



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, August 2, 2013; "Producers of Culture" an art opening of Esperanza Youth Artists in collaboration with the Beck Center for the Arts and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture; Bruno Casiano Gallery, 5304 Detroit Avenue: The panel on the left is one of three ceramic panels in a mural produced by the Esperanza Youth Artists, as an expression of some of their hopes and dreams.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Near West Side Community Council offers a new resident-based model for neighborhood development

by Chuck Hoven

The goal of the Near West Side Community Council (NWSCC), which consists of largely of member agencies and individuals located on the Near West Side of Cleveland, is to bring together the vast experience of various agencies and individuals, "to adequately address the needs of our youth population so as to develop a supportive community."

Victor Ruiz, Executive Director of Esperanza, a member organization that played a key role in the formation of the NWSCC, sees the council helping form a new model for neighborhood development in Cleveland. Instead of trying to bring people in from the suburbs as some neighborhoods have done to spur development, Ruiz envisions

the Clark-Fulton neighborhood using a resident based model of redevelopment.

Ruiz says, when he looks at the Clark Fulton neighborhood, where Esperanza is located, he sees a gem of a neighborhood filled with people, a lot of diversity, and many social service agencies. He believes that by pulling together, the people and agencies in the neighborhood can make their streets safer; make sure children get to school, and collaborate to assure students and their families have the resources they need to succeed.

Citing census data for the Clark-Fulton neighborhood, Ruiz notes the neighborhood has almost twice the population density as the City of Cleveland as a whole with

10,408 people per square mile, as opposed to 5,183 people per square mile in the city as a whole. The neighborhood is also filled with children and schools, says Ruiz, with 31% of the population in the neighborhood in K-12 schools, as compared with 19.1% citywide.

Ruiz estimates that the Near West Side Community Council now has about fifty members, with 25 members that are very active. Members are largely professionals in social service and community development organizations. The Near West Side Community Council has an Executive Committee and four additional committees: Education and Learning, Health and Safety, Council Collaboration and Community Engagement.

In a strategic plan for the organization, created in 2012, a mission statement was developed which says, "Through collaboration and information-sharing within the community, we empower youths on Cleveland's Near West Side to achieve their highest level of career and college readiness."

While the Near West Side Community Council originally targeted the community from Lake Erie to Denison and from the Tremont neighborhood to the West Boulevard neighborhood, Ruiz says he feels the organization started with too large a geographic area and needs to focus in order to concentrate its resources more effectively.

This year with three of the schools

within the original target area being declared "investment schools" by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), Ruiz believes the mission of the Near West Side Community Council should be, "How do we support those schools?" The schools, Walton, Luis Munoz Marin, and Lincoln West High School, were in either academic watch or academic emergency prior to being named investment schools by the CMSD.

Ruiz says the Near West Side Community Council hopes to emulate the P-16 (preschool through post secondary education or training) model developed by Kurt Karakul and the Third Federal Foundation in the Broadway/Slavic

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Cleveland Public Theatre's Teen Student Theatre Enrichment Program thrills audiences with outdoor performances in Cleveland neighborhoods

by Chuck Hoven

In early August, Cleveland Public Theatre's 2013 Teen Student Theatre Enrichment Program entertained audiences in a dozen locations around the City of Cleveland. The free performances were held in outdoor park settings. The play they created is called *And One Night*.

In the play, a young woman, Sasha, hides in the stuff being stolen from her father, the Big Guy. When the thieves discover her amongst the stolen goods, she begins relating some of the stories from *Arabian Nights: One Thousand and One Nights*. Like Scheherazade's tales told to the Sultan in *Arabian Nights*, Sasha's tales help to preserve her from harm and change the worldview of her captors.

THEATER REVIEW

Sasha's own tale is interwoven into the story, as the tale progresses, it turns out that her departure from her father's house was not accidental. She stowed away among the good being stolen, looking for adventure, and feeling neglected by a father absorbed in his work and the accumulation of many possessions. The tale concludes with Sasha's reunion with her father and his declaration that his daughter means more to him than all his possessions.

At Mercedes Cotner Park in the West Boulevard neighborhood on August 8th, the cast of nearly thirty teens did an excellent job of performing the tales of the *Arabian Nights* – such as the story of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, the story about a fisherman and a genie, and a story about jealous sisters -- as related by the heroine, Sasha. The play was entertaining and engaging and the audience clearly enjoyed the performance and the lessons imparted in the play.

