



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Thursday, March 22, 2018; Ward 14 Town Hall Meeting, Lincoln West High School, 3202 W. 30th Street: MetroHealth Chief of Staff Jane Platten offers an update on MetroHealth's Campus Transformation Plan and its effort to help revitalize the W. 25th street area around the hospital.

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Ward 14 Town Hall meeting features update on MetroHealth Transformation Plan and panel discussion about housing resources

by Chuck Hoven

Ward 14 Council Member Jasmin Santana said, "I am overwhelmed by your support" as she greeted the one hundred and fifty residents attending her first Town Hall meeting, on March 22nd, at Lincoln West High School. Santana said this is "one of many town halls" she will

hold to help let residents know about important resources available. "Community events are my passion – welcoming people and putting signs up is what I do best," said Santana.

Santana urged residents of Ward 14 to become familiar with the precinct where they live, and their

precinct committee representative. She said the precinct committee members will serve as a bridge from the neighborhoods to City Hall.

Santana said in her first twelve weeks in Cleveland City Council, most calls coming to her office have been either about safety or housing. To that end, Santana said the panel, assembled for this Town Hall, would focus on issues and concerns about housing in Ward 14. She asked that questions from residents focus on housing issues and promised a future Town Hall to address safety.

"What is the solution to bringing partners together, so we can have a healthier and safer community?"

**Council Member
Jasmin Santana**

In response to a question, Council Member Santana said one thing that keeps her up at night is figuring out ways to foster collaboration among organizations. "What is the solution to bringing partners together, so we can have a healthier and safer community?" she said.

Santana said in addition to the continued on page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, March 22, 2018; Ward 14 Town Hall Meeting, Lincoln West High School, 3202 W. 30th Street: Ward 14 resident Gloria Ferris submits a question for the panel: "Excluding the ability to get a federal voucher, what is an affordable rent?" While the panel didn't get to all the questions from the audience, Ward 14 City Council Representative Jasmin Santana said the questions from residents and surveys filled out at the meeting will help shape her legislative agenda.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 17, 2018; St. Patrick's Day Celebration, St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th Street: Cleveland Catholic Diocese Bishop Nelson Perez emerges from the St. Colman Church following the morning Mass.

Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Tremont strives to save the ancient art of Pysanky

by Debbie Sadlon

Throughout the Lenten season every year, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, located at 1202 Kenilworth Avenue in Tremont, offers Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshops. At each workshop, students learn the ancient Ukrainian art of pysanka.

According to a pamphlet from the Museum gift shop, pysanka is an intricately decorated egg, created in the batik, or wax resist, technique. The art of pysanka-making predates written history and is thought to have been passed down from mother to daughter for millennia. Predating Christianity, pysanka-making was practiced by a pagan religious cult associated with the sun and springtime. These ancient pagans believed the egg possessed magical powers; it was symbolic of the sun in that it contained the brightly colored yolk, and it was magical because it could create and sustain life. The egg was believed to gain more power when drawings of mystical

symbols with different meanings, were added on its shell. Once the egg was decorated with these symbols, it was regarded as a pysanka.

With the emergence of Christianity, the practice of pysanka-making was adopted and Christian symbols were added to the pagan repertoire of symbols. In the Ukrainian family, following the Lenten fast, a basket with the meal to be eaten on Easter Sunday was taken to the church to be blessed. Baskets included a pysanka which was never meant to be eaten but preserved for as long as possible.

Pysanka-making was traditionally practiced in the Ukraine until the U.S.S.R annexed the Ukraine and prohibited the practice -- deeming the pysanka to be illegal religious writings. Books about the art form were removed from libraries, and exhibits in museums were destroyed. Individuals practicing the art of pysanky (plural of pysanka) could continued on page 4

May 8th Primary Election features a variety of contests and some issues

Early voting for the May 8th Primary Election will begin on April 10th, 2018.

If you are not yet registered to vote, the deadline to register and still vote in the primary election is April 9th. You can register at a local library, a public high school, an Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles' office, or the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. You can also register online at the Ohio Secretary of State's

website at sos.state.oh.us.

If you need help registering to vote because of a criminal conviction or disability, the ACLU of Ohio's Vote Center may be able to provide assistance at acluohio.org.

There are a number of issues on the ballot.

State wide issue one creates a bipartisan public process for drawing congressional districts in Ohio.

In Cuyahoga County, Issue 9 is a

renewal for the Cuyahoga County Health and Human Resources Levy.

For those choosing a Political Party Ballot – Democrat or Republican, there are a number of candidates vying to represent their party in the November election. On the federal level, there are candidates running for Congress and the United States Senate.

Ohio Political Parties are also continued on page 7



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 1202 Kenilworth Ave: Instructor Anastasia Koval demonstrates to her student Tanya Lopatkina the technique for removing the wax from the egg.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 17, 2018; St. Patrick's Day Celebration, St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th Street: West Side Irish American Club 2018 Queen Courtney Kuntz and her mother, Mary Joy Kuntz, attended mass at St. Colman Church before heading to the parade downtown. Mary Joy Kuntz, says her father, Vincent Lavelle, grew up on Colgate and was a member of St. Colman Parish.

ART TOURS
WALKABOUTTREMONT is held every second Friday from 6 to 10 pm. For more information, visit walkabouttremont.com

COMMUNITY
VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE for the May Ohio Primary is **April 9, 2018**. This year, voter registration is also available online. Take 30 seconds to update your address, double check your information, or register for the first time. Go to www.sos.state.oh.us.

DSCDO NEIGHBORING FUND provides financial support to help forge meaningful neighbor-to-neighbor relationships across racial, educational and economic backgrounds in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. Examples of neighboring include potlucks, cornhole games and more. Contact Ashley Wilson at awilson@dscdo.org or 216-961-4242x243 for information or to request an application.

FAMILIA has been established to engage, empower, and create a voice for the residents of the Clark-Fulton area to address issues such as safety, housing, education, civic rights and health issues for the wellbeing of families in the community. Meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the month, from 6-7:30 pm, at Hispanic Alliance Inc, 3110 W. 25th Street (at Clark). For info, contact Sonia Monroy Matis , 216-661-4249 or smatis@hispanicallianceinc.org.

