



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN
Friday, October 25, 2013; San Lorenzo Club, 3121 W. 33rd Street: Luis Gutiérrez, U.S. Congressman from Chicago, discusses his new autobiography and strong position as an immigration rights advocate.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

U. S. Congressman Luis Gutiérrez champions immigration reform at San Lorenzo Club forum

by Joe Narkin

While reading from his recently published autobiography, *Still Dreaming: My Journey from the Barrio to Capitol Hill*, Congressman Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois encouraged a group of 80 enthusiastic activists gathered at the San Lorenzo Club on October 25, 2013 to continue to press for comprehensive immigration reform on behalf of an estimated 11 to 12 million undocumented residents living under threat of deportation in the United States.

While an estimated 58% of undocumented residents are from Mexico and 23% from other parts of Latin America, a significant percentage are from other countries, many of whom have remained in this country with expired visas.

"The thing that we need to understand is that everybody is responsible for the broken immigration system," said Gutiérrez, an 11-term member of the House of Representatives who considers the deportation of undocumented residents to be a critical civil rights issue.

While supportive of Barack Obama in general and hopeful that President will seize the opportunity to take a strong leadership role in the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform law, Gutiérrez has been frustrated that the president

did not honor his campaign pledge to make the make the passage of such a bill a priority during his first year in office and virtually ignored the immigration issue during his entire first term.

In fact, according to Gutiérrez, President Obama went in the opposite direction and has permitted partisan political considerations to allow his administration to preside over the deportation of approximately two million undocumented residents during his term in office, an average of nearly 1,200 deportations per day and the highest number of deportations under any President in U.S. history. A great number of the undocumented residents deported were identified by authorities through minor infractions against the law, such as routine traffic stops.

While he was a U.S. Senator, Obama voted in favor of the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which authorized the construction of a 700-mile fence along the 2,000-mile Mexican Border, mostly in Texas and Arizona.

In order to increase the pressure on Congress and the President to move forward on immigration reform, Gutiérrez has resorted to civil disobedience in order to bring public attention to the plight of undocumented residents and he has been arrested three times while engaging

in protests over federal inaction in securing their civil rights. He was arrested and fined most recently, along with seven other member of Congress, this past October.

Gutiérrez finds civil right violations most egregious for the foreign-born children who were brought to this country, often when they were infants, by parents who were undocumented. As such children come of age, they often find that, lacking a social security number or a green card, they cannot find legal work and, in many states, are prevented from attending college because they are not eligible for in-state tuition rates and financial aid, in addition to being at risk for deportation to what to them is an unfamiliar environment.

Led by Gutiérrez, the House of Representatives passed the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act in 2010, but the bill was killed by opposition in the Senate. This Act would have provided protection to over 1 million undocumented young people.

Only when faced with the prospect of a bill sponsored by Republican U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, which was widely viewed as a ploy designed to solicit Latino votes for

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, October 31, 2013; Trick or Treat Along Clark Avenue, Clark Avenue just East of Fulton: Venturing out to gather treats on a rainy Halloween are Julian Rivera, age 1, and Janila Rivera, age 3. The Clark Avenue Merchants Group sponsored the event with many merchants offering candy from 4-6 p.m.



PHOTO BY MO EUTAZIA

The cast of *A Christmas Story, the Musical* performs the play at Near West Theatre in the St. Pat's Club Building, 3606 Bridge Avenue through December 8th. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the making of the movie, *A Christmas Story*, filmed in Cleveland. Cast members are: Felix Albino, Kate Atherton, Andrea Belser, Christopher Byrom, Kylie Colvin, Meg Corrigan, Sharron DeCosta, Holly Feiler, Kara Fields, Edward Gale, Quin Galvin, Lindsay Hajostek, Hanna Harlor, Dave Hopkins, Corinne Howery, Angellise Irizarry, Davion Irizarry, Grace Janosik, Hannah Jarrell, Rachel Johaneck, Louis Johnson II, Sabrina Kim, Cora King, Jonas Kukulhan, Antoinette Kula, Julianne Kurdila, Giovanna Layne, Madelyn Lockshine, Elliot Lockshine, Tyrus Martin II, Gabriele Moyer, Andrew Narten, Jameisha Neal, Sam Pantalone, Christine Pantalone, Phil Pantalone, Jocelyn Perkins, Andrew Pollis, Statia Rankin, Johanna Regan, Eric Reising, Tony Saar, Stellina Scacco, Brandon Schumaker, Grace Schumann, Ashanti Scott, Christine Thompson, Jordan Thompson, Rafael Velez III, Colin Wheeler, Jennifer White, Morgan Williams, Justin Woody, Connie Wynn, Bob Zombar.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Wednesday, November 6, 2013; Hispanic Symposium, Thomas Jefferson International Academy, 3145 W. 46th Street: Juan Molina Crespo, Executive Director of the Hispanic Alliance, introduces keynote speaker Felipe Luciano, a nationally known community activist. (See related story on page 7).