The cast, directed by Cleveland Public Theatre's Chris Seibert, did an excellent job of projecting their voices in the outdoor setting so all audience members sitting on the lawn around the performance could hear the play.

Prior to the performance at Mercedes Cotner Park, Director Chris Seibert honored retiring Ward 16 Councilman Jay Westbrook and his long time

Executive Assistant Kathy Tierney for their support for the Student Theatre Enrichment Program over the years. Seibert noted that the financial support

secured by the City Council office helped make possible the eight week summer theatre program in which the teens worked five hours a day, 5 days

a week for eight weeks to prepare the original production of the play, *And One Night*.



Thursday, August 8, 2013; Cleveland Public Theatre's Student Theatre Enrichment Program (STEP) performance of the play *And One Night*, at Mercedes Cotner Park, W. 95th and Maywood: The play offers a reimaging of some of the stories from *Arabian Nights: One Thousand and One Nights*. A young woman uses stories and her imagination to help a group of thieves to change their outlook on life.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, July 27, 2013; Saving Women and Gents (SWAG) Health Fair sponsored by The Urban Barber Association (TUBA), Parking lot of the Detroit Norwood Apartments, W. 111th and Detroit Avenue: Sonya Callahan of Lifebanc talks with Josh Womack. The Lifebanc display offered information on organ donations.

The Urban Barber Association goes beyond cutting hair to help their clients

The Urban Barber Association (TUBA) sponsored a Health Fair titled, Saving Women and Gents (S.W.A.G.) in four barbershops (2 on the East Side and 2 on the West Side) on July 27th. The participating barbershops on the West Side, Urban Kutz Barbershop at 11100 Detroit Avenue and 2nd Round Knockouts Barbershop at

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Phone: (216) 621-3060
2012 W. 25th STE 500
Cleveland, OH 44113
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ART
2013 HISPANIC HERITAGE SHOW
will be held at the Bruno Casiano Gallery, 5304 Detroit Ave., from Sept. 20 through Oct. 20. For info, call 216-346-6562.

TRANSFORMER STATION art gallery, 1460 W. 29 Street, will present "The Unicorn", its first exhibition by the Cleveland Museum of Art, opening Sat., Sept. 7 thru Nov. 30. Opening day events from noon – 5 pm include music on the lawn, plus performance art and readings in the galleries. For info, call 888-CMA-0033 or visit ClevelandArt.org.

ARTNEO AND THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY Charles F. Schweinfurth Library are collaborating to present the exhibition *Charles F. Schweinfurth: Uncompromising Architect of Cleveland's Valiant Age* to run Sept. 6 to Nov. 2, 2013 at ARTneo at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. Opening reception will be Fri., Sept. 6, 6-8 p.m. For info, visit artneo.org, or call the gallery, 216-227-9507, during gallery hours, Wed-Sat afternoons 1-5.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SONG WRITING

WORKSHOP WITH Roots of American Music's Kevin Richards and Sheela Das will be held Sat., Sept. 7, from 11 am – noon at the Gordon Square Farmers Market, corner of W. 65 and West Clinton Ave. All are invited to bring an instrument, enjoy a demonstration of traditional and blues melodies, then write and perform your songs at the workshop. For info, visit www.facebook.com/DSCDCG.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY is Tues., Sept. 10, with polls open 6:30 am-7:30 pm. **Voters must bring identification to the polls.** Early voting at the Board of Election will be held through Mon., Sept. 9, from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. For info, or to check your polling place, ward or precinct call the Board of Election at 216-443-VOTE (8683) or visit www.443vote.com.

SEEDS OF LITERACY offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults in reading, writing, math, science and social studies and GED preparation in the US Bank Building, 3104 W. 25th Street, 3rd floor. For info, call 216-661-7950.



The Plain Press Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters

POTLUCK IN THE PARK

a city-wide celebration of growers and eaters from all neighborhoods, will be held on Sun., Sept. 22, from 4:30-7 pm at Dunham Tavern Museum, 6709 Euclid Ave. Bring a dish of any size to share and a list of ingredients, hopefully with at least one local ingredient. Guests are also encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland. Please come regardless if you are unable to bring a dish. For info, visit sustainablecleveland.org.

EVENTS

EDGEMEATER PARK BIRD WALK with Cleveland Metroparks naturalist on Tues., Sept. 17, 6-7 pm, will explore the coastline and learn about fall bird migration through the lakefront greenspace. Meet at the lower lake level parking lot. For info, call 440-887-1968.