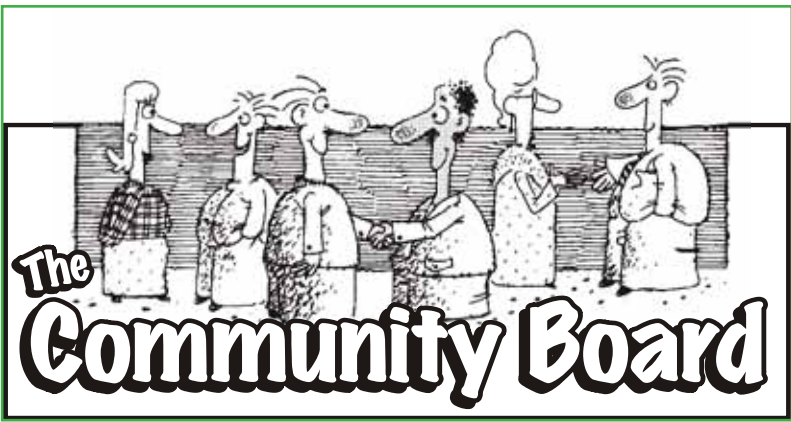
DONATIONS
DONATE YOUR UNWANTED, USABLE GOODS. Cuyahoga County businesses and residents can donate their unwanted items with the help of a useful book published by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District called *Pass It On: A Resource-Full Guide to Donating Usable Stuff*. It lists over 120 community service and nonprofit organizations that work on behalf of youth, seniors, the homeless and others in Cuyahoga County. Toys, art supplies, clothing, books, school supplies, office equipment, sporting goods, tools, furniture and more can be donated to the organizations listed in this guide. Donating usable goods helps others and reduces waste. Would-be donors of goods can search how to donate or recycle their items on the District's "What Do I Do With?" database at www.CuyahogaRecycles.org. Additionally, a printable PDF is available at www.cuyahogarecycles.org/pass_it_on_book. People can also request copies of the soft-bound book by calling the Solid Waste District at 216.443.3749 or online at www.cuyahogarecycles.org/PublicationRequest.aspx.

ENVIRONMENT
THE ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES Cleveland Young Professional Council's grant application is now open. We will be awarding small grants be-

tween \$500 and \$5,000 to projects that support Lake Erie and the communities around it. Our priority funding areas include: **HEALTHY LAKES:** Projects that address environmental issues or improve the health of the Great Lakes for people and wildlife. **MEANINGFUL CONNECTION:** Projects that encourage community members to have new or meaningful experiences with the Lake Erie Watershed. **EDUCATION:** Projects that increase awareness or educate the public about the Great Lakes and current issues they face. **ACCESS and EQUITY:** Projects that promote, provide, or create equitable access to Lake Erie. If you have an idea that does not easily fit into one of these categories, but that you believe is connected to the mission of The Alliance for the Great Lakes, we welcome your submission. Please click the link below for the application. It will be open through April 11. Grant application available here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGp2zQPnLhXcWszO_VJdnCj4j0aFRX7yL91u4Nwj4JKFOD1Q/viewform

RACE, FOOD AND JUSTICE CONFERENCE: Thursday and Friday, April 19 20, 2018, 5 pm, CWRU campus, Cleveland 44106. Analyzing the Urban Food Movement through a Social Justice Lens. Featured speakers Allyson Carpenter, Keymah Durden, III, Malik Yakini and Dr. Monica White. Sponsored by Environmental Health Watch and the Social Justice Institute at CWRU. Free and open to the public. Information at 216.961.4646;Ext104.

EPA SEEKS CLEAN POWER PLAN COMMENTS
Comment on the EPAs proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan Now until April 26, 2018. The EPA has extended its period for taking public comments on the repeal of the Clean Power Plan. All written statements and supporting information submitted during the public comment period will be considered with the same weight as oral comments and supporting information presented at the public hearing. If you would like to comment on this proposed action, please submit your written comments online, by email, by mail, or by fax. Information about how to comment is available on EPAs web site at <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/clean-power-plan-proposed-repeal-how-comment> The comment period is open through April 26, 2018.



The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. The printing of the Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.

SINGLE USE BAG SUPPORT NEEDED: Urgent Support Needed for the Cuyahoga County Single Use Bag Legislation now until the vote. LWVGC supports this proposal, based upon our LWVO position that "solid waste, from generation to ultimate disposal, must be purposefully and systematically controlled by all levels of government in order to protect the environment by strengthening, expanding and enforcing solid waste laws." We also support "the financing of solid waste remedies by utilizing user fees." Many of our members have already switched over to cloth shopping bags. We urge everyone to contact Council members (email addresses below) to offer your individual support as to why county shoppers should get used to taking their own bags along to the store! These plastic bags are a costly environmental plague in Lake Erie waters as well as along roadsides and open spaces everywhere. **COUNCIL MEMBERS** for the Plain Press area, with district #:3: Dan Brady dbrady@cuyahogacounty.us 7: Yvonne Conwell pconwell@cuyahogacounty.us
WEST SIDE CREATION CARE TEAM is an ecumenical grassroots organization promoting care for creation, including the climate crisis. WSCCT engages in public policy advocacy, with members writing letters to local newspapers, and directly to state and local lawmakers and executives on legislation related to sustainable, renewable energy alternatives and other issues that affect how we care for creation. To receive notices of meetings, events, etc., send your email address to westsidecreationcare@gmail.com. Or to schedule a presentation or workshop on environmental justice in collaboration with your faith community, contact them at that email address.

EVENTS
DEMONSTRATION: "RESISTING DESECRATION of Land, Sovereignty and Image" Friday, April 6, 2018, 1:30 pm, West 25th Street and Detroit Ave, Cleveland. Sponsored by the Committee of 500 years. For more information contact Dennis at 216-939-8229 or dennislakeerie@aol.com.
NATIVE AMERICAN CONFERENCE: Native American Conference, "Resisting Desecration of Land, Sovereignty and Image" Saturday, April 7, 2018, 9:00 am, Baldwin Wallace University, Student Activity Center, 96 Beech Street, Berea 44107. The Committee of 500 Years of Dignity and Resistance with the help of the Sierra Club and other groups are having their annual conference. David Narcomey is the Keynote Speaker (he is a member of the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma). Tate Walker will be speaking (she is a Lakota storyteller). John Bolenbaugh will be speaking (he is an advocate for human and environmental health). For more information contact Dennis at 216-939-8229 or dennislakeerie@aol.com.

