



Photograph by Jeff Smith, Art of Frozen Time © 2025

*“In summer, the
song sings itself.”*

– William Carlos Williams, American Poet and Physician

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President’s Message

By Ben Pantoja

This issue of the Chronicle includes an article about extending the Clifton Bike Lane from Ludlow to Bryant. Bike lanes ignite both passionate support and passionate opposition. Supporters say they improve safety, provide exercise, reduce the use of automobiles, and attract younger residents. Opponents say that they are usually empty, they are ugly, they are hard to clean, and they cause traffic bottlenecks.

On April 7, the CTM Board approved a motion for the Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) to proceed with the bike lane extension. Construction will begin in the Spring of 2026. Data was one of the deciding factors for the approval of the motion. Clifton Avenue bike lanes are supposed to improve safety by reducing the number of northbound lanes from two lanes to one lane, resulting in slower automobile speeds. In 2021, DOTE did a study of the impact of the Clifton Avenue bike lane. This bike lane calmed traffic by reducing the northbound lanes from two lanes to one lane. DOTE found a 28% reduction in speeding overall and a 43% reduction in speeding over 40 mph. It’s great to have data when making a controversial decision!

CTM and the Clifton Business Association have formed an ad hoc committee to work with Metro on the location and design of Metro’s new Clifton Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station. This station will be built in 2027–2028, but decisions about location need to be made this year. Buses will arrive every 10 minutes and bus stops are about half a mile apart, allowing rapid travel downtown or northbound on Hamilton Avenue. The BRT Ad Hoc Committee currently prefers locating the station in the center of Clifton Avenue between Ludlow



and Howell Avenue. Alternative locations on Ludlow have been proposed, but they would halt traffic when the buses load and unload. The Clifton Avenue location is wide enough to have dedicated bus lanes to allow traffic to continue to flow even when buses load and unload. There will be more updates during upcoming Board Meetings and a Special Meeting in September, followed by voting on a formal Metro proposal at the October CTM Board Meeting.

Another topic of interest in this issue is the effort to create local historic districts in Clifton. This is part of the work on updating the Clifton Plan. The historical districts would cover most of the residential areas in Clifton but would not include the business district. If the city approves these districts, demolitions of older homes will be discouraged unless they are in extremely poor condition. Also, exterior renovations of the home would be reviewed to ensure they are

consistent with the rest of the home and the character of the neighborhood.

It’s important to pick guidelines for renovations in the historic district that are meaningful but not overly restrictive. Ideally, the guidelines are strict enough to ensure that the neighborhood continues to have the same architectural look and feel; however, they should allow affordable renovations that maintain the character of the neighborhood.

How will historic districts affect Connected Communities? The Connected Communities zoning changes last year aimed to reduce housing cost by increasing density. A key strategy was to allow single family homes to be converted into two, three, or four family homes. If we approve historic districts in Clifton, this will still allow homes to be renovated into multi-family units as long as the renovations are consistent with the architectural guidelines.■

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You Matter. Become a Member of CTM

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is your community council, advocating on behalf of the Clifton community. We sponsor many initiatives and activities throughout the year. To continue this important work, we need your input. Membership is open to all neighborhood residents age 18 or older. Membership dues—our second largest means of support—cover 12 months and are tax deductible. CTM also accepts donations.

To join, go to cliftoncommunity.org/membership or scan the QR code. You can also fill out this form with a check or money order payable to: **Clifton Town Meeting, P.O. Box 20042, Cincinnati, OH 45220-0042.**



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2025 CTM Town Halls

Please join us for exciting community announcements, lively discussion, and important neighborhood updates at our next Clifton Town Meeting. Dates, time, and location are posted below unless otherwise communicated.

First Monday of every month
7:00 pm
Clifton Recreation Center
320 McAlpin Avenue

From: The Editor

By Michael Moreland

A skilled writer and good friend of mine always says, “Never bury the lead.” So, I begin this letter by sharing that it’s my last as Managing Editor of *The Clifton Chronicle*.

When I raised my hand a year ago to bring back the paper, I wasn’t sure how long I would do it, but I wanted to help, so I did.

Passing the editorial baton hasn’t been an easy decision. I’ve loved being able to give back to our neighborhood in such a unique way, but I also know there are many ways each of us can do our part. Whether picking up trash along Clifton Avenue, planting flowers in your front yard, or editing your neighborhood newsletter, taking care of Clifton takes all of us—no effort is too small.

My dad always encourages me to leave something better than I found it—to return it better than I borrowed it. I hope I’ve done that here. Being entrusted with this responsibility has been an absolute privilege. Thank you to anyone who has ever sent a note of appreciation, dropped a line of gratitude, or even yelled across the street, “I love the new *Chronicle*!” The recognition was never my motivation, but it’s made the experience that much more rewarding.

I want to thank the incredible committee of volunteers who helped make every edition over the past year possible: Jan Checco, Gerald Checco, Linda Fatherree, and Leah Kottyan. I have no doubt this crew will continue to shepherd our beloved pub.

To all of our talented and devoted content contributors, you guys are the best. It’s been a delight working with you and getting to know you through this medium. I look forward to reading more from you in the future.