GREAT LAKES BREWING COMPANY celebrates its 25th anniversary with a Block Party on Fri., Sept. 6, from 11 am – 9 pm, at the Great Lakes Brewpub and Market Square Park, W. 25th and Lorain. Lots of free activities, music plus local food and beer available. For info, visit greatlakesbrewing.com.

SPARX CITY HOP on Sat., Sept. 21 from 11 am – 9 pm, offers free SPARX trolley service to arts celebrations in Cleveland neighborhoods. For info, visit downtowncleveland.com/events.

FREE DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS continue through Sept. 15 through 5 historic downtown districts. For info and schedules, call 216-771-1994 or visit clevelandgatewaydistrict.com.

GARDENING

CUYAHOGA COMPOSTS! is a 6-session program on composting on an individual and/or neighborhood scale. Applications, schedule, and program description are available online at <https://cuyahoga.osu.edu>, or by contacting Nicole Wright at 216-429-8200x249 or wright.1128@osu.edu.

HEALTH

FAMILY HEALTH FAIR on Sat., Sept. 28, from 8:30 am-noon at Lutheran Hospital's Castele Learning Center, 1730 W. 25 Street, features free screenings, community resources, children's activities, and healthy cooking demonstrations. For info, call Janice Gonzalez at 216-363-2019.

SUSTAINABILITY

NOMINATE A HERO in local sustainability for the 5th Annual Sustainability Summit. Nominations due by Sept. 22. Visit sustainablecleveland.org, then click on "get involved".

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Service Employees International Union asks Cleveland Municipal School Board to show importance of employees through more sincere contract negotiations

by Chuck Hoven

At the first Cleveland Municipal School Board Business Meeting in the new Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Administrative Building at 1111 Superior Avenue, CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon outlined three specific goals: 1) Workforce Shaping – honoring retirees while working to recruit and retain staff; 2) Execute the elements of the Cleveland Plan and report progress to the community in quarterly reports; and 3) Create a Workforce Culture where all employees see themselves as educators first, and therefore put students first.

While much of the CMSD's plan

for school improvement involves the workforce, the entire workforce is not content. During the public comment period, five members of the Service Employees International Union, District 1199, brought their concerns to the Board of Education. The union, which represents the mailroom staff, the cleaning staff, the dietary staff, and the school secretaries, expressed their disappointment and frustration in the district's failure to come to an agreement on their union contract.

Union members said while the district and the CEO "are open and supportive of us supporting them," in their contract negotiations they have shown "disregard to the health and

welfare of employees of the district." The SIEU members made it clear that their members are the parents and grandparents of children in the school district, so they very much want the district to succeed. While the rhetoric from the district tells them "how important we are as a support staff. However, the actions of the lead negotiator for the district say we don't matter," said one union member.

Union members complained that they still had 20 items on the table. They said the school district's lead negotiator, Nick Jackson, continuously promised to look into the items and continuously came

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Friday, August 9, 2013; Literacy Lot, Carnegie Branch Library, Fulton and Bridge Avenue: Children work on art projects in a Literacy Lot where the library grounds contained images from children's books. The colorful pasta is part of the imagery from the children's book, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*.

THE URBAN BARBER ASSOCIATION

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site and many stayed to enjoy free music, food and visit health care booths.

Waverly Willis, co-owner of Urban Kutz, and an active participant in The Urban Barber Association, describes TUBA as, "a collaboration of Barber shops and hair salons who are using their minority owned businesses as a venue to assist our community with every day issues

they encounter." He says the trusted homelike environment offered in the barbershops often leads to clients sharing personal information about their health, finances, employment and family concerns. Willis says the barbershops are perfect locations to help people with the problems they face in life.

The members of TUBA provide a network of locations to distribute literature about a variety of resources available to help individuals and

families such as assistance with low/no income health programs, drug and alcohol abuse recovery, Community Re-entry, employment, food banks, affordable and reliable auto mechanics, scholarship opportunities and voter registration.