ART

HANK WILLIS THOMAS' BRANDED series will be on display at the Transformer Station beginning December 14. The Transformer Station, the new contemporary art venue owned by the Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation on Cleveland's west side, will host a part of the exhibition, which includes a five-screen video installation, *Question Bridge: Black Males*. The Cleveland Museum of Art hosts a related exhibition by Willis that closes March 8, 2013 and the Transformer Station show ends March 9, 2013. Both exhibitions are free. **THIRD FRIDAY FOR ALL!** will be on December 20 in Detroit Square Arts District. For information on shops and restaurants, see dscdo.org.

TREMONT ARTWALK is scheduled for December 13. See tremontartwalk.com

BABY AND MOMMY SUPPORT IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, you can enroll in the Council For Economic Opportunities' Baby and Mommy Support Program at the Tremont Neighborhood Opportunity Center at 216-858-1781. The Program offers encouragement, supplies for the baby, prizes, gifts, giveaways, and educational workshops.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ALMIRA SCHOOL will be opening at W. 98th and Almira after Thanksgiving. A celebration is planned for December 4th. There will be a ceremonial ribbon cutting at noon, followed by a thirty minute program and also an open house from 4-6:30 PM that afternoon.

PRESCHOOL AND EARLY CHILD-CARE PROGRAMS are available at no cost to families who qualify through the Council For Economic Opportunities' Head Start Program. Programs include no cost dental/health/vision/hearing screenings as well as instruction in reading and other subjects. Call 216-589-9922.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS AVAILABLE at West Side Community House has received quite a few professionally cleaned and gently used school uniforms from Silverman's Department Store. Call 216-771-7297 ext 323 to make an appointment to see if there is



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

something there your student can use. **SISTERHOOD**, an afterschool program for girls ages 10-15, is available Tuesdays 3-5:30 pm and Wednesday-Friday 3-7 pm, through June 6, 2014 at the West Side Community House at 9300 Lorain Avenue. Programs include Social Skills and Self Esteem, SMART, Career and College Exploration, Health and Wellness. Girls 16 and up can apply to be mentors. Call 216-771-7297 x315 or visit amccclaim@wschouse.org for an application.

COUNTY OFFICES MOVING COUNTY OFFICES HAVE RELOCATED TEMPORARILY to several locations in anticipation of their final move to the former Ameritrust buildings at East Ninth and Euclid. Before going to any County office, please call 216-443-7010 to learn where that office is now located.

GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS THE V.E.T.S PROJECT (Vocation, Education, Training and Services) is sponsored by the Council For Economic Opportunities' Central Neighborhood Opportunity Center. Gulf War Era II Veterans who enroll participate will receive support to overcome barriers to re-enter the community and prepare to compete for jobs in the "civilian" labor force. At the end of the program, you

may (upon completion of the requirements) receive a laptop computer. All veterans welcome! Call Brezzell Harris at 216-357-2621 ext. 613.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE INFORMATION ON HEALTH CARE INSURANCE available under the Affordable Care Act can be found at healthcare.gov or 800-318-2596. For an appointment with a Certified Application Counselor at the Neighborhood Family Practice (3569 Ridge Road), call 216-281-0872, ext 291.