I can’t gaslight in Gaslight; managing *The Chronicle* takes time. But I also know there are endless ways to run a paper like this. I hope I’ve inspired curious writers and designers in our community to get involved, create something worthwhile, and help preserve a very special Clifton tradition.

If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our neighborhood newsletter, please contact our CTM Chronicle Chair, Jan Checco, at ctm.chronicle@gmail.com.

I say this about every edition, but this really is a good one. From bikes to books, artisans to architects, and drawings to dahlias, our community has so much to celebrate and be proud of. Here’s to an incredible summer in the OG Cincinnati suburb.

Let’s go, Clifton. ■

Contribute to *The Chronicle* Creators

To become a content contributor and learn more about article guidelines and submission, please reach out to our CTM Chronicle Chair, Jan Checco, at ctm.chronicle@gmail.com.

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If you’re interested in advertising in *The Clifton Chronicle*, we’d love to have you! For more information, please email our Ad Manager, Jan Checco, at ctm.chronicle@gmail.com.



The Chronicle Is Online



Check out our latest newsletter and our archive of past issues by scanning the QR code or go to cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-town-meeting/clifton-chronicle.



Join The Clifton Chronicle Daily Facebook page for more news and updates!

Special Thanks

Production of *The Clifton Chronicle* is made possible thanks to our advertisers, grants from the City of Cincinnati’s Neighborhood Support Program, donations, and our committee of volunteers including Gerald Checco, Jan Checco, Linda Fatherree, and Leah Kottyan.

Connect

For announcements, community updates, and links to virtual Clifton Town Meetings, visit our website at cliftoncommunity.org

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To subscribe for a printed paper or to request your Chronicle by email only, please provide your postal mailing or email address(es) and full name(s) to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com

For non-residents or non-members of CTM, a \$20 donation covers publication and handling costs for one year.

Volunteer

Our community council depends on the support of volunteers like you! If you’d like to help with an event or serve on one of our committees, email us at ctmpresident@cliftoncommunity.org

Moving?

Please send your full name and updated mailing address to ctm.chronicle@gmail.com

Phase One of Manifest Emerges: A Groundbreaking!

By Jason Franz, Executive Director

On June 7 at 4 p.m., Manifest will host a ceremonial groundbreaking at its historic building at 3464 Central Parkway in Clifton, where it has operated the Manifest Drawing Center since 2022. This event will inaugurate the first phase of Manifest Emerges, a project that the Manifest team has been planning for over three years—the realization of a vision two decades in the making.

Following remarks at 4:30 p.m., all guests are invited to BYOS (bring your own shovel) for a community-wide photo opportunity to help memorialize the project's groundbreaking. Afterwards, the Center will remain open until 7 p.m. for refreshments and tours. A photographic display documenting Manifest's 21-year history will be on view, and guests will have the chance to walk through a life-sized model of the future Neighborhood Gallery for the World, offering an exciting glimpse into a key feature of Phase Two.

Phase One of Manifest Emerges represents a \$3.2 million investment in this storied Clifton facility. The project is supported by many generous donors from near and far who have embraced Manifest's vision of the building and its grounds as a sanctuary for the practice, learning, and experience of the visual arts—and as a platform for fostering visual literacy, critical thinking, and skill development for a broad community.

More information about the event, including the RSVP link, can be found at www.manifestvisualarts.org.

A Summary of the Manifest Emerges Project — Phase One

Phase One is the first part of a two-phase project to address urgent needs at Manifest's 93-year-old permanent home. It focuses on making the building watertight by repairing the iconic slate roof and both flat roofs, as well as restoring the brick and limestone facade. It also improves building code compliance through expanded parking, a new second-floor exit, and enhanced accessibility. Renovating the flat roofs will restore an original feature to the building—an outdoor multi-purpose studio terrace.

A major addition in Phase One is the expansion and conversion of the existing garage into the Manifest Printmaking wing, a one-of-a-kind facility in the region. This new studio will house two presses dedicated to relief printmaking processes like etching and woodcut. It will also establish the region's only publicly accessible stone lithography studio outside a university, providing two additional presses and 22 stones. This supports Manifest's preservation of a traditional art form that harkens back to the golden age of printing in Cincinnati during the 19th century.

The printmaking program will complement Manifest's longstanding photography, painting, and drawing offerings and



will expand the reach of the Manifest Artist Residency, which draws artists from across the country and beyond.

Phase One lays the foundation for realizing the full vision of Manifest Emerges: establishing the Manifest Center for the

Visual Arts as a keystone arts institution regionally and nationally. This will empower Manifest to serve more artists, students, and community members, deepening its impact and securing its future as a vibrant home for creativity and learning. ■



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Clifton Avenue Traffic Calming Project to Prioritize Safety and Bicycling Connectivity

By Justin Ogilby, CTM Transportation Chair

The City of Cincinnati is moving forward with a traffic calming project on Clifton Avenue between Ludlow Avenue and Bryant Avenue, extending the two-way bike lane that currently runs along Clifton Avenue. Scheduled for completion in spring 2026, the project will be funded through pedestrian safety grants awarded in 2023 and is designed to improve safety for all road users while enhancing the neighborhood's bike infrastructure.