For more information about The Urban Barber Association visit their website at www.theurbanbarberassociation.org or contact Waverly Willis via phone at 216-253-4991 or by email at tubahelp@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, August 9, 2013; Neighborhood Back to School Fair, Carnegie Branch Library, Fulton and Bridge Avenue: Abbey Kraynik of North Royalton Girl Scout Troop 64 distributes donated books to neighborhood children. Girl Scouts from Troop 64 held a book drive as part of a Silver Award Project to secure the donated books. The Neighborhood Back to School Fair, organized by West Side Catholic Center, Providence House, Franklin Circle Church, Carnegie Branch Library and Ohio City Inc., distributed over 900 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Pre-Kindergarten SPARK program targets children planning to attend Clark School

Children, ages 3 and 4, who plan to attend Clark School, 5550 Clark Avenue, next year, are invited with their parents or guardians to join the Supporting Partnership to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) program. The SPARK program is an early learning program that works with children and their parents to help increase early childhood literacy and school-readiness.

The program, designed by the Literacy Cooperative in collaboration with Invest in Children and Family Connections, is an in home tutoring program that links pre-kindergarten-aged children and their parents with a "Parent Partner."

The parent partner helps to guide the parent in the use of a proven curriculum and also serves as a resource providing parents with ways to incorporate

learning into daily home activities. In addition, parent partners help connect children and families to resources they may need. The program offers a number of materials to families including age appropriate books, art supplies, activity cards, backpacks and school supplies.

In addition to working with the families at home, the SPARK program will introduce the children and their families to Clark Elementary School to help take some of the mystery and fear out of attending kindergarten. Parents or guardians participating in the program have an opportunity to meet and interact with other parents participating in the program.

SPARK, which started in 2010, has proven success in preparing children

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader complements young peoples' work on "Teen Edition" of Plain Press

To the editor:

I read the Plain Press every month. I pick it up at McDonalds on Denison & Pearl. It's very interesting and informative.

I want to say the Teen Edition was very good. The young people did an excellent job with all the articles and layout of the paper.

David Jereb, 71 years



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Plain Press Candidate Survey Cleveland City Council – Ward 3 --Primary Election, September 10, 2013

Please introduce yourself to Plain Press readers and describe the skills, resources and experience that will help you to address some of the pressing concerns of the City of Cleveland as a City Council Representative from Ward 3. (Please limit answer to 200 words or less.)

Joe Cimperman:

My name is Joe Cimperman and I am a candidate for Cleveland City Council Ward 3. I was born in Cleveland in the Saint Clair Superior neighborhood.

Since 1998 I have proudly served the people of Cleveland as a Council

Representative. I am a bridge builder and someone who works to bring consensus and leadership together. Since elected I have helped form block clubs, have re built or built new 11 parks, and have answered thousands of calls and concerns from the great people of this community. Crime has gone down since I was first elected to this ward, and it happens because my office works with the Cleveland Police and the community. Hundreds of new homes have been built, we have fought to keep our schools open, growing, and strong, and under my leadership nuisances like Moda, the Jay Hotel, and other crime hotspots have been shuttered. I am a serious councilperson with serious results.

Carrie J. Kurutz:

After graduating from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., at 22, I was a journalist with *Roll Call* on Capitol Hill with insight into legislation and the art of compromise in my many interviews of top elected officials, including my first Cleveland, the Honorable Mary Rose Oakar, who is now my campaign manager for Cleveland City Council-Ward 3. I continued as assistant editor for *Washington Woman Magazine* and then later as a production editor for the journal of the National Academy of Sciences. In the interim, I worked for the *Chicago Tribune* in Kenya when my husband entered the Peace Corps. My work for these publications and others covered pay discrimination against women, governmental corruption, arts, small business, and science-based analysis of environmental problems. I later was a Field Officer in Kenya for Case Western Reserve University/National Institute of Health-which

sponsored infectious disease research (HIV/AIDS, malaria, etc.) My husband Michael and I returned to Cleveland to start Ecomart, the first wholesale distributor of post-consumer recycled paper products in the Midwest. I also founded the Nuisance Abatement Coalition, Inc., a neighborhood organization which oversaw the participation of many in our community to produce effective petitions and witness statements, in coordination with local law enforcement, for various difficulties facing our minorities, children, families, and seniors. My husband Michael and I have lived on Jay Avenue for 23 years.

Jeff Mixon:

Hello Ward 3 Residents, My name is Jeff Mixon. I graduated from Cleveland East High School in 1983 before attending Case Western Reserve University; where I earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. I worked with Alzheimer's patients as a research assistant at Case before attending Kent State University; where I earned a master's degree in education. At Kent, I wrote my first successful grant proposal which established the *Community Leadership and Student Service (C.L.A.S.S.) Program*. The C.L.A.S.S. Program won the *Saturn Award for the Most Innovative New Program*.