HOLIDAY EVENTS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF CLEVELAND'S GLOBAL DIVERSITY is being sponsored by Worldwide Intercultural Network and Global Cleveland, on Wednesday, December 4 from 6 pm - 9 pm, at the Ariel International Center in the Skyline Lake Room on the 4th floor at 1163 40th Street, Cleveland. Free admission. Register online at <http://www.win-neo.org/winneo/homePage.html>. For more information, call 440-941-6088.

DETROIT SHOREWAY HOLIDAY PARTY is on Saturday, December 7th, noon-3 pm. This event is being held at the Gordon Square Arcade, 6516 Detroit Avenue. It is a free holiday party for the whole family. There will be a Santa, DJ, raffle, snacks, and FREE GIFTS FOR THE KIDS! Don't forget your camera! For more information, call 216-961-4242 ext 226. Sponsored by: Neighborhood Connections & Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization.

BAND & CHORAL CONCERT, Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m. at Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Rd., Lake Catholic High School and FCCC's Choir, no charge. Call 216-781-8232 or visit www.FranklinCircleChurch.org.

COMMUNITY CAROLING PARTY, Sunday, December 22, 5 p.m. beginning at St. Paul's UCC, W. 45th & Franklin, and ending with refreshments at 7 p.m. at Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Rd. ALL are welcome, dress warmly. Call 216-781-8232 or visit www.FranklinCircleChurch.org.

HOME HEATING HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE is available at the 1849 Prospect Avenue office of the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC). The office is open at 6:30 AM each weekday, but CEOGC still urges Cuyahoga County residents to call (216) 518-4014 to make appointments 24/7. The acceptance of E-HEAP applications will continue through February 1st for eligible households who are currently disconnected or have received a disconnection notice.

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Sunday, December 8, 2013
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Please call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



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Rally's wins approval to build at Clark and Fulton

by Chuck Hoven

On Monday November 11th, the City of Cleveland Board Of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) unanimously approved a zoning variance for a Rally's drive-through restaurant and patio proposed for the northwest corner of Clark and Fulton Road.

While the corner is already designated as General Retail, and a variance was not needed to build a restaurant, the Near West Design Review Committee asked that the building be built as close to the corner of the streets as possible and that the driveway be placed as far from the intersection of Clark and Fulton as possible. The revised design called for the driveway on Fulton Road to be less than 15 feet

from the property line to the north of the parcel. Since City of Cleveland Code requires driveways be 15 feet or more from a property line, a variance was needed.

The site for the new Rally's at 3506 Clark Avenue, formerly housed the Zannoni's Food Service Distributors, which, lured away by a tax abatement offer, moved to North Ridgeville in 2007.

The current owner of the site is Serrat Enterprises, represented by Enrique and George Serrat, the owners of Henry's Marathon, directly across Clark Avenue from the site. The prospective tenant at the site is Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, the parent company of Rally's.

The landlord and tenant were

asked a number of questions at the BOZA hearing and a neighborhood meeting on November 7th. In response to a question as to whether the landlord or the tenant would be responsible for snow removal in the winter, George Serrat said the lease agreement calls for the tenant to take care of keeping the sidewalks free of snow in the winter. A Checkers representative also agreed to place a sign on the Fulton Road exit of the restaurant warning drivers that they would be exiting into a School Zone. (Walton School is just Northeast of the exit.)

Checkers representatives told a small group of neighborhood residents attending the community meeting that the hours of the Rally's would be from 10 a.m. to 4 or 5 a.m. In response to questions at the BOZA hearing about the proposed patio possibly becoming a hang out, Checkers representatives said security would be provided if needed, the Rally's would also have lighting and DVD recorders on a 60 day loop.

Maria Soucek, Economic Development Director, said she will continue on page 4



PHOTO BY ANDRE ST. CYR

Saturday, November 16, 2013; Statehouse steps, Columbus, Ohio: Clevelanders join concerned citizens from throughout the State of Ohio in a rally calling for immediate action to address climate change. They called on state and federal elected officials to embrace President Barack Obama's plan to regulate carbon pollution from U.S. power plants. (R-L): Ed Monroe, Akshai Singh, Glenn Campbell, and Hannah Vogel (Cleveland activists).

SPACES sells building – seeks new home

SPACES, a 35-year old art organization that serves as a resource and a forum for artists who explore and experiment, is officially embarking on a journey to a new home. On November 14, 2013, SPACES finalized the sale of the building at 2220 Superior Viaduct, which it has owned and occupied since 1990.