APPLICATIONS FOR DIG IN! 2018 COMMUNITY GARDENER TRAINING are due by 5 pm April 27, 2018. DigIn! helps community members gain the knowledge and skills necessary to plan, design and build a thriving and sustainable community garden. Training consists of 9 weekly classes on Thursdays, from May 31 through July 26, 2018. Call OSU Extension, 216-429-8200 x248. **LOST CLEVELAND**, the 2017 book of photographs and history of Cleveland's

vanished buildings, will be discussed by its author Laura DeMarco on Sunday, April 22, at 1:30 pm at the Rocky River Public Library, 1600 Hampton Road, Rocky River. Her presentation will be followed by a tour of the Library's Cowan Pottery Museum. Program sponsored by the Western Reserve Architectural Historians. Please RSVP reservations to Sarah Klann at 216-226-2820 or email saklann@netzero.net by Tuesday, April 17.
GENEOLOGY @ CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION will be held Saturday, April 7, 11am-12
GENEOLOGY @ CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION will be presented on Saturday, April 7, 11 am – 12 noon the Main Library's Photograph Collection, Louise Stokes Wing, 4th Floor. Learn how to use the Library's Photographic Collection for genealogy research. . Free and open to all.
PARTY FOR THE PLANET, Celebrate Earth Day at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, April 21, 10am-5 pm, with family fun and special programming, free with paid Zoo Admission. For information about adapting programs for accessibility , please request at time of registration well in advance of the program. Call 216-661-6500.

HEALTH & SAFETY
FREE SMOKE ALARMS FOR YOUR HOME are available through Operation Save-A-Life, a program of the American Red Cross and the Cleveland Fire Department, that provides free smoke alarms and batteries to Cleveland residents. Smoke alarms are installed by Cleveland firefighters at no cost to residents. Please note that application and installation process may take up to 90 days. Call the Operation Save-A-Life 24-hour hotline at 216-361-5535 to apply for free smoke alarms.
CLEVELAND CLINIC BRAIN HEALTH RESEARCH STUDY is currently recruiting healthy volunteers with NO neurological impairment, men and women, ages 10-89, for research related to brain health. Financial compensation and parking validation will be provided. Volunteers will be asked to complete testing using an iPad application that measures neurologic performance, including cognitive function, vision, and hand/arm function. For information, contact sokolom3@ccf.org or 216-444-4494.
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND BIPOLAR DISORDER RESEARCH STUDY at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center are recruiting participants for a study about people who have Bipolar Disorder and have trouble taking all of their medications for High Blood Pressure. Study participants must be 21 or older, and will receive compensation for study visits. For information call the Research Assistant at 1-888-819-0004.

NEIGHBORING
DETROIT SHOREWAY'S Neighboring Fund is designed to strengthen our neighborhood by providing financial support to help forge meaningful neighbor-to-neighbor relationships that reduce isolation, produce a sense of safety, and create networks of mutual support. Neighboring consists of resident-driven social interventions across educational, economic and racial backgrounds. DSCDO will dedicate 100% of membership dues and a \$2,000 grant from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress to the Neighboring Fund. The Neighboring Fund application process is designed to be streamlined and easy, however there are minimal reporting requirements. Traditional community involvement activities (e.g. materials for neighborhood clean-ups) will continue to be eligible uses. Information about the study of neighboring can be found at: https://shelterforce.org/2016/02/20/a_critical_piece_of_the_mixed_income_puzzle/
POLITICS
WARD 14 DEMOCRATIC CLUB is

hosting a Meet the Candidates - State Senate and House - Primary May 8. The event will be April 17 at Gargano's 3484 W. 25th, (parking behind the building), 6 pm to 8 pm. This event is open to the public. Questions? Contact Diane Morgan at 216-324-5036

RELIGION
CLEVELAND'S CATHOLIC RADIO STATION, AM 1260 The Rock, will present a new radio show called "Table Talk" that features Bishop Nelson Perez. It will debut at 5 p.m. on April. Hosted by radio and TV veteran Dick Russ, the format for the hour-long show will be an informal conversation with the bishop. It will be rebroadcast several times. The show will look at a variety of general and timely topics of interest to the Catholic community in Northeast Ohio, as well as the wider population. A main feature of "Table Talk" will be the opportunity for people to ask questions of the bishop.

SENIORS
A MATTER OF BALANCE FREE 8-WEEK PROGRAM WILL BE HELD Wednesdays from April 11-May 30 from 1-3 pm at the Stella Walsh Recreation Center, 7245 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland 44105. This nationally recognized program reduces the fear of falling and increases activity levels by increasing strength and improving balance in a comfortable, welcoming environment for all seniors. To register, call the Cleveland Department of Aging, 216-664-4383, or email fpeterson@city.cleveland.oh.us.

SOCIAL JUSTICE
THE FIFTH ANNUAL STATION HOPE, hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, beginning at 6:30pm on the grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church, 2600 Church Avenue. Station Hope is a jubilant community event inspired by the Underground Railroad and Cleveland's social justice heritage, featuring over 250 individual artists and 50+ community and professional arts & culture organizations from across Northeast Ohio, creating diverse original works reflecting on and engaging with contemporary themes of social justice, equity, and a shared vision of hope. No tickets needed. The family-friendly event is FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. For more information, visit <http://www.cptonline.org/performances/seasons/2017-2018/station-hope-2018/>

YOUTH
TEEN SUICIDE: LEARN THE WARNING SIGNS AND RISK FACTORS that may contribute to youth suicide by using the free online staff development (in-service) training for teachers and others who work and interact with youth on suicide awareness and prevention. The online staff development trainings offered by The Jason Foundation introduce the scope and magnitude of the problem of youth suicide on both the national and state level. It discusses the educator's relationship that allows them to recognize when the youth are struggling or changing and how to respond. For more information and a list of the warning signs and risk factors that can elevate the possibility of suicidal ideations visit The Jason Foundation at: www.jasonfoundation.com.

CAMP FORBES 2018 registration continues through May 31, but space is limited so youth are encouraged to sign up early to insure a spot. A one-week (Monday thru Friday) session at the camp is free for City of Cleveland youth between the ages of 9-13. Registration can take place at any Cleveland Recreation Centers, or at www.Facebook.com/CityofClevelandRecreation. To register one needs the child's birth certificate, immunization records, and a current utility bill (within the last 3 months). For further info, call Camp Forbes at 216-263-5325.

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Cudell Improvement honors Chuck Hoven for Lifetime Achievement & celebrates 100 rehabs

by Rachel Napolitano
The importance of community and the web of relationships that makes up community was the theme of the Cudell Improvement 43rd Annual Meeting, set by the keynote speaker and in the awarding of the *Plain Press*'s Chuck Hoven the Walter & Pauline Martens Lifetime Achievement Award.

In the midst of national movements against gun violence, the March for Our Lives the morning of the Cudell luncheon, and the death of Councilman Matt Zone's sister Beth Zone (and Beth Zone's service that morning), the keynote speaker, State Representative Nickie J. Antonio, started her remarks by leading a moment of silence for Chuck Hoven's wife Margie Bray, who died earlier in the week.