I'm running for Cleveland City Council in Ward 3 because the residents here deserve a representative with vision, compassion and experience. Under the current ward leadership, the overall quality of life has consistently declined; while poverty, crime and hopelessness skyrockets.

As a life-long resident of the city of Cleveland, a former schoolteacher and community activist, it's clear to

me that we need a new approach to creating jobs and improving neighborhoods. We need an approach that puts children, senior citizens and neighborhood businesses first; an approach that utilizes the power of unions and businesses committed to social progress.

Describe an important issue facing residents or stakeholders in Ward 3 and how you would address that issue as City Council Representative. (Please limit your response to 500 words or less.)

Joe Cimperman:

There are many important issues facing the residents of new ward 3 yet they are all interconnected. Ward 3 is home to the most innovative and dedicated residents in this region. From the block clubs of Tremont and Ohio City to the heights of Riverview, from the converted-to-housing warehouses downtown to the community gardens of West 61 and Frontier. It is also blessed with access to our City's greatest resources: the West Side Market, Lincoln Park, Clark Field, Lake Erie, and neighborhoods with schools where you can raise your family and live a great life. Our biggest issue is unrealized potential: from abandoned homes that could be re-habilitated to welcome new citizens, to store fronts that could serve our community with needed jobs, development, and goods. Running through all this is the issue of quality of life, safer communities, and a more engaged and collaborative model for growth. How do we all live better? Not by tearing each other down or scaring each other with false statistics, not through whispers and division. But we face the issue of our growth as a community by working together even more and forging the most cohesive ward 3 that we can. I have been doing this since 1998. I ask for your support to continue this work for you.

Carrie J. Kurutz:

Our Community faces a serious ongoing Safety Problem. Safety should no longer take a back seat to other issues in the new Ward 3. It's unthinkable that in the first half of 2013, rape, felonious assault, vehicle theft, and arson occurred more frequently than all of 2012 (in the 2nd District). When violent crime is declining in other cities across the country, it's shameful that in Ward 3 it's on the increase. We must insure a better quality of life and economic development.

Going door-to-door, I've met hundreds of people throughout our Ward who simply live in Fear – for themselves, their families and their neighbors. An elderly woman came to the door with her walker. She said, "Carrie, I was afraid to open the screen door. The last time I did, I was assaulted." Why do our seniors live in fear? On another street, a woman was afraid to let her own children play in the backyard because drug dealers were throwing used needles into her yard from the alley. That's a mother in fear.

An 86-year-old veteran repairs both his own house and the absentee landlord's home next door, which is constantly vandalized. He lives in fear. A small business owner on Lorain Avenue had the front window of his convenient store smashed, and robbed twice recently. Do you think he received a call from the councilman? A top manager of a long-time neighborhood business went outside at 5 a.m. to protect two female employees, and had a brick thrown at his head from the drug house across the street. He showed me the scar, and said he wanted to move out of our neighborhood. That drug house has been there for

Elect CARRIE J. KURUTZ
For Cleveland City Council Ward 3



An Open Letter to Residents:

It's time for a change! Crime has increased dramatically in our Ward in the past year. On August 6, 2013, a rape was reported on Bailey Avenue. This reported rape follows two more – on June 20, early morning in the West Side Market's parking lot – and the next day at Lakeview Estates. Until I saw and released the public record, no one knew about it, including vendors at the West Side Market, who are appalled that no one told them. Reducing violence against women is NOT a priority of our Councilman. Neither are other crimes such as arson, auto theft, and felonious assault.

Where have our tax dollars gone? Our Councilman gets more than \$400,000 in federal Block Grant money annually. It's mandated to inform the community. Yet he's never consulted our residents. No community-wide meetings about the annual budgeting and spending of our tax dollars have been held in years. There's no accounting for the Block Grant money... even on his website. There's zero transparency. What does go on occurs out of the public's eye. **It's time for a change.** As your Councilwoman, I'll serve the public's interests, not special interests.

"Carrie will make the finest public servant our Ward could ever have. I'm voting for Carrie!" Mary Rose Oakar, former Member of the U.S. Congress

www.carriekurutz.com

VOTE FOR CHANGE ON SEPT. 10th!

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Art show features work of artists in Esperanza's summer youth program

by Chuck Hoven

This summer, young artists in Esperanza's summer program interviewed area senior citizens and compared the elders' culture and heritage to their own. They, then, created artwork based on a reflection of what they had learned.