A Safer, Smarter Street Design

Currently, Clifton Avenue widens to two northbound lanes just before the Ludlow Avenue intersection. This layout encourages drivers to race past each other to get ahead before the traffic light, creating hazardous conditions for both pedestrians and cyclists. The new plan will reduce the street to a single northbound lane, eliminating this dangerous merge and calming traffic through this busy stretch of the Clifton business district.

There is compelling evidence that speeding is reduced when traffic is changed from two lanes in a given direction to one lane. This was shown by a 2021 study of the impact of the original Clifton bike lane.

The study was made by the Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering and found that overall speeding was reduced by 28% and speeding over 40 mph was reduced by 43%!

At a special community meeting held in April, residents discussed how best to shrink Clifton Avenue to improve safety. Bike lanes (one-way and two-way), curb bump-outs, and expanded parking were all discussed. Ultimately, the community expressed a strong desire for better bike infrastructure and concerns that expanding parking may impair visibility for drivers turning onto Clifton Avenue at unsignalized Hosea and Senator intersections. In response to the community input, CTM approved a motion in our April 7 board meeting asking DOTE to proceed with the bike lane, to engage with the community during design, and to collect usage data after construction.

Strengthening Neighborhood Connections

One of the most exciting outcomes of the project is its potential to connect Clifton residents with a safe, low-stress bike route to UC and eventually to the Wasson Way trail. Residents will be able to take Bryant Avenue directly to the protected Clifton Av-



enue bike lane. From there, they can travel to UC, CUF, and eventually to Wasson Way via the under-construction Uptown Connector. By making this "last mile" connection

between homes and the Clifton Avenue bike lane, we hope to make the existing lane more accessible and make our streets a little friendlier and safer for everyone. ■



Clifton Rec Chess Tournament a Huge Success

By Brittany Havens, Service Area Coordinator

The Clifton Recreation Center was filled with strategy, focus, and friendly competition during our Chess Tournament on Saturday, April 5! Players came out to test their skills, cheer each other on, and enjoy the spirit of community. It was a fantastic day filled with fun, learning, and impressive chess matches. Thank you to all participants, families, and supporters who helped make this event such a success! A huge shoutout to the Checco family, the Slack family, Cincinnati Parks Foundation, Woodburn Games, and Capstone Games for their generous donations that helped bring this event to life. We couldn't have done it without you!

Mark Your Calendars: We're excited to invite you to our annual Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 9 from 12 to 3 p.m., hosted in partnership with Clifton Recreation Center, Clifton Area Neighborhood School, and Fairview-Clifton German Language School. This family-friendly event is packed with inflatables, games, music, food trucks, and more to get everyone for the school year.

Want to Sponsor the Fun?

Put your brand in front of hundreds of families and support local youth by sponsoring this amazing event! Sponsorships help us bring even more magic to the day—from exciting activities to giveaways and treats for the kids.

Whether you're a local business, organization, or individual who wants to give back, this is your chance to make a big impact and get noticed. Ready to partner with us? Contact Sonya Swift at Vicepresident@gebas.org. Together, we'll make this bash unforgettable!

We Want to Hear From You!

Clifton Recreation Center is looking for community input on future programs and events. Your voice matters! Please scan the QR code below to share your ideas and help us better serve our neighborhood. ■



Clifton Plan Update

By Kyle Gibbs, City Department of Planning, and Gerald Checco, Clifton Plan Chair

The Clifton Plan is moving ahead smoothly! We had our first Community Engagement event on March 22, 2025, at the Clifton Recreation Center. It was great to see around 30 attendees there, guided by three planners from the City of Cincinnati.

Our most recent Community Engagement event took place at the CTM Memorial Day Picnic at Mt. Storm Park. Subcommittees focusing on Development,

Community, Environment/Quality of Life, and Historic Districts have been meeting and making great strides.

We're aiming to complete The Plan by the end of the year. If you have any questions or input, feel free to reach out to us at contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org. Stay up-to-date with the plan process and upcoming meetings at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning. We appreciate your support and involvement! ■

New School Montessori Alumna Alexis Nelson is the Black Forager

By Ann Baumgardner



TNSM's head of school, Jeff Groh, was pleased to see Alexis Nelson as a keynote speaker at the American Montessori Society's National Conference in Denver and wrote:

"One of the biggest highlights for me was knowing one of the keynote speakers was Alexis Nelson – a.k.a. the Black Forager. Alexis is a TNSM alum, and she spoke so fondly of her early experiences here, especially identifying plants in our wooded playgrounds and learning to care for the natural world around her. Alexis Nikole Nelson is a forager and outdoor educator with more than five million social media followers. Through engaging, comedic videos, she guides audiences in collecting, identifying, and eating wild food, emphasizing sustainability and accessibility. Nelson's work, which has earned her accolades including a James Beard Award, goes beyond entertainment by empowering those in food deserts and highlighting overlooked African American and Indigenous food traditions. From seaweed to acorns, her content inspires people to explore the edible world around them, enriching both their palates and the planet.