Surrounded by West Tech alumni, small business owners, block club members, the staff of the *Plain Press* and the family of Chuck Hoven, Representative Antonio recalled her youth growing up in the neighborhood before I-90 was built, separating her from neighbors whose homes were removed for the highway and making school commutes longer.

Antonio said, "Community is all about connection." Helping her mother age in place in her W. 90th Street home revealed to Antonio how lucky the neighborhood is to have community resources that helped make it possible for her mother to stay in her home. Antonio shared how many of these resources are needed throughout the state and funding them can be common rallying points members of the state legislature no matter their political party.

The *Plain Press* keeps us connected, Antonio explained, with a "real piece of paper that I can sit at the kitchen table with."

Praising the community develop-

ment corporation, Cudell Improvement, and its community members, Antonio said, "What I love...is no matter what happens, people are always ready."

Chuck Hoven, Managing Editor of the *Plain Press*, was presented his award by the son of Pauline and Walter Martens, Walter Martens, who has kept a funeral home running as a family business in the neighborhood. Hoven has known the Martens family his whole life.

Accepting his award, Hoven said the events and people of the Cudell neighborhood "profoundly influenced my life and led to my lifelong love of newspapers."

"At age 10, I acquired a *Cleveland Press* paper route because the boy who had it moved when they started construction of the Clark freeway."

"Part of the mystery of life how events, places, and people you know shape who you are and what you end up doing with your life, at least that seems to be the case with me."

"Of special significance to me

continued on page 5

#MeToo: hashtag leads to social movement and to the beginnings of social change

To the Editor:

Worldwide, one in three women experiences physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. Violence against women and girls is embedded in cultural and societal norms.

Women are and always have been paralyzed by fear of what men do, it shrinks our world. In the midst of everything that has occurred, women and girls have been and continue to be integral in ending discrimination and injustice.

LETTER

This is precisely what has been revealed by all the #MeToo accounts of harassment and assault that have been shared on social media and other public platforms. These accounts illustrate the myriad ways in which women live smaller lives due to male violence. Violence against women happens on a continuum. From verbal harassment like cat calls on the street to sexual harassment in the workplace; to the power and control tactics used by an intimate partner; to sexual assault; to felonious physical harm; [then, finally] to murder. This is a system of power and a values system that must be challenged and changed.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Saturday, March 24, 2018; Cudell Improvement Inc. 43rd Annual Meeting, Brennan's Party Center, 13000 Triskett Road: (L-R): Cudell Improvement President Daniel L. Berry; Chuck Hoven, Managing Editor of the *Plain Press*; and Walter Martens. Martens presented Chuck Hoven with the Walter and Pauline Martens Lifetime Achievement Award.

Research studies of sexual harassment in the workplace, violence in the home, and sexual assault are all startlingly similar in how they document the impact on women. All these crimes have a detrimental impact on women's physical and emotional health. The more severe the abuse, the more profound the effects. Physical problems can include anxiety, depression, sleep disturbance, weight loss or gain, headaches, somatic complaints, and gastro-intestinal problems. The financial effect can also be severe and can be exacerbated when an employer has no policies or procedures to address harassment or violence in the workplace. Financial harm to victims such as taking leave without pay, being terminated, or

forced to leave a job due to safety concerns is not uncommon.

The #MeToo hashtag has existed for over 10 years, but now it has become a social movement. It is not a witch-hunt against men who are perpetrators of violence, rather it is an opportunity for empowerment that for many years women have been waiting for in order to feel free and safe to share their stories. Unfortunately, like all social movements, the time in which #MeToo exists will not remain static. True social change can only be sustained by infiltrating the institutional and ideological structures of society so that the burst of social action can become firmly established. The challenge is of course holding to the goals of change while trying to influence the

institutions and individuals that can be expected to resist or subvert such goals.

The social movements to end sexual assault and domestic violence have strived to change the public discourse surrounding violence against women over the past 40 years. We have moved from Take Back the Night marches and sheltering battered women and their children in private homes, to creating a public awareness and an understanding that victims are not to blame for the violence perpetrated against them. As a result, we have worked with legislators to improve and create laws to protect victims/survivors and changed systemic responses to be more appropriately victim/survivor-centered.

We still have much work to do as we continue to push against prejudice to end inequity and violence toward women. As we embark upon a culture free of victim blaming, bashing and shaming, we remain dedicated and hopeful that #MeToo is the beginning of authentic change. Will you join us?
Rosa Beltré, Executive Director, Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Nancy Neylon, Executive Director, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Tremont resident, Tanya Lopatkina, using her kistka, draws the initial design with melted beeswax on a plain white egg—the first step in the pysanka-making process.

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UKRAINIAN MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

continued from page one

be imprisoned. By the time Soviet Union collapsed in the 1990's, people knowledgeable about the ancient tradition were scarce.

On Friday, March 23, 2018, about 15 registrants gathered for an evening workshop in the gift shop of the Ukrainian Museum in Tremont to listen to Gift Shop Manager, Walter Ciszekewycz describe the pysanka-making process by which they would turn the raw eggs they brought from home, into pysanky.

The reason, Walter explained, for using a raw egg assures that the person decorating the egg will handle it gently, so as not to break it. Using a stylus, called a kistka, the artist scrapes beeswax into the kistka then melts the wax loaded inside, over a flame. The kistka is then ready to be used to draw designs onto the plain white egg. Once the waxed design on the egg hardens, the egg is dipped in the first dye which is usually lighter in color than the dyes to follow. The artist then draws more wax designs onto the dyed areas of the egg and it is dipped into a second dye of a slightly deeper color. The process repeats until the egg has been dipped into the deepest color of the

artist's choosing. Once the egg is dry, the raw contents of the egg are removed and the egg is then heated over a flame to remove the wax, and reveal the egg's final design.

Following the description of the technique, Walter escorted the group to the workshop behind the museum to meet their instructor, Anastasia Koval, a resident of Parma who learned the art of pysanka as a young child from her Ukrainian mother. Anastasia explained that the art of pysanka-making is a dying art in the Ukraine and that she is the youngest person she knows that practices it here in the United States.

Among Anastasia's students for that evening was Tremont resident, Tanya Lopatkina, who just three years ago migrated from the Ukraine. She said she was very happy to discover the Ukrainian Museum when she moved to Tremont and that she had never learned the art of pysanky in the Ukraine but she was eager to learn. Throughout the evening, her new teacher, Anastasia, communicated with Tanya, in Tanya's native language, the technique for an art that that once thrived in Tanya's beloved homeland.