In addition to the individual pieces by each artist, all fifteen artists in the summer program collaborated to create a colorful three-panel tile mural that examines what they felt education should be and the students' hopes and dreams for the future.

The Esperanza youth artists displayed their individual work and the group's mural in a show titled, "Producers of Culture", which opened on August 2nd at Bruno Casiano Gallery, 5304 Detroit Avenue.

ART REVIEW

Esperanza Program Coordinator, conceptual artist Martinez Garcias, facilitated the summer program, challenging the youth to find new ways to look at their lives and their culture. Garcias said he hoped by interviewing the elders, the youths would have an opportunity to "speak to someone who has lived a life." Then, he challenged the youths to talk to each other and share what they learned from their elders. He said they engaged in a process where they were challenged to create art from that experience.

The individual work of the young artists varied greatly. Zulymar Arellano says she interviewed an elder, who reflecting on her life, says the worst experience was

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her marriage, and best part of her life was her children. Arellano responded to the interview doing a piece that makes fun of the wedding ceremony with a large piece of chalk dressed up in a wedding gown.

Arellano, who would like to be an artist, also displayed a work called "Pinky Promise", a pen on paper work that she says takes a serious look at the importance of keeping a promise. Arellano says gallery owner Bruno Casiano invited her to show some of her work at the gallery.

Dorothy Bell interviewed two women, Juvencia Quiñones and Ana Garcia. She learned from them "not to be afraid to maintain who you are," she said. In an acrylic on wood painting, Bell shows the island of Puerto Rico and a Puerto Rican flag, reflecting the elders' pride in their heritage and roots in Yauco, Puerto Rico.

Nikolet Hermida-DeJesus chose to interview her grandmother – the result is a surreal photo collage called "Queen's Eden" about her grandmother's garden and her dedication to the Lord.

Melvin Valerio spoke to an elder about stories of slavery in colonial times in Puerto Rico. The acrylic on canvas work, he produced, describes "a visual translation of bondage to freedom."

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Jahqwahn Watson chose to explore his own cultural background through a poem he displayed with image of himself and an inverse view of that image. The work seeks to explore building a bridge between his Black African culture and the Latino culture he experiences along with his friends and schoolmates.

Edison Arellano in a piece titled, "The Heavy Burden", contrasts two seniors he interviewed – one who talked about the troubles in his life and another who shared memories of playing dominoes.

Students worked on their individual artwork in neighborhood settings or in Esperanza's West 25th Street and Clark headquarters. However, through collaboration between Esperanza, the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, the youths were able to go to the Beck Center for several intense hours a day to work on the mural.

Editor's Note: The artists' three panel color mural will be on display at the Beck Center for the Performing Arts, as part of the Hispanic Art, Hispanic Heritage Exhibit, from September 6 to October 6, 2013. Members of the community are welcome to view the exhibit, free of charge, any time during that period and to join the students for a free opening reception on Friday, September 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the gallery. The Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, August 2, 2013; "Producers of Culture" an art opening of Esperanza Youth Artists in collaboration with the Beck Center for the Arts and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, Bruno Casiano Gallery, 5304 Detroit Avenue: Esperanza Youth Artist Dorothy Bell holds her acrylic on wood work. The work shows an image she made to represent what she learned from interviewing local senior citizens, Juvencia Quiñones and Ana Garcia, about their life histories and their culture. Bell is a student at Kent State University.

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Lou Tisler, Executive Director



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, August 8, 2013; Open House, Lincoln West High School, 3202 W. 30th Street: Faculty, staff, students, parents and partners from Community Based Organizations socialize at this meet and greet event prior to the opening of school. West Side Community House (WSCH) staff members Maria Sliva, (Left) and Donniecia Worley (Right) talk with Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Center Community Development Office Community Network Weaver Juliana Cole about an upcoming event at WSCH. Cole helped the Near West Side Community Council and Lincoln West High School to get the word out about the Lincoln West Open House.

NEAR WEST SIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

continued from page one

Village neighborhood and the Central Promise model initiated by the Sisters of Charity in the Central neighborhood. Both models involve organizing the neighborhood

and its social service agencies around the schools. While those neighborhoods are ahead of the Clark-Fulton neighborhood in terms of developing a strategic plan and securing funding, Ruiz believes that

by concentrating resources in the three investment schools using a corporate partner model, the Near West Side Community Council and its members can make a difference this school year.