We're so proud of Alexis and the way she embodies so many of the values we hold dear as a school. She's a shining example of how fostering a deep love of nature, encouraging children to follow their joy, and nurturing a spirit of curiosity and entrepreneurship can truly shape a meaningful, purpose-filled life. Seeing one of our former students thrive in such a unique and impactful way is a powerful reminder of what's possible when children are given the space to explore who they are and what they love.

Alexis showed up so authentically, speaking about our preprimary playground and the trees she named. She even shared that she was prepared for her talk at the AMS conference because of her sixth-grade Senior Project experience at The New School Montessori!" ■

The Clifton Players Have Arrived

By Larry Holt

One small change...they're now in Northside at the Liberty Exhibition Hall.

A little history. In 2011, in the basement of a building on Ludlow Avenue, a collection of local professional actors performed Tracy Letts' *Superior Donuts*. Cathy Springfield, an XU theater professor and Clifton resident, directed. Springfield's producing partner was Cliftonite Carol Brammer, who also ran a weekly summer theater camp for children.

By the second weekend, actor Kevin Crowley, also a member of the Players, saw a line down the block waiting to see the show!

The Clifton Players were on their way! Their next production, "disgruntled employees," written by Crowley, also succeeded and led to a string of the most challenging and intriguing theater in the tri-state, including:

- Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *August: Osage County*
- Two Sam Hunter plays, *A Bright New Boise* and *The Whale* (which became an Academy Award-winning film)
- Martin McDonagh's *A Behanding in Spokane* (performed on Broadway, starring Sam Rockwell and Christopher Walken)

However, in 2016, the group stopped producing in Clifton. Brammer found a new artistic home in Northside: The Liberty Exhibition Hall (3938 Spring Grove Avenue), a former vaudeville theater which had sat mostly vacant for nearly a century until Brammer took it over in 2017. Meanwhile, Crowley continued his professional acting career.



However, the Clifton Players came back last November with a production of *The Velocity of Autumn* with Dale Hodges and Kevin Crowley...a big critical success followed by *The Guest*, by Zina Camblin, (another Clifton resident) author of last year's *Fiona: The Musical* at the Ensemble Theater. "The Guest" was an even bigger success.

Brammer and Crowley will keep the momentum going and plan to produce three to four plays a year.

Meanwhile, while you're waiting for the next Clifton Players production you can catch some great music at the Liberty Exhibition Hall! ■



The Clifton Golf Outing Is Here!

By John Whedon

Please join us for a Clifton tradition unlike any other on Saturday, August 23, at 1:00 p.m. All the same fun and excitement are waiting for you, including Beat the Lady Bearcat, dinner on the deck, and the heralded “Duke Energy Friend of Clifton” Award.

Golfer registration is set to go live on June 1 on CTM’s site, www.cliftoncommunity.org. The Clifton Golf Outing is a family event that includes golf and dinner. Please feel free to have your family join us for dinner at 6 p.m. (Dinners for non-golfers are \$10, and kids under 12 eat for free.) We will also have a kids’ putting contest at 6 p.m.

We’re excited to announce a first-time beneficiary: our neighborhood’s very own Cincinnati State College. Clifton Golf Outing hopes to fund the tuition of up to ten students who will benefit from our financial support of “C State Complete,” a program that helps students to complete their degrees. Cincinnati State Technical and Community College programs include Business Technologies, Engineering, Info Tech, Health and Public Safety, and Humanities and Sciences.

“C State Complete” enhances human

capital and empowers local workers to get to greater heights, joining employers like GE Aerospace, Kroger, Fifth Third Bank, Jeff Ruby Culinary Entertainment, Procter and Gamble, and many others.

Every year, Clifton Golf Outing honors someone from our neighborhood who has made Clifton a better place to live with the Duke Energy Friend of Clifton Award. This year, our award will honor founding members of the Clifton Historical Society, Geoff Gelke and Tom Fruth. We are pleased to recognize their tremendous contributions to the Historical Society and *The Clifton Chronicle*. The award will be presented at dinner on the deck post-golf, which begins at 6 p.m. For those who may not be playing golf, you can still join us for dinner and the award presentation.

Clifton Golf Outing has raised more than \$150,000 for beneficiaries, including the Good Sam Cancer Institute, Burnet Woods Dog Park, CANS Elementary’s playground, Fairview-Clifton German Elementary’s turf field, and The Little Sisters of the Poor.

Clifton Golf Outing is a CTM event. ■

Klau Library Welcomes Dr. Robert Adler Peckerar

By Abigail Bacon, Head of Public Services and Outreach



Yiddish versions, but as Dr. Finkin notes, the complexity of the Yiddish text suggests that these tales were originally conceived in Nachman’s native tongue.

As the Breslov movement has grown, several translations of Nachman’s tales have emerged, often emphasizing mystical interpretations. However, Peckerar and Finkin take a different approach. They argue that the stories’ wild, labyrinthine nature suggests they were first and foremost imaginative creations—expressions of raw creativity shaped by grief after Nachman’s devastating loss of his son. Their translation invites readers into Nachman’s intricate, dreamlike world, encouraging them to experience these narratives as he originally told them.