Near west side resident of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood,

Jolene Adkins, another student in the workshop, tried her hand at the pysanka-making and designed an intricate egg creation of her own.

Assisting Anastasia was Walter's wife, Gerry Ciszekewycz, who demonstrated a tool used to extract the raw contents of the eggs. The tool is used to pump air into the egg thereby displacing the contents through the hole in the bottom of the egg.

In addition to holding the yearly Pysanky-making Workshops, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives exhibits pysanky in the museum and sells pysanky in their gift shop. The exhibit can also be viewed along with a detailed history of pysanky on the museum's website—umacleland.org.

According to the website: "The Ukrainian Easter Eggs, 'pysanky,' on exhibit at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives are the work of Ohio-based artist Tanya Osadca, who has generously donated them to the UMA's collection. Each Easter egg, 'pysanka,' created by Ms. Osadca is a replica of an original antique 'pysanka' that has been documented as originating from a specific ethno-historic region of the Ukraine."

Museum and Gift Shop Hours are: 10 AM to 3PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (and by appointment)



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Following the first dye bath, Tanya Lopatkina draws additional designs on the dyed portions of the egg.

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Plain Press Managing Editor, Chuck Hoven, accepts Walter & Pauline Martens Lifetime Achievement Award

by Chuck Hoven

I'd like to thank Cudell Improvement and the Martens Family for this honor. Growing up in the St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish, I've known the Martens Family all my life. My brother, Fran, who is here today, went to school with Michael Martens, Wally's brother.

Because of my roots in the neighborhood, some of the events the *Plain Press* has covered in the Cudell and West Boulevard neighborhoods have had special significance for me and my family, and, I'm sure, many of you here today. Two events that come to mind, are the effort to keep St. Ignatius of Antioch Church from closing, and the effort to find a viable use for the West Technical High School building. Several generations of my family belonged to St. Ignatius Parish. My mother, cousins on both sides of my family and many of my friends in the neighborhood graduated from West Tech.

Part of the mystery of life is how events, places and people you know, shape who you are and what you end up doing with your life. At least, that seems to have been the case with me. The neighborhood, the events that happened, and the people in it have profoundly influenced the direction of my life and have led to my love of newspapers.

At age 10, I acquired a *Cleveland Press* paper route that became available because the boy, who had the route before me, moved out of the neighborhood to make way for the Clark Freeway construction. Even more routes opened-up in my neighborhood as more families of kids with routes, lost their houses to the freeway. Eventually, my siblings, Fran, Tom, Mary Jo and I —served

the area between Clark and Lorain Avenue from W. 73rd to W. 88th where Lorain and Clark met at Tony's Diner. I enjoyed seeing people eagerly await the arrival of the afternoon newspaper as I delivered the *Cleveland Press* as a child.

When I was in college at John Carroll University in my Junior year, the editor of the *Carroll News*, Larry Weakland, had attended St. Ignatius Elementary School where I went to elementary school as well. He named his successor, Marty Conroy, who was a friend with whom I had gone to St. Ignatius High School. As Editor of the *Carroll News*, Marty asked me to take his place as distribution manager. So, I was, once again, delivering newspapers, but more importantly, I was hanging out in the *Carroll News* office, learning the trade.

When I was in graduate school at the CSU College of Urban Affairs in the early 1980s, I ran into Jim Reddy, who was also in my grade school class at St. Ignatius Elementary School. We were riding the bus together from Cleveland State and talking about Roldo Bartimole's *Point of View*. I told Reddy, I enjoyed my time at the *Carroll News* would like to get involved in a small newspaper. He told me a friend of his was volunteering for the *Plain Press*, a newspaper that had just started publishing again after closing-down for a year. He gave my number to his friend and soon the *Plain Press* Editor, Lisa Oppenheim, called me and I began to volunteer at the newspaper.

I became very involved as a volunteer. I represented the *Plain Press* at the founding of the Neighborhood Community Press Association. I

served on the *Plain Press* Board of Trustees, helped with the production and distribution of the paper and did some writing as well. I eventually became a staff member in late 1988 and began to coordinate the monthly publication of the *Plain Press*.

Each month when the *Plain Press* is published, it seems like a minor miracle. All the different contributions from members of the staff, volunteers and members of the community somehow come together on time. My job as Managing Editor has been to coordinate all those efforts. I've been blessed over the years in having dedicated staff and volunteers who make time each month, to make sure the tasks necessary to put a newspaper together are completed as we approach our print date.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge the *Plain Press* Board of Trustees and staff members that are here today and some who were not able to make it.

I see *Plain Press* Board of Trustees member Leo Jeffres is here today. The Board of Trustees has been a wonderful asset to the paper over the years, feeding the staff with many story ideas and contacts. Leo Jeffres has been involved in helping to link the *Plain Press* with other community newspapers forming an association of colleagues among the small newspapers. Helen Smith has contacts for almost anything, and Joe Narkin has done double duty at times over the years writing articles and taking photos as well as serving on the board. Keith Brown has vast knowledge of development occurring in the neighborhood, David Gamble shares his knowledge of the Tremont neighborhood and



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Pysanka-making Instructor Anastasia Koval explains to the class, the first step in the instruction guide.

health care resources and Peggy Davenport provides input on the Stockyard neighborhood and school issues..

There are several staff people here tonight.

Our Editor, Debbie Sadlon is here. She has been staff since the early 1990s. Debbie is responsible for

all copy editing that makes all our articles more polished and easier to read. She makes me look good. Debbie is also responsible for the layout design of the newspaper every month.

Tom Sheehan, who sold advertising for the *Plain Press* for many **continued on page 8**

CUDELL IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page 3

was the effort to keep St. Ignatius of Antioch Church from closing and the efforts... to find a viable use of the West Technical building. Several generations of my family have belonged to St. Ignatius parish and my mother, cousins, and many of my friends in the neighborhood graduated from West Tech."

The editor of *Carroll News* at John Carroll was also a graduate of St. Ignatius of Antioch School, as was Hoven, and his successor was an

alumni of St. Ignatius High School, as was Hoven. Hoven became the distribution manager; "More importantly, I was hanging out in the Carroll news office and learning the trade."

On his bus ride home from his graduate studies in urban planning at Cleveland State University, a fellow Ignatius of Antioch classmate gave him a tip on a new paper reopening on the west side, which was the *Plain Press*. In 1988, Hoven joined the staff after volunteering for

the paper and serving on the board of trustees first.