SPACES Board President John Farina says Left Side Developments purchased the building for \$418,000. Farina says the primary person at Left Side Developments is Dr. Rafid Fadul, a surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic.

While Farina says he is not sure of the long-term plans the new owner has for the building, SPACES has an option to lease back the space for up to three years. Farina believes that should give SPACES ample time to find a new home. "In anticipation of a sale, we began the search process in 2011. We narrowed our search to two primary areas - the Waterloo Arts District and the Hingetown area of Ohio City." (Editor's note: The Waterloo Arts District is in the Collinwood Neighborhood. Hingetown area is just South of Detroit Avenue by W. 29th and Church Ave.)

"We are thrilled to complete this sale and are actively working to identify a new home for SPACES that can provide heightened visibility for our organization as well as give us the opportunity to positively impact the surrounding community," said Farina.

Proceeds from the sale will help SPACES build a more robust cash

reserve to help secure the organization's financial grounding as well as assist with relocation. SPACES will lease back its current gallery space on the 1st floor, and continue to present innovative programming there while its board and staff focus in on a new location and prepare to embark on a fundraising effort.

SPACES is located at 2220 Superior Viaduct. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday: 12 - 5 p.m., and the gallery is open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Admission (and parking) during regular gallery hours is free and open to the public. For more information, visit: www.SPACES-gallery.org, call 216.621.2314.

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Dear Plain Press Readers and Supporters,

This year marks the 42nd anniversary of the *Plain Press*, a free community newspaper founded in 1971 to present issues and community news to residents of Cleveland's west side. In 2013 the *Plain Press* continues its mission of presenting issues and news at no charge to its 40,000 readers on a monthly basis. One highlight we celebrated this year is the production of the *Plain Press Teen Edition*. Under the direction of neighborhood resident Julia Van Wagenen, neighborhood teens produced the special Teen Edition of the *Plain Press* as our August issue.

The *Plain Press*' ability to continue to serve the west side neighborhood of Cleveland is due in large part to the contributions of readers and supporters in the annual Friends of the *Plain Press* Campaign. The Friends of the *Plain Press* Campaign was established following the successful 2011 40th anniversary fundraiser. The *Plain Press* reached out to readers and supporters and you came through in a big way to help sustain the newspaper.

This year, we are again asking you to make a donation to the *Plain Press* to ensure that the newspaper moves forward. To mark its 42nd anniversary we are asking you for a donation of \$42 or a reflection of its 42 years of operation (e.g. \$84, \$142, \$420). It will help subsidize the operations of the newspaper, but will be specifically used to support the *Plain Press*' Community Board that lists free events and resources for area non-profit organizations.

A separate *Plain Press* fund has been established for the newspaper by Organize! Ohio (a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization). Checks should be made out to **Organize Ohio** and sent to **3500 Lorain Avenue, Suite 501 A, Cleveland, Ohio 44113**. Your contribution is tax deductible. To make online donations you can link to the Organize! Ohio Pay Pal through the *Plain Press* website: www.plainpress.org.

The *Plain Press* has served as your community newspaper for 42 years. We call upon you to make a contribution towards the next 42 years of the *Plain Press*.

We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Gail Long (Fundraising Committee)

Larry Bresler (Fundraising Committee & Co-Coordinator 1970's)

Chuck Hoven (Managing Editor - 1988-present)

Deborah Rose Sadlon (Editor - 1990-present)

Leo Jeffres (Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

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Checks should be made out to **Organize Ohio** and sent to: **Organize Ohio, 3500 Lorain Avenue, Suite 501 A, Cleveland, Ohio 44113**. Your contribution will be tax deductible. To make online donations link to Organize! Ohio's Pay Pal via www.plainpress.org.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Thursday, October 31, 2013; Trick or Treat Along Clark Avenue, Clark Avenue just East of Fulton: Elizabeth Zimmerman accompanies Mason Still, age 1, and Kayden Zimmerman, age 3, as they visit stores for treats along Clark Avenue. The Clark Avenue Merchants Group sponsored the event with many merchants offering candy from 4-6 p.m.