At the Feld Lecture, Dr. Peckerar will explore how landscape and memory shape Yiddish literature through the works of three distinct writers: Moyshe Kulbak’s modernist poetry, Itzik Manger’s lyrical reinventions of religious themes, and Rabbi Nachman’s mesmerizing Hasidic tales. Each writer’s deep connection to place weaves through their stories, revealing how geography and history leave lasting imprints on literature.

Join us for this free lecture on Monday, June 9. A reception will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by the lecture at 5:30 p.m. Please register at huc.edu/libraryseries. ■

This June, the Klau Library and the Mayerson JCC invite you to the Annual Feld Memorial Lecture, featuring cultural historian and translator Dr. Robert Adler Peckerar. Dedicated to uncovering the complex richness of Yiddish literature and East European Jewish culture, Dr. Peckerar holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley and has taught Jewish literature and culture at the University of Colorado Boulder. His acclaimed translations and cultural programs bring to life the historical and personal landscapes of pre-Holocaust Jewish life.

His talk, “The Wild Within: Exploring Landscape and Memory in Yiddish Literature,” delves into key works he has translated for modern English-speaking audiences. His newest release, *The Podolian Nights: Essential Tales*, co-translated with Dr. Jordan Finkin of the Klau Library, presents the enchanting legends of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslov.

Told at the turn of the 19th century by the charismatic Hasidic leader, these stories were carefully transcribed by his devoted disciple Nathan Sternhartz. The earliest editions featured both Hebrew and



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Another Successful Year for the Clifton Deer Program

By Beth Whelan

With the winter field season behind us, we have good news to report:

- We spayed three new immigrant does this season, bringing our total number of deer treated since the program began to 102!
- The deer population in the study area (the ~1 sq. mi. bounded by I-75, Ludlow Avenue, and Clifton Avenue) has remained steady compared to last year and has declined 41% since the program began.
- Thanks to our local volunteers and the UCAN Nonprofit Pet Care Clinic, our annual operating costs remain low (\$6,000 to \$8,000) for the fifth year in a row.

Immigration of deer into the study area continues to be modest, and mortality among our aging herd remains surprisingly low. Doe #1, a/k/a Gloria, sterilized in 2015, continues to mug for our field cam-

eras at the ripe old age of 16!, and more than 50% of our tagged deer are seniors at age 10+. If mortality remains low over the next few years and immigration increases, population levels could continue to plateau or even increase slightly in the short term. If immigration remains steady, and a significant percentage of our older deer reach the end of their natural lifespans, we could see a few years of rapid decline before the population levels off.

Whatever happens, we'll be watching, reporting to you, and treating any new immigrants to the herd until the population reaches an eco-sustainable level.

The Clifton Deer Program is grateful to our generous donors, enthusiastic volunteers, and the gracious neighbors who volunteer their yards for bait sites and who report deer sightings through the "Report Tagged Deer" portal at www.cliftondeer.org. ■

Rodenticide Kills Barred Owl In Burnet Woods

By Lisa Haglund

On March 7, 2025, a Barred Owl was found dead in Burnet Woods. Crystal Courtney of Cincinnati Parks recovered the bird and did not believe it died from Avian Influenza, as other birds in the area appeared well. Professor Ronald Canterbury, UC Ornithologist, who is currently doing a study about Avian Influenza, agreed. He said he believed that the owl died from eating a contaminated rodent from an anti-coagulant rodenticide.

Because animals maintain body stores of blood clotting factors, there is typically a delay of 3–5 days between ingestion of an anticoagulant rodenticide and the onset of fatal bleeding. Outdoor raptors can catch affected rodents, and the raptors will

be harmed by the rodenticide.

Rodenticide Toxicity Fact Sheet:
<https://tinyurl.com/4u2m4u8y>

Michael George did a perimeter check of Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods and verified that there are currently no bait boxes for rodent control in place. Crystal Courtney will do a thorough review of rodent control techniques throughout the Cincinnati Parks system and will determine the best path forward for each site that requires rodent control.

Please be thoughtful about the choices available if you have this problem at your home or business. "Source control," i.e., elimination of whatever food is attracting the critters, would be the safest option, if feasible. ■



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O Solstice Gate, Lake Erie

By Nancy Heuck Johanson

By our only sea, an inland sea
where waves mix playfully with dreams
my love and I kick off our sandals.
We wade while water laps our ankles.

Splash, kerplunk, creating ripples
children hurl their shore rocks flying.
Seagulls skim the waves while crying.
“The longest day is now and dying.”

But one girl with a sidearm swing
still sends her flat stones lightly tripping,
past the sunset they keep skipping.
I found this beach to watch both zenith

and sun descending hills of evening
so lavender, slate blue and soothing
as old Sol’s path to us is fading.
And black as bark, small fishing boats

hug the horizon’s edge afloat.
In silence, we behold and stand,
our toes imprinting cool, damp sand.
Our eyes lowered, the solstice ends

yet holding hands, we look again.
Then bending, we gather our summer
stones.
All is seen, yet remains unknown—

Safety

We continue to raise funds to schedule extra police presence in our business district. The Clifton Cares campaign gives everyone a way to contribute and help support our shopkeepers. Each hour of security costs \$75. To chip in with a tax-deductible donation, go to cliftoncommunity.org/products-page and scroll down to Clifton Cares 2025 Safety Fund. Any amount you contribute helps protect our neighbors, customers, and businesses on Ludlow Avenue.