"Each month when the *Plain Press* is published, it seems like a minor miracle," with all the contributions from staff, volunteers, and community members coming together. He thanked many past and present members of the staff and board, for each role that they have performed (including his wife, Margie, who was Community Board and Website Editor).

A special award that usually goes to government leadership was given to a non-government entity, the Cuyahoga County Land Reutiliza-

tion Corporation (CCLRC). CCLRC is commonly referred to as "the land bank." It is a private entity that helps return abandoned and neglected properties into reuse.

Cudell Executive Director, Anita Brindza, presented the award to Bill Whitney of CCLRC. She reported that Cudell is coming up on their 100th property purchased from CCLRC and returned to productive use. Cudell's last rehab of a CCLRC property is across from Louisa May Alcott School and sold for \$269,000, according to Brindza. Another house is being sold to an individual in North Ridgeville and the real estate com-

mittee at Cudell is taking bidders on 11208 Lake Avenue.

Anita announced the Clifton Arts & Music Fest will be Saturday, June 16th. Fruitland School parking will be available with a Lolly the Trolley shuttle service to the festival. Applications for vendors and art student scholarships are available.

In addition to the myriad storefront accomplishments and new businesses opening soon in the area, Brindza bragged that the townhomes being built by Brinkman in the area are selling for \$499,00-850,000 and that Andrew Brinkman, the developer, is even moving into one.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 24, 2018; Cudell Improvement Inc. 43rd Annual Meeting, Brennan's Party Center, 13000 Tris-kett Road: (L-R): President of Cudell Improvement Daniel L. Berry; House District 13 State Representative Nickie J. Antonio; Chief Operating Officer of the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (CCLCR or Cuyahoga Land Bank) Bill Whitney; and District 23 State Senator Michael. Whitney accepts "Special" Excellence in Government Award for the Cuyahoga Land Bank from Cudell Improvement. Collaboration between the two nonprofit organizations has allowed Cudell Improvement to rehabilitate many houses in the neighborhood that otherwise may have been demolished.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Instructor Assistant Gerry Ciszewycz extracts the raw contents of a newly decorated egg.

WARD 14 TOWN HALL MEETING

continued from page one

housing panel, Special Guest, Metro Health Chief of Staff Jane Platten, would talk about Metro-

Health's Transformation Plan and the revitalization of the W. 25th area surrounding the hospital. MetroHealth Chief of Staff Platten said the MetroHealth Transforma-

tion Plan called not for just building a new hospital, but for "doing the right thing for patients and the right thing for the neighborhood."

Platten said MetroHealth Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akram Boutros introduced a timeline for the Transformation Plan in 2014. In 2016, the new Critical Care facility was completed. She said the design for the new hospital will be announced soon and a new facility is expected to be built to replace the MetroHealth towers by 2022.

Platten said plans call for a ten-story tall, 270 room building to be built on the Southern end of the current MetroHealth Campus on what is now a parking area. In addition, a new outpatient building will be constructed. In the area where the outpatient buildings are currently located, plans call for the block to be converted to a 25-acre park which Platten said will be connected to the towpath trail and will be an urban park with programming attached. Platten said the redesign of the MetroHealth Campus and the new park will make MetroHealth the world's first Eco-Hospital.

Platten said that established relationships with community leaders and organizations will be used to engage the community with project plans so the community can have input into the planning process.

MetroHealth supports 5,618 jobs, has a \$873 million annual economic benefit to the community and generates \$95 million annually in local and state tax revenue, said Platten. In the next seven years, Platten said most of the new jobs will be in construction. She said education and apprenticeship training will be available to area residents interested in working to build the hospital.

Adrian Maldonado of Turner Construction, Platten noted, has committed to work with the Spanish American Committee to recruit

neighborhood apprentices for some of the trade unions. Scholarships will be made available to support residents attending a 12-week pre-apprenticeship program at Cuyahoga Community College as an entrance way for residents to get into union apprenticeships in the construction trades.

Plans are also underway to create an Architectural, Construction and Engineering Program at Lincoln West beginning in the 2018-19 school year, said Platten. MetroHealth's current program with Lincoln West, the School of Science and Health, provides students with a curriculum based in the health care industry, Platten noted.

The Lincoln Building, directly across from the entrance of the hospital will serve as home to the MetroHealth Police as well as the Life Flight Ground Crew, said Platten.

Platten stressed that the transformation plan for the hospital will be sensitive to the hospital's neighbors. She said, "We are not about the business of uprooting people in the neighborhood." She said the hospital hoped to bring new people into the neighborhood, but will not be buying occupied homes.

She said MetroHealth also has a commitment to support low-income housing in the neighborhood citing the hospitals recent support of low-income housing at the 36-unit rehabilitation of the Lion Mills Building. She said MetroHealth hopes to provide incentives to encourage 500 of its employees to move into the neighborhood. A fund has been started to provide down payment assistance and funds for rehabilitation of existing houses.

Members of the Housing Panel introduced at the Town Hall Meeting each spoke about the resources their organizations can provide.

Panelists included: Karen Lopez of the City of Cleveland Building and Housing Department; Cory Riordan, Executive Director of the Tremont West Development Corporation(TWDC); Keisha González, Managing Director of Metro West Community Development Center (MWCDC); Mahria Harris, Director of Home Ownership Services at Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Greater Cleveland; Christine Keegan, NHS Land Trust Program Manager; Kate Monter Durban, Assistant Director of the Cleveland Housing Network – Housing Partners; Heather Veljkovic, Housing Court Magistrate; and Peter Hotchkiss, Housing Court Specialist.

TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan said he recently returned from Washington DC from a meeting of the National Low Income Housing Coalition where members were lobbying Congress for Low Income Housing Tax Credits and continued funding of the Community Development Block Grant. Riordan said TWDC, a 500-member community organization, offers several services in the Tremont neighborhood including community organizing, a housing program with the Cleveland Housing Network – CHN Housing Partners; code enforcement; referrals for housing assistance; safety and marketing of the neighborhood.

Riordan talked about the importance of low income housing, and expressed concern about the impact of rising rents on long time renters.

continued on page 8



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Detroit-Shoreway resident Jolene Adkins removes the wax on her egg creation.

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In Memory

Margaret “Margie” Dorothy Bray Hoven

August 11, 1956 – March 20, 2018

Margaret “Margie” Bray, wife of Plain Press Managing Editor Chuck Hoven, and Plain Press Community Board and Website Editor, passed away on March 20, 2018 from a choking accident while dining.