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Se Habla Español

Street name signs designate Ohio City Historic District

by Chuck Hoven

The Ohio City Historic District is the first historic district in the City of Cleveland to have street name signs with a historic district designation. The signs throughout the area remind residents and point out to visitors that they are in a historic district. Three Ohio City residents--Dr. Dan Freson, Fay Harris and Ron Thomas--took the initiative and undertook the task of doing the research and working through the process to make the signs possible.

Thomas described the effort as "three friends putting together a project for our neighborhood." The three friends likened their efforts to that of citizen groups, such as Friends of Monroe Cemetery, that have undertaken projects to improve the neighborhood. Dr. Freson sees their efforts as a "positive approach to presenting the area."

Dr. Freson, Harris and Thomas

hope their efforts help inform the public of the existence of the historic district and its boundaries. They also hope that knowledge of the boundaries of the historic district will help protect buildings and houses in the historic district from inappropriately being altered or demolished.

Thus far 87 signs have been placed in the Historic District, which lies mostly in the area north of Lorain Avenue in the Ohio City neighborhood, with a few streets on the eastern edge of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood along Franklin and a few areas south of Lorain Avenue. Harris says the group hopes to have an additional 40-60 signs placed in the historic district.

Harris says the initial 87 signs have been placed around the historic district boundary lines and at intersections with key historic buildings. She says, "We wanted to make sure that the new signs

would be near and around important historical significant assets like Lakeview Terrace Estates, the first Cleveland Public Library Branch - The Cinecraft Building, Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, Market Street Exchange Building - Great Lakes Brewery Building (Market Ave.), West Side Market, Lutheran Hospital, Hannes Tiedemann's House - Franklin Castle, Nelson Sanford House, Robert Russell Rhodes House - Cuyahoga County Archives, Franklin Circle Christian Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, St. Ignatius High School and private residential homes."

The street name signs have "**** HISTORIC DISTRICT ****" printed in black letters on a white background above the name of the street, which appears in Cleveland's traditional white lettering on a blue background **continued on page 6**



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN
Friday, November 15, 2013; Fifth Church of Christ Scientist, southeast corner of West 117th St. and Lake Ave: Historic preservationists hope to salvage for reuse the portico of the long vacant Fifth Church of Christ Scientist, which is slated for demolition as part of a plan for the creation of the Shoppes on Clifton.

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RALLY'S ON CLARK

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opment Coordinator of the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Center Community Development Office, said she did not hear concern from restaurants such as Michael's Family Restaurant about the additional competition. A Checkers representative said Rally's sees its competition as other fast food restaurants such as McDonalds, Burger King and Wendy's and not the Mom and Pop restaurants.

Soucek said the biggest concern expressed by local merchants and residents was the additional litter generated by fast food restaurants. Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins said that currently the McDonald's on Clark Avenue had agreed to pick litter for a half block in on either side of its restaurant. He said he hoped a similar arrangement could be reached with Rally's.

Gloria Ferris of the Stockyard, Clark Fulton, Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office's Advisory Council praised Checkers representatives for their willingness to accommodate community suggestions in the design process by making the building more pedestrian friendly by bringing it up to the sidewalk. She also saw the demolition of the Zannoni's building as contributing to pedestrian safety by removing a blind spot created by the large corner building. She said she believes the proposed patio will also benefit bus riders waiting at the corner.

Checkers representatives said with the approval of the variance, they expect to be able to start construction of the new Rally's in April and to have it open by July of 2014.

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School district seeks public input to revise Facilities Master Plan

by Chuck Hoven

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is hosting meetings to seek comments from residents about updating its Facilities Master Plan. A November 12, 2013 report by the Bond Accountability Commission says when the facilities plan began in 2002, "the district had 72,000 students and the plan called for replacement or renovation of 111 schools. But the District had only about 40,000 students last year, and the Master Plan, last revised in 2010, currently includes only 63 schools."

At a November 14th meeting at Buhner School in Tremont, district officials said projections now say the school district will have 36,000 students by 2018. They stressed

the importance of not building or renovating schools that are too large for the projected population, warning that the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission would not provide a 2/3 match to schools for the portion of a project that exceeds the projected enrollment. They said the district has built new or completely renovated schools with a total seating capacity of 24,000 seats. Thus the state under current projections will only pay for an additional 12,000 seats.