Manifest Class Schedule

By Kevin Leigh-Manuell,
Program Coordinator

Open Figure Drawing Sessions

Tuesdays – Thursdays, 7 – 9 p.m.
Fridays 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Sundays (clothed) 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Study Hall

Fridays 1:30 – 4 p.m.
Sundays 4:30 – 7 p.m.

A FREE weekly opportunity for students, professionals, and the creative public alike to utilize Manifest Drawing Center’s resources—including our collection of classical anatomical casts, reference library, and an impressive natural specimen collection.

Meg Lagodzki | Painting

May 17

Discover the field-to-studio process behind Meg Lagodzki’s painted paper collages, shaped by years of plein air painting, naturalist study, and ecological reflection. Meg will demonstrate her techniques for painting, printing, and assembling collage materials, while sharing how nature informs both her process and purpose. Join us for the opportunity to learn from an artist whose work blends observation, advocacy, and deep connection to place.

Upcoming Artist: Cecile Baird | Colored Pencil

June 21

Upcoming Artist: Grace Ramsey | Painting

August 23

Envision Project 9: A Special Free Course for High School Teens

June 16–27, 2025

Manifest Drawing Center is proud to announce the 9th annual Envision Project, supported in part by the Joseph A. Stoner Memorial Fund and the Manifest Annual Fund. This unique program seeks applications from high school students interested in learning traditional film photography, developing critical thinking and visual literacy skills, and making a significant impact through visual storytelling.

Don’t Hold Still: Life Drawing Through Ideas of Bodily Movement

A 3-day Intensive Workshop with Randy Melick

June 27–29, 2025

This life drawing workshop shifts the focus from copying the figure to seeing through the language of drawing. Instead of making drawings look like figures, participants will explore how figures emerge by thinking like a draftsman. Through guided exercises and study of key works, artists will explore natural movement, comparative seeing, and how to construct expressive figure drawings that prioritize motion over photographic accuracy.

Upcoming Workshops

Personal Color: Painting the Figure with a Mixing Matrix with Neil Callander

July 25–27



Gaslight Gardening

By Leah Kottyan, Thrall Street

The gardens of Clifton are part of our neighborhood’s identity. We use our sidewalks; we enjoy each other; we love being outdoors together. In the Gaslight Gardening column, we celebrate the flora of Clifton. Common names for plants are used to make the articles accessible to everyone.

“I must have flowers, always, and always.” – Claude Monet

I am eternally impressed with the flowers of Clifton. Starting with the flowering tulip magnolia trees and early crocuses, Spring in our neighborhood brings eruptions of daffodils and tulips, phlox cascading over rocks and garden edges, as well as the more subtle blooms of plants such as lungwort. By early summer, we enjoy Clinton’s sweet peas, larkspur, poppies, lilacs, and peonies. My favorite blooms arrive mid-summer: zinnias, butterfly bush, coneflower, lupins, foxglove... and dahlias.

Dahlias grow from tubers, becoming three to five foot high plants that provide buckets of large, colorful flowers from July to October. I fell in love with the dahlia a few years ago with one plant, which led to eight dahlias last summer. Every two to three days of the summer of 2024, I brought new dahlia-centric bouquets into our home, my work office, and my friend’s doorsteps. I especially love the dinner plate varieties which routinely have diameters of 6–9 inches. Dahlias are somewhat needy—they are not nearly as easy as zinnias, which can be sown from seed and ignored. I think of my dahlias as my garden challenge. If you are willing to put in a bit of effort, the rewards cannot be overstated.

Here are some things I have learned about growing dahlias in Clifton:

- The tubers can rot, especially during a rainy winter or early spring. I start my tubers under grow lights in March and plant outside after Mother’s Day. Some neighbors leave their dahlias in the ground over winter; everyone has their own favorite way of doing things.
- Dahlias love sunshine. A bit of afternoon shade is OK to protect them from the blistering heat of August.
- You can grow dahlias in deep pots, expanding opportunities for neighbors with a balcony garden.
- The dahlia plant is tall and somewhat unstable. Plan to stake it before it reaches more than a foot high.
- There is a Dahlia Society of Cincinnati. Joining the group is inexpensive and brings a wealth of education, information, and new friends who also love dahlias. If you are curious about dahlias, consider coming to the dahlia exposition that our local society hosts at Krohn Conservatory in late August.
- You can order tubers from big box stores and large mail order companies, but the best quality dahlias that are healthiest in Cincinnati come from local farms and friends.
- I ordered a set of simple glass vases that I filled and shared throughout the summer and fall. This allowed me to grab flowers on a whim for neighbors, friends, and coworkers.
- Dahlias will produce many new tubers that can be planted in your garden or shared with a friend the following year. ■



Clifton Market Improvements

By Tom Lohre

Welcome to another interview in the café at Clifton Market. Mr. Singh is our guest.

Tom: What's the state of the market?