The question he asks community organizations is, "With all these

Ward 14 Candidate Surveys

Four candidates are competing in the September 10th Primary Election in Ward 14: Nelson Cintron, Jr., Brian Cummins, Janet Garcia, and Brian Kazy. As the Plain Press goes to press, only two candidates, Cummins and Kazy, have turned in their surveys. We hope to post all Ward 14 candidates surveys we receive online at www.plainpress.org.

Residents organize candidate forums in Ward 14

Ward 14 resident Gloria Ferris could not find any evidence there were any candidate forums planned in new Ward 14 prior to the primary election on September 10th – so she began to organize. Ferris called upon other block club leaders and they planned two forums. They recruited former Ward 14 Councilwoman Helen Smith to act as moderator and followed League of Women's Voters recommendations in designing the format. The two forums were held in August.

With the help of The Institute for Open Economic Networks (I-Open), a nonprofit educational economic development organization headquartered on Kingston Road in Cleveland, the two forums were recorded and are available on YouTube. To link to the forums, go to the **Website landing page: <https://sites.google.com/a/i-open.org/meet-the-candidates/ward-14-cleveland-ohio>**.

SPARK PROGRAM

continued from page 3

to be ready for kindergarten. SPARK children score statistically higher on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in Literacy tests than their peers in the same classrooms. The Literacy Cooperative, Invest in Children, and Family Connections offer the program because they believe that "acquiring

literacy skills before entering school is critical to a child's development and future academic success."

While Clark School is a neighborhood school in the Stockyard neighborhood, any child in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District can choose to attend the school with permission of the principal if space is available. Parents interested in enrolling their child in SPARK should contact Family Connections at (216) 921-2023.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL

continued from page 3

back with no answer or a rejection.

A SEIU member from the dietary staff noted "without us there will be no face to greet children at breakfast and lunch." Another SEIU worker, said she was a low wage-worker in

the district, and also a parent of a child in the district that takes pride in the work she does and wants the district to succeed. She said, "The district will never become a premier district if the workers are disgruntled."

The organization is also involved in an array of programs to help make the neighborhood safer.

Member organization Big Brothers/Big Sisters has offered to focus its mentoring services at Walton School.

With the passage of the school levy, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has promised to invest more resources in schools in academic emergency or academic watch, which they believe have a good chance to improve. CMSD started with 13 investment schools – three in the area served by the Near West Side Community Council. Ruiz says each of those schools has been promised a Resource Coordinator to help engage the community with the schools. He says the school district plans to hire private agencies to oversee the resource coordinators. He hopes the new resource coordinators will be in place by the end of the year to work with all the investment schools in the neighborhood.

On the Near West Side, those new resource coordinators will find a valuable resource to help them, a community organization already working to provide wrap around services to the investment schools. Ruiz estimates that from 2,000 to 2,500 students attend Walton, Luis Munoz Marin and Lincoln West. He believes the many social service and community-based organizations on the Near West Side can make a difference by offering resources to the three investment schools, their students along with their families in a coordinated manner.

The next meeting of the Near West Side Community Council will be on Wednesday, September 25th from 4-6 p.m. at MetroHealth Medical Center in Room 170. For more information about Near West Side Community Council and how to get involved call Victor Ruiz at 216-651-7178.

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WARD 3 SURVEY

continued from page 4

years. Our councilman claims his version of success. Well, that's his opinion. Not the facts on the ground.

Crimes against women should not be kept silent. A rape reported on the parking lot of the West Side Market was first brought to the community's attention by me. This rape, and the one that happened the very next day at Lakeview Estates, is a matter of public record. Now, there's been a third rape reported on Bailey Ave. Last week, a 2nd District policeman told me that there were 10 robberies on a single night that same week in Ohio City, alone. The number one concern in our Community is SAFETY. I'm not waiting for someone who's been in office for 15 years to finally heed the call to Safety. And I'm not waiting for this Councilman now to step up to the plate and do his job. He's had enough time to show his worth. Too many people have been victimized and have been left to fend for themselves.

Police are doing the best they can, considering the dramatic cuts in personnel the past several years. I believe that our Police Officers and Fire Fighters need proper support and tools to be able to do their jobs. My opponent is scrambling to figure out what to do about crime in an election year. His long-term record shows he has not taken the problem seriously and funding for Community Policing, a success throughout the country, was slashed under his watch.