The Bond Accountability Commission Report warns that the district should consider trends in neighborhood populations when locating schools, or some neighborhoods will have schools with too much capacity and others not enough.

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GUTIERREZ

continued from page one

the Republican Presidential candidate Milt Romney, did Obama take limited action.

Just five months before the election, President Obama issued a memorandum to the Department of Homeland Security, the agency with administrative control over the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which called for a deferment for two years, upon application, of deportation actions against eligible DREAM members who came to this country before the age of sixteen.

Another population of undocumented residents that Gutiérrez feels is especially vulnerable is the children born in the United States of parents of undocumented workers who are deported. Often derided by immigration reform opponents as "anchor babies," these young citizens

are faced with leaving the country with deported parents or staying in the United States without parental support. There are 5 million such children in the United States, according to Gutiérrez.

Gutiérrez is of Puerto Rico descent and was born to parents who moved to Chicago for better job opportunities. The family moved back to Puerto Rico when Gutiérrez was a high school student. Despite language difficulties and the need to become familiar with different cultural norms, he quickly became an activist in support of Puerto Rican independence, a position he continued to hold when he returned to the United States to attend college. Gutiérrez finds it surprising that many people in this country are ignorant of the fact that Puerto Ricans are United States citizens.

While living in Chicago with his wife and first daughter, Gutiérrez was an early supporter of the candidacy of mayoral candidacy of Harold Washington, who went on to become the first African-American mayor of Chicago.

In his autobiography, Gutiérrez tells



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 9, 2013; St. Colman Church: This year's St. Colman Day celebration honored Church in the City Partner Parishes of St. Christopher, Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Angela Merici. Parishioners also thanked Fr. Bob Begin (above) for his service to the parish with a St. Colman Day award. Fr. Begin is scheduled to retire in September of next year.

of how the Democratic Machine in his home ward, fearful over the prospect of electing a Black mayor who was running on a platform of governmental reform, tried to persuade him to put up a sign on his home in support of the Republican candidate. Gutiérrez refused to comply and, while the crime was never solved, his home was subsequently firebombed,

ostensibly in retaliation for this refusal.

With the support of Mayor Washington, Gutiérrez won a seat as a Chicago Alderman, where he was strong advocate for affordable housing. Gutiérrez was elected to the House of Representatives in 1992 where, in addition to his activism in support of immigrant rights, he lived up to his nickname, El Gallito (Little

Fighting Rooster), in battling for address of numerous progressive issues, including campaign finance reform.

Gutiérrez is the Chair of the Immigration Task Force of the congressional Hispanic Caucus and a member of the House Gang of Seven, a coalition working on a comprehensive immigration reform bill.

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 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
 All services will be signed for the deaf



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, November 18, 2013: These Street Signs at the Corner of W. 38th and Whitman are two of 87 signs noting the streets within the Historic District in the Ohio City Neighborhood.

STREET SIGNS

continued from page 4

ground. The numbered streets have their original names in smaller white print on blue background below the street number. In most locations, the signs are accompanied with the red and white "pizza slice" Ohio City signs.

Dr. Dan Freson, Fay Harris, and Ron Thomas say their efforts began in the summer of 2012 when they sought advice from Commissioner Robert Keiser of the City Planning Department on how to proceed. They then began to research online and with follow-up phone calls what other cities were doing with street signs in their historic districts.

Harris says they settled on a design used in a New York City historic district. She says the group then did additional research on Cleveland street signs and met with the staff of the City of Cleveland's sign shop.

Then in January of 2013, they submitted their design to the Local Design Review Committee set up for the Ohio City Historic District. Committee members made a number of suggestions. Harris says, "One of the comments from a member Alan Fodor was to add the former street name to the bottom of the street sign. We also asked other people for advice on the design layout. Tim Barrett recommended we stay with the original color Blue and White and

add the black colors to the historic district name and the stars. David Ellison said to use the words "Formerly" in very small print in front of the old street name."

Based on the recommendations they received the group made changes in the design and resubmitted the design to the Local Design Review Committee where it received a stamp of approval.