Mr. Singh: The market is going through some changes to make it better; we're making sure we bring better pricing, working on new contracts, and restructuring older contracts with our wholesalers. At the moment, we're a little low on product, but it should be getting back to normal soon. We'll see more frequent deliveries, and the store will be fully stocked very soon.

We stepped away from our previous distributor, and there are issues with the current suppliers. It's a little bit inconvenient at the moment. To make the market last longer, sometimes you have to go through some challenges in the short term. We are working hard to get everything back in order and make sure we get this market to where it needs to be.

Tom: I'm going to let the cat out of the bag. You own two other grocery stores: Oberlin IGA Foodliner, 331 E. Lorain Street, Oberlin, OH 44074, and Ross Fresh Market IGA, 3743 Hamilton Cleves Road, Hamilton, OH 45013.

Mr. Singh: Yes, we have two other stores. One we have had for a few years, and one we just added.

We're working to get better deals and

pricing. We're just stuck in the middle at the moment. Things are being sorted out, and soon you will see the market take shape for the better.

Hopefully, we can get another butcher for service in the evening. We're looking for the right fit. We want to keep our meat department open longer and have more and better selections. We want not just one but a couple more people in the meat department to stay open late evening hours.

Tom: The hot food table is fantastic; it's always filled up with nice things to eat, and Jimmy and Drew are doing a great job.

Mr. Singh: We hired a few more people in the deli section. Boar's Head is back. The case went down for a while, but it's fixed now, and the product is back.

One of our goals is to hire a store manager, someone who's here full-time, interacting with customers. A friendly face that can be the "Go-To Person" for the market.

Thank you, Mr. Singh. The video interview includes a great story by WCPO's John Matarese and Emily Hanford-Ostmann, shot partly in Clifton Market. Check out the full interview at the QR code and link below. ■



<https://youtu.be/RoyhDf8ttE0>

Livin' La Vida Ludlow

By Linda Fatherree

For nearly 20 years, I've lived about 100 yards from Ludlow Avenue. I had fallen in love with "downtown Clifton" when I lived in University Heights and finally moved close enough to walk to the Esquire, IGA, Ambar, my bank and more. Over the years, I've seen shops and restaurants come and go, but the unique neighborhood shopping vibe always maintains its attraction.

My favorite bicycle shop moved out, but Ace Hardware moved in and made taking care of this old house so much easier. MAYA turned out to be a great complement to Toko Baru and Pangaea. My whole family loved Habanero's famous fish tacos, but we're looking forward to trying the new Japanese restaurant that's coming soon. When Lydia's closed, I kept serving those yummy Figgy Piggy sandwiches at home...with ingredients from Clifton Market and Clifton Natural Foods.

Recently, I was browsing the racks at Hansa Guild and came across some tiedied, bell-bottomed pants. I tried them on and loved them. But I wondered aloud, "Where would I ever wear these?" The always-helpful owner, Greta Peterson, immediately stepped to the counter, picked up the Ludlow Garage schedule, and pointed to the Beatles and Doors tribute band playing that very night. "Here's where you can wear them!" And the rest is history. Here's the photo Greta took when I stopped in

again on my way to the concert. The band was excellent; my outfit was perfect; a good time was had by all.

That's just one of so many stories of friendly shop owners, creative restaurateurs, and other merchants and services that make a visit to Ludlow Avenue both practical and enjoyable.

Tell us about your experiences shopping and dining in the Clifton business district. We'd love to hear what you love about "la Vida Ludlow." To share your story, email it to: ctm.chronicle@gmail.com. ■



New Chronicle Advertiser! POTZ

Brenda Folz has deep roots in Clifton. Her past experiences at the Cincinnati Parks, Spring Grove Cemetery, and Rahn's Greenhouse, plus a Master Gardener certificate, make Brenda a new business expert.

Neighbors also know Brenda as a musician and the parent of three children who attended Annunciation School. "Playing in the dirt, art, and singing have all become the inspiration in my adult life," she says. She's eager to help you embellish your porch and garden with living works of art.

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Off Ludlow Gallery

By Michael Hensley

Who is Off Ludlow Gallery?

Off Ludlow Gallery (OLG) is a small community-based gallery located in a vintage post office building just off Ludlow in the historic gaslight district of Clifton. The gallery is a project of Clifton Town Meeting, a nonprofit community council designed to preserve and develop the community of Clifton. Curators Sandy Eichert and Michael Hensley design and curate themed group and solo shows featuring Greater Cincinnati artists.

What is OLG's Mission?

We are a small gallery with a big mission:

- Expose the talents, perspectives, and passions of a diverse and vibrant local artist community.
- Create opportunities for ALL members of our community to engage with art and be moved by its message and its beauty.
- Demonstrate the power of art in its many forms to generate meaningful dialogue that leads to positive impact in the community.

Executing on the Mission

OLG will conduct public art shows throughout the year, each featuring a different theme or medium. The varied themes will ensure that more artists will have the opportunity to participate and gain exposure. Within the context of these shows, the gallery will also look for ways to create engagement and dialogue between artists and patrons that lead to a lasting and positive impression on the communities of Greater Cincinnati.