Margie Bray Margie was born in the Philippines while her father worked there as a consultant for the Philippine Government. She grew up in Pepper Pike, Ohio and graduated High School in 1974 from Glen Oak. She attended Case Western University and, in 1979, received a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities. She attended Cleveland State University where she earned a Master's Degree in Urban Studies in 1982. During the Masters' program, she wrote the original proposal for an innovative, experiential education High School, the Martin Luther King Law and Public Service Magnet High School.

After graduation from the College of Urban Affairs, Margie helped launch the Law and Public Service

Magnet School, one of the Magnet High Schools created in response to the Court Ordered Desegregation of the Cleveland Public Schools. The school, a partnership between the Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs; Cleveland Marshall College of Law; and the Cleveland Public School System, attracted students from throughout the city of Cleveland. Margie worked as an Urban Studies Resource Coordinator and, later, as the Project Manager of the CSU Urban Studies part of the partnership.

In the early 1980s, Margie was one of the founding members of the Hessler Housing Cooperative. The Hessler Housing Cooperative, is a non-equity housing cooperative designed to maintain affordable housing on Hessler Road in the University Circle Neighborhood of Cleveland. Margie continued to be an active member of the Hessler Housing Cooperative where she resided with her husband, Chuck

until her passing.

In 1983, Margie served a one year Congressional Fellow and Legislative Assistant with a Congressman Howard Wolpe from Michigan. She worked doing grant writing, and various office and administrative tasks for a number of nonprofit organizations over the years including the Housing Resource Center, Consumer Advisory Council, and the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Margie Bray and Chuck Hoven, who met in graduate school at Cleveland State University in the early 1980s, were married on June 22, 2013. The couple loved traveling together and shared many happy moments with her family during the summer at the family cottage at Walloon Lake in Michigan.

Margie's family includes her husband, Chuck Hoven; late father, Pierce Bray; mother, Maud Bray; brother, William Bray, his wife, Kathy; niece, Christina; nephew, Liam; and Margie's brother, Andrew.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Margie Bray, in the Summer of 2017, during a visit to the Toledo Zoo.

Programs preventing violence against women receive support

The Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety and Justice Services (PSJS) obtained a grant award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and Justice Services/ Office of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$490,537.68 for the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a federally mandated program that is implemented by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). Funding from the VAWA goes to support local law enforcement, non-profit organizations and community awareness by providing the resources needed to assist victims of abuse.

“We are committed to funding local projects that strengthen effective law enforcement, prosecution

strategies and services to combat crimes against women,” said County Executive Armond Budish. “The STOP Violence Against Women Act has helped many of our residents in need, and we are proud to take part in this important initiative.”

The Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety is the Regional Planning Unit (RPU) that manages and allocates the funds that are awarded through the State of Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Recipients of funding for 2018 include: • City of Cleveland - provides enforcement efforts by having dedicated units within the police department who specialize in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. • Bedford Municipal Court - provides

domestic violence advocacy and resource referrals to those within the community. • Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center Latina Project - provides services such as shelter, legal advocacy and counseling to victims within the Hispanic community. • Cleveland Rape Crises Center - provides specialized crisis trauma and intervention to victims of sexual abuse. • Jewish Family Services Association - provides resources such as medical care, mental health and counseling to victims who have been or are in abusive situations.

Funding for these services have helped over 14,000 victims in Cuyahoga County in the past three years.

Four ways parents can help their children deal with stress

Adults often complain they are “stressed out.” Increasingly, statistics show, American children are stressed out as well, and the effects on their health, emotional state, and cognitive ability can be significant.

It's well-documented that adult stress can lead to serious illnesses. But many researchers believe that ongoing stress during childhood – from poverty, parents fighting or substance abuse, bullying, violence or other adversity – can harm kids' brains and other body systems and possibly lead to major health issues when they're adults. Therefore, it is vital for parents to help their children cope with stress.

“Adults can handle more stress than children, because our brains are already formed and we have many more coping skills,” says Alise McGregor, founder of Little Newtons (www.littlenewtons.com), an early education center with locations in Minnesota and Illinois. “Research shows there are lasting effects from stress on kids' development. Not exposing your child to any stress at home, of course, is ideal, but in today's world there is so much affecting kids that parents need to know how to help them through it.”

Statistics cited in a greatschools.org article reflect the higher levels of stress that American children are experiencing: suicides among adolescents have quadrupled since the 1950s; and in the past decade, using pharmaceuticals to treat emotional disorders has increased 68 percent for girls, 30 percent for boys.

McGregor suggests four ways parents can help their children cope with stress:

1). **Listen to them and communicate.** “By listening to them, you are acknowledging their feelings but also strengthening the trust/bond you have with your child,” McGregor says. “Trust is so important in childhood. They feel supported and feel better being able to get it off their chest.”

2). **Exercise.** This is easy, fun and often necessary as a coping mechanism. “Children who are physically active release stress as well as build confidence,” McGregor says. “And they sleep better, which in turn makes them better equipped to take on their day.”

3). **Take care of yourself, slow down.** Children are aware of their surroundings and look to their caregiver for support. “If a caregiver is not fully equipped to handle their own stress, they certainly can't fully support a child,” McGregor says. “We often are in such a hurry that many of the basic-necessities of care-giving are rushed through. Children can feel the stress caregivers are experiencing and often will act out.”

4). **Teach them relaxation techniques.** Just as parents teach children how to throw a baseball or build a tower with blocks, they should also teach them how to cope with stressful situations in life, McGregor says. “There are ways to do this, such as count down from 10, or ‘breathe in the soup, blow out the soup.’ It slows down their ‘hyperstate’ of accelerated heart rate and fast breathing.”

“Most parents have the skills to deal with their child's stress,” McGregor adds. “The time to seek professional help for a child's stress is when any change in behavior persists, or when the stress is causing problems at home

or school.”

About Alise McGregor: Alise McGregor is the founder of Little Newtons (www.littlenewtons.com), an exceptional child care center focusing on early childhood education with four locations in Minnesota and one in Illinois. She is the author of an upcoming book, Creating Brilliance. Also, a Nurse and has a B.S. in Exercise Physiology with a cardiac rehabilitation emphasis.

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PRIMARY ELECTION

continued from page one

electing representatives to the Political Party Central Committees for the Democratic and Republican Parties. These candidates are running in each State Senate District. Green Party candidates are vying to be elected to the Cuyahoga County Central Committee for the Green Party.

Ohioans will also be electing State Senators and State Representatives. There are a number of candidates vying to represent their party in the November election.

In Cuyahoga County, the position of County Executive is up for re-election.

Several Cuyahoga County Council Seats have candidates contending in the primary.