Following this success, the group then worked to gain approval of the design from various city officials including Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman, the Streetscape Committee of the City Planning Commission, City Landmarks Commission, Commissioner of Traffic Engineering Robert Mavec, and Director of Public Works Michael Cox.

The group then sought funding for the project receiving a small grant from the Neighborhood Connections program of the Cleveland Foundation in May of 2013 and some donations from local businesses including Voss Industries and Ohio Savings Bank. They say they raised about \$7,000 to help with the cost of making the signs.

The three friends then began the process of deciding which street corners would get signs, and researching the original names of the numbered streets. Harris says the City of Cleveland changed from using street names to street numbers on the north-south streets in 1906.

Research sources for finding the original street names included: Mark Hauserman, Chief Archivist of Cleveland City Council; staff at the Cleveland Public Library's Map and History Department, Judith Cetina, Director of Cuyahoga County Archives, Anne Sindelar, Supervisor of Western Reserve Historical Library, and author Carol Poh Miller's book, *Ohio City, a proposal for area conservation in Cleveland*.

To get the street signs made, Dr. Freson, Thomas and Harris worked very closely with the City of Cleveland's sign shop staff on the type of materials used for signs and how to survey for sign placement. They singled out the City's Sign shop staff members Stephen Eperesi and Greg McKee for their support and help in making the project run smoothly.

Harris says the three friends hope to document their efforts so other neighborhoods with historic districts can have a model to follow in creating street signs.

The Ohio City Landmark Historic District is a locally designated district created by Cleveland City Council in 2005 and expanded in 2007. The historic district has roots in an earlier and smaller federally designated Ohio City Preservation District. City of Cleveland Landmarks Commissioner Robert Keiser says according to the National Park Service's National Register Database "The original district was listed in the National Register on October 9, 1974. The district was expanded and that expansion was listed May 25th 1989."

MASTER PLAN

continued from page 5

At the Buhner meeting a contingent of Tremont residents advocated for keeping a school at the site where Tremont Montessori is located. They said they just wanted a school at the site – either the current building or a new one. The building currently has 568 students enrolled, while it has a capacity for 625 students.

Some at the meeting questioned the wisdom of spending money on buildings when there were so many needs in the classroom despite the recent levy passage. It was suggested that perhaps instead of a bond issue for the buildings, another levy for instruction would be more important. One parent, comparing the facility plan to the needs in the class-



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Saturday, November 2, 2013; Cleveland Public Theater's Campus and Parish Hall, 6415 Detroit Avenue: Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration. Now an annual tradition in Cleveland, Dia de Los Muertos is celebrated in Mexico and other countries to honor deceased relatives.

room, made a sports' analogy saying, "If you build a nice new sports facility and you don't have a good team nobody is going to go."

Indeed, when those parents not there for Tremont Montessori were asked about needs in their child's school, most of the concerns had little to do with the facilities. Concerns were raised about having substitute teachers rather than full time teachers, the need for smaller class sizes, more support staff, and more afterschool programs. Other concerns were about safety and security, food and nutrition, maintenance and cleanliness of the buildings, and transportation. Also on the wish list were iPads or tablets for students.

A parent at Buhner School complained that the school's nice new computer lab had computers didn't work properly. A parent at Luis Munoz Marin said her child was struggling with the new Dual

Language program and is uncomfortable being thrust into Spanish class. She suggested it would have been better to introduce the new dual language program one grade at a time so students and parents would be able to make a choice to be in the program. She suggested there should be two tracks in the school, one for those that wish to participate in dual language and one for those that don't.

In December there will be a number of additional meetings on the facility master plan. In the area served by the *Plain Press*, there is a meeting scheduled for December 10th from 6- 7:30 p.m. at Cudell Recreation Center, 1910 West Boulevard.

District officials say that if a renewal of the bond issue is proposed to pay for continuation of the building program, it would have to be presented to the Board of Education for a vote by May in order to allow time to be placed on the ballot for a vote in November of 2014.