If I spend 100 nights a year walking up and down our neighborhood streets in Tremont, Ohio City, Downtown, Clark/Fulton, Stockyard District and across the Near West Side to reduce crime, and send a message that protects You, I Will Do So— You Will See Me Out There! There's only one way to lead: by example, not excuses.

Jeff Mixon:

Lakeview Terrace is a subsidized housing area commonly known as "the projects." With a population of more than 2,000 residents, unemployment here typically exceeds 35%. Over the decades, sadness and despair have been normalized here, along with a variety of social ills. Lakeview Terrace residents suffer from amputated spirits – due in large part to political neglect. Compared to the attention lavished on the corporate fat cats across the bridge, the residents of the near west side are treated as children of a somewhat lesser god. Low Rise residents, as opposed to those living in the Lakeview Tower High Rise, rarely see politicians in person.

In a city where most quality jobs go to suburbanites, Lakeview Terrace residents survive primarily through entitlement programs such as welfare and social security.

When it comes to providing positive programs for children, the reality is that there isn't enough money to go around. Add to that the fact that children can't vote, and they end up getting left out in the cold in a "you-scratch-my-back and I'll-scratch-yours" political system. If the adults that care about these children don't become aggressive child advocates, we're likely to end up with yet another generation of children fallen victim to a phenomenon that psychiatrist Harry Stack Sullivan coined *malevolent transformations*. Malevolent transformations are associated with *not being valued*, which causes the type of anxiety responsible for most psychological maladjustments.

The Lakeview Action Network, which I'm spear-heading, is a non-profit organization whose number one priority is to raise money to enhance programming for children residing in the Low Rise. The

Lakeview Action Network also has the potential to help in other areas; such as education, transportation and crime reduction.

The Lakeview Action Network envisions bringing vocational charter high schools to this area, working in conjunction with unions and businesses committed to social progress. Marketing-wise and profit-wise, this would be a win-win situation for both groups.

But for now, the Lakeview Action Network will focus on executing the following five-point plan: Sponsor a Fifty-50 Raffle Fundraiser; File as a Self-Declared Non-Profit Organization; Submit proposals to secure funds to hire a professional grant writer; Hire a professional grant writer with the help of the Cleveland Foundation; and Facilitate the process of Low Rise residents developing an *action plan* which will focus initially on the issue of *bullying*. The Dishmon Development Center will be involved in this process.

A birds-eye view of the Low Rise leaves little doubt that the lack of programs and activities for children is a matter of grave concern. So much so, that if the success of a plan to turn the area around requires that rules be bent, I would be in favor of bending certain rules. That's the level of compassion and commitment needed here; an attitude that might facilitate a *benevolent transformation*.

Describe the three most important challenges facing the City of Cleveland. (Please limit answer to 100 words or less.)

Joe Cimperman:

We need to address abandoned homes that need to be inhabited with new residents or torn down.

We need to work even more closely with the Second District Police to help Commanders Sulzer, Stephens, and McCartney and their amazing police officers to improve our neighborhoods in Ward 3.

We have many resources in our community- we need more bridges between resources and needs so our neighbors can live with dignity and in care of each other.

Carrie J. Kurutz:

Aside from safety, unemployment, lack of education and the disrespect for our environment are enormous difficulties for this City. We must do better creating jobs for all of our people and assist small businesses in our Communities. The key to an improved economy is Education. We must provide quality, relevant education for our children and those who need retraining. This takes wise vision and careful planning, not just money. Let's clean up our neighborhoods, especially where our poorest families live. They deserve encouragement so learning can take place, not more slag heaps, polluted air, decaying sewers, and half-baked, corrupt proposals for garbage-to-energy plants.

Jeff Mixon:

Reshaping Cleveland's *misguided* approach to educating urban children is one of the biggest challenges that we face as a city. We remain fixated on the delusion that every child should attend college, as if the world could operate without plumbers, bricklayers and auto mechanics.

The lack of leadership, when it comes to creating jobs and providing job-training opportunities, is another major problem that we face.

Ending the political neglect of children (who can't vote) is a third challenge. The political neglect of children is one of the principle reasons that crime is skyrocketing in Ward 3.

Pick one of those three most im-



Saturday, August 10, 2013; Esperanza Back to School Event features free backpacks, school supplies, food, and health screenings. Over 1,000 students received backpacks with school supplies. Juliangeliz Rivera, age 4, sits with her friend, Alanis Pinero, age 6, as Pinero examines some pencils she obtained from one of the booths at the event.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

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