world,’’ states Michaels.

He continues, “I am hoping to convince the Board of the Cleveland Film Commission and the city of Cleveland that we can do more if we support our local talent and not just Hollywood. I want more Hollywood movies to shoot here, but I also know that a real industry requires support from the local community in deed and not just when the cameras are on.”

More information at clevelandconcoction.org and alexpmichaels.wixsite.com/prelude2cinema/blog

Unleashing Your Inner Artist

by Mavee Metheny

Sip, paint and create is the theme at Modern Day Monet, 12730 Larchmere Boulevard. Owner Charita Ojo has taken her hobby of creating art to the next level. Her fun and interactive studio invites guests to enjoy music, drink wine and learn from a local artist on how to create their own masterpiece, regardless of experience level.

“It’s like modern day therapy in a fun, relaxed environment,” says Charita Shy, operations manager of Modern Day Monet.

The studio offers classes Monday through Saturday, and is open to private parties on Sundays. It provides the space, art instructor and all the needed supplies from paint and aprons to the 16 x 20-inch canvas. All customers need to bring is a painting that they’d like to recreate and an alcoholic (or non-alcoholic) beverage of choice.

Each two-hour class costs $30 per person and $40 for a three-hour class. The maximum number of painters per class is 24. Modern Day Monet also offers a once a month date night special, which costs $55 per couple. Two-hour private parties can be booked for any special occasion for any day of the week.

Due to limited space reservations are necessary and can be made over the phone (216.338.4092) or on the website (moderndaymonets.com).

While choosing one’s own painting lends to more creative freedom, the studio also offers the option to personalize a classic Monet piece, like his famous water lilies painting, one day a month.

In May Modern Day Monet began offering Mimosa Mondays, which in addition to a regular class includes complimentary mimosas.
Bakery Row
Continued from page 1

to be pre-ordered through the app it's developing or via Uber Eats. Verdun dreams of other new businesses for the area, some connected to the pie shop and others totally separate.

"I'd like to see a bread bakery, another pizza place and a craft brewery," he says. "We are talking about serving our meat pies with a good craft beer."

Verdun bought the building in 2003 and has continued to invest in Larchmere ever since. He recently shared some of the extensive research that he's done with a Cleveland City Council candidate as they sampled pie, and talked about ways that he envisions rejuvenating some of the more run-down areas of Larchmere.

The business owner would also like to see the City of Cleveland enact legislation to incentivize homeowners to upgrade their homes and make it more attractive to invest in foreclosed homes.

He also believes that current residents and newcomers can join in building on the neighborhood's success.

"This neighborhood is ideally set for it: great housing stock, fairly low crime. Buy in the community, support the community, look out for each other. Be community," he says. "Now that's something we can all sink our teeth into!"

Gray House Pie, 12204 Larchmere, 216.810.6111, grayhousepie.com
Poison Berry Bakery, 12210 Larchmere, 440.477.2078, poisonberrybakery.com

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