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Hispanic Symposium seeks to empower Cleveland youths to change their lives

by Chuck Hoven

The Third Annual Hispanic Symposium held at Thomas Jefferson International Academy on November 6th focused on challenges young people have to overcome during their educational experience as students from a diverse background. At the evening session at Thomas Jefferson featured a three member panel Cleveland School Board Member Stephanie Morales, Esperanza Executive Director Victor Ruiz, and Minority Business Advisor Luis Cartagena. All three of the panelist attended Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools and each shared some of their experiences with overcoming obstacles to academic achievement such as adults that made assumptions about their ability to perform academically, and peer pressure to skip school. They also talked about people who made a difference in their lives or decisions they made that changed the direction of their lives.

Earlier in the day at a Youth Panel Discussion held at the Ariel International Center, a similar panel of Cleveland school alumni shared their experiences with Cleveland students participating in the Closing

The Achievement Gap program. The panelist then participated in discussion with students about obstacles they face as minority students and how they plan to position themselves to keep focused on education and improving their lives.

The evening session continued that theme with parents, teachers and community members listening to the panelist describe some of their experiences in the Cleveland Schools and relate them to what minority students may be experiencing today.

Following the evening panel discussion, Moderator Juan Molina Crespo, Executive Director of the Hispanic Alliance, introduced the Keynote Speaker, Felipe Luciano, a nationally known community activist. Crespo said in his early years Luciano was in a gang at age 12, busted for 1st degree murder at age 16 and out of prison at age 18. Crespo said that Luciano, as the panelists talked about earlier, had a person in his life that made a major impact and helped him to realize "I'm smart." He noted that Luciano went on to college, became an activist and help create the New York Chapter of the Young Lords in Spanish Harlem.

Crespo said Luciano is in sync with the thought process that developing people is fundamental to community development and an advocate of Puerto Ricans taking ownership of their roots, specifically their roots in black African culture.

Keynote Speaker Luciano immediately addressed the issue of race. He told the story of his birth when a doctor tried to label his race as white, a practice at the time for many Puerto Ricans, an attempt to obtain some of the advantages of the dominant white culture. Luciano said, "My grandmother told the doctor: 'Are you blind? Can't you see the boy is black?'" Luciano said his grandmother taught him to embrace and love his dark skin and his curly hair. He then addressed the many Puerto Ricans present for the talk, saying, "We are an African culture. Mambo is black." He urged them to be politically, spiritually and racially conscious.

Luciano urged Puerto Ricans to stop looking to whites for validity. "Look at the beauty of yourself." He talked about the roots of Puerto Rican culture, the mixing of African and Native American blood and that in 1619 when the Pilgrims arrived in North America, black people had already been speaking Spanish and Portuguese in the Americas for 111 years. He urged Puerto Ricans to embrace their African, Native American and Arab roots and not to identify with the Spaniards who were the oppressors and slave holders.

Luciano talked about the importance of male role models for young boys to measure themselves against. He said an unfortunate thing about growing up in a broken home without a father, the oldest child often becomes the adult – playing the role of husband, older brother and father. He said such an environment robs a child of his dreams and doesn't allow a child to be a child.

Luciano shared some of his experiences organizing in New York City as a representative of the Young Lords including an incident where the group took over a church to assure there would be a breakfast program for neighborhood children. Then he challenged Puerto Ricans in Cleveland asking them "What are you willing to do to make sure your children are educated?"

Luciano urged community members to build a male society to help youth deal with gang violence and a society that promotes prejudice and racism. He urged the group to be inclusive. He said, "You need some street guys in your group to keep you honest, to keep you real."

Luciano talked about the importance of oral and visual communication as a learning style in the Puerto Rican community. He urged the Cleveland Puerto Rican community take control of their schools and create liberation schools to teach young kids about their culture and help them feel educated and empowered.



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Saturday, November 2, 2013; Cleveland Public Theater's Campus and Parish Hall, 6415 Detroit Avenue: Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration.

COMMUNITY BOARD

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, November 6, 2013; Hispanic Symposium, Thomas Jefferson International Academy, 3145 W. 46th Street: Cleveland Metropolitan School District School Board Member Stephanie Morales, a class of 2000 graduate of John Marshall High School, participates in a panel discussion explaining the challenges faced by students of diverse backgrounds attending public schools in Cleveland.

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