Judicial Candidates are also competing in the primary in the Court of Appeals, and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Statewide candidates are running for Governor, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State and State Supreme Court.

To view your ballot ahead before voting, go to Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Website at boe.cuyahogacounty.us. Then, under the heading Elections you can click on View ballots. Choose the election date – 5/8/ 2018, your city and your ward and political party (or nonpartisan ballot) and view the ballot in the upcoming primary. If you know your precinct you can also add that when searching for a ballot. The website can also give you hours and locations for early voting which starts on April 10th.

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Legal Aid to pick up some services as Cleveland Tenants Organization closes

Due to declining financial support, the Cleveland Tenants Organization (CTO) ceased operations in February. CTO served the Cleveland community providing tenant and landlord education and advocacy for affordable, fair and quality rental housing since its founding in 1975. Effective February 5th, 2018, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland began covering the Rental Information

Hotline formerly run by Cleveland Tenants Organization. Renters can call 216-861-5955 during business hours to inquire about their rights and responsibilities. Legal Aid has also agreed to maintain Cleveland Tenants Organization's website. In addition to the Information Line and the website, Legal Aid is also continuing the legacy of the Cleveland Tenants Organization's

eviction diversion programs, which plays an important role in helping tenants understand their legal rights when faced with eviction.

Renters can call 216-861-5955 during business hours to inquire about their rights and responsibilities.

Founded in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland provides information and civil legal services in areas of law that impact safety, health, housing, economic security, employment and domestic relations. These services are provided at no cost to families living in poverty, helping ensure fairness for all in the justice system. Legal Aid attorneys and volunteer lawyers keep families together by preventing foreclosures and evictions, create pathways to education and employment opportunities by removing barriers, and secure safety for individuals and families who face domestic violence.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

continued from page 5

years is also here. Tom's work, selling ads has helped sustain the paper throughout the years.

Also, here today is Ed Tishel, Debbie Sadlon's husband, who has contributed technical support to the *Plain Press* over the years through some challenging situations. Ed just recently joined the staff as an Advertising Representative for the *Plain Press*. Anyone here interested in advertising with us can talk to him. Ahmed Morad, our distribution person, is here. Each month he jumps in and out of the van delivering newspapers to over 500 locations. Ahmed's facility with languages allows him to greet store and restaurant owners in Arabic, Greek, French or English.

Doris Honsa, who is here today, for many years put together the



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Tables of Pysankas for sale in the gift shop.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, March 23, 2018; Ukrainian Museum-Archives,1202 Kenilworth Ave: Instructor Anastasia Koval pulls another beautiful egg from its dye bath.

Community Board for the *Plain Press*, and has volunteered to help do that this month.

A couple of staff members couldn't be here tonight: Coriana Close who provides technical assistance with photo editing; Dave Myers, a graphic artist, who has designed ads for the *Plain Press* for many years; and, Teresa Calvo who prepares our mailing each month.

And, finally, Margie Bray, my loving wife who passed away this week, volunteered with the *Plain Press* helping out whenever there was a need. Over the past several years,

she served as the Community Board and Website Editor. Each month she pulled together all the various fliers, emails and online newsletters to put together a listing of free events and services in the neighborhood. Once the paper was published, Margie placed the articles and photos on the *Plain Press* Website. Margie was thrilled when she heard I was being honored with this award and I know she is here, now, watching over me. "I love you, Margie and I know you are proud of me."

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He urged leveraging assets such as the Land Bank and Low Income Housing Tax Credits to create investment in low income housing. "I didn't get into this work to just see work go to the highest bidder," he said.

Metro West Managing Director Keisha González said her organization has been leveraging city of Cleveland demolition funds to demolish vacant houses in the neighborhood. She says the housing vacancy rate in the Metro West service area has been reduced from 17% to 9% of the housing units in the neighborhood. She introduced Metro West staff members working in its housing, code enforcement and safety programs.

González says Metro West would like to continue to create multi-unit housing in the neighborhood such as the Lion Mills rehabilitation. She says the organization does not do their own development of single family houses, but does provide resources to do it yourselves willing to rehab a house in the neighborhood.

In response to a question from the audience, González said Metro West is exploring ways to help local contractors get housing, and build capacity in their businesses to obtain financing to work on one and two family houses in the neighborhood.

González said it is the responsibility of the Community Develop-

ment Corporations to continually reevaluate their one and two family housing programs to make sure housing offered is affordable. She said affordable housing is "the core of our work."

Both González and Riordan said their code enforcement programs were not designed to push people out of their houses, but to correct issues at hand to improve housing in the neighborhood. They said they help connect residents to resources to clear up violations. Both said landlords that are bulk property owners are the biggest offenders and they are willing to work with responsible property owners.

Karen Lopez, representing the City of Cleveland Building and Housing Department, said while the neighborhood organizations do not have the power to issue fines for code violations, the city's Building and Housing Department does. She said Building and Housing Inspectors follow up on neighborhood complaints of housing code violations. She said \$75 tickets are issued for code violations and if the violations are not cleared up, home owners can end up in Housing Court.

Mahria Harris, Director of Homeownership Services at Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Greater Cleveland, talked about down payment assistance available through NHS and classes the organization offers in its homebuyer education program.

Christina Keegan, NHS Land

Trust Program Manager, talked about the use of a Land Trust as a means of creating long term affordable housing. She mentioned other resources NHS offers including Housing Needs Outreach Program and the Home Repair Program. She said the Home Repair Program offers loans of up to \$60,000 and is especially focused on addressing health and safety aspects of housing.

Keegan talked about the lack of quality affordable rental units in the neighborhood and said it is a major crisis. She noted a family displaced from the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood recently moved to the Stockyard neighborhood and were only able to find a \$700 a month apartment with no hot water.

Keegan urged collaboration among leaders of nonprofit organizations to find solutions to the crisis of affordable housing in Cleveland.

Kate Monitor Durban, Assistant Director of the CHN Housing Partners, noted the organization's Housing Stability Program which helps residents with HEAP and PIP signups and can help replace a refrigerator through an energy saver program. Monitor Durban says the organization assists residents in gaining home ownership through its lease/purchase program.

Housing Court Magistrate Heather Veljkovic talked about eviction law. She noted that for those that can't afford a lawyer, Housing Court Specialists are available as a free service to both tenants and landlords.

Housing Court Specialist Peter Hotchkiss noted that Legal Aid was taking over some of the tenant assistance functions that Cleveland Tenants Organization performed before it recently closed. Hotchkiss

says he is one of ten Housing Specialist available to help in Cleveland Housing Court. He urged those in need of assistance to call 664-4295.

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