Additionally, the gallery will serve as a community venue where small artist groups and other worthy causes can conduct their own shows and artistic events.

Announcing Summer Fundraising Show: Artists In Action

Nonprofit Preview Night / Thursday, June 12, 6 – 8 p.m.

Public Opening / Friday, June 13, 6 – 8 p.m.

Nonprofit and Artists Talk / Sunday, June 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

Closing Night / Wednesday, July 2, 6 – 8 p.m.

The **Artists In Action** show is designed to bring local artists and local cause-based nonprofits together to inspire great art, create exposure for the artist and organization alike and generate revenue for all involved. For this show, artists will be paired with nonprofit organizations to create art inspired by the nonprofit's cause. Each work of art featured in the show will be displayed alongside a brief description of the featured nonprofit organization. Proceeds from the sale of art will be shared primarily between the artist and the nonprofit. The local nonprofits will also benefit by bringing their stories to life through art and sharing them with patrons and the public.

Gary Lord Solo Show

Opening / Friday, July 11

Artist Talk / Sunday, July 20

Closing / Thursday, July 24

Susan Byrnes Solo Show

Opening / Friday, August 8

Artist Talk / Sunday, August 24

Closing / Wednesday, September 10



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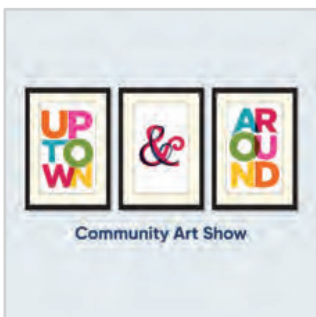


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The Allure of Clifton's Stained Glass

By Jan Brown Checco

The Clifton Historical Society welcomed more than 40 stained glass enthusiasts for an April lecture, lunch, and guided tour, organized by Tom Fruth and Geoff Gelke and hosted at the CCAC and the Clifton United Methodist Church. Experts and practicing glass artists John Ruzsa and Abbie Hitchcock reviewed the history of this fine art craft, showing images from their own design and restoration projects. Dora Schield took us on a virtual tour around Clifton with her new photo album of beautifully leaded doors, side panels, and colorful landing windows. Robert Flischel presented photos of windows farther afield, and led the short walk next door to experience “les pieces de resistance:” stunningly beautiful art glass windows in CUMC’s English Gothic Revival sanctuary, enhanced by a guided viewing by Jeff Tilman, Ph.D.

The audience understood the rarity of these magnificent art glass works and the urgency for their restoration because stained glass is not expected to endure forever against heat, weather, and most of all, gravity. The 14-foot-tall center windows were both fabricated in the same studio in Brooklyn, with glass coming from St. Louis, allowing for finely planned color harmonies. Both windows were designed along with the church in 1892 and installed in 1895 at the building’s completion. “The Calling of Peter and Andrew” was proclaimed by artist D. Maitland Armstrong as his masterpiece. His daughter, Helen, manifested her own mastery in painting the faces, an unusual participation for a woman in the 1890s. “The Good Samaritan” was designed by John LaFarge of Boston. In an important moment, art experts discovered that LaFarge’s “Missing Davis Windows” (named for the windows’ donors) were these, safely abiding in Clifton.

Caring for such art treasures is a huge responsibility. A recent restoration of the 3,000 pieces of glass and lead comprising LaFarge’s “St. Luke” window (one eighth

of the historic suite of windows) cost over \$70,000. The rest of the windows are now 30 years overdue for preservation. The price tag will be steep, and the church has not been able to draw sufficient funds from an endowment at a local bank that would allow it to undertake the work. The sands of time continue to slip by while the glass armature continues to sag under the materials’ immense weight. Rev. Robert English said, “Our congregation is honored to be caretakers of these art treasures, as we work to preserve and maintain them for generations to come. Donations for their maintenance and preservation can be made by sending a check to Clifton United Methodist Church with ‘Stained Glass Preservation Fund’ in the memo line.” (Address: 3416 Clifton Avenue, 45220) ■



Do you have a stained glass, leaded window, or door that you’d like to have photographed for the Clifton Historical Society’s archives, held at our local branch library? Contact cliftonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, and we’ll send a photographer at your convenience. For security’s sake, the exact location of the artwork will not be listed.

Colonial Charlie: Architect Leaves Marks in Clifton

Two Clifton Residences & One Civic Building

By Ronald Wesley Millard

Charles Frederick Cellarius (1891–1973, a.k.a. “Colonial Charlie”), an early-to mid-20th century traditionalist architect, received his formal training at Yale University and M.I.T. His Cincinnati firms

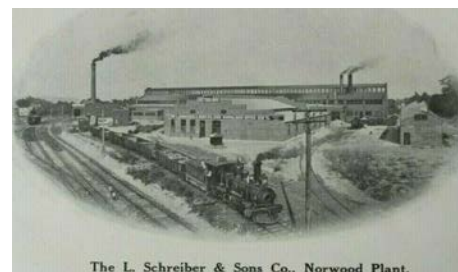


were the Cellarius Group (1921–1955) and Cellarius & Hilmer (1956–1973). He established himself as a major force on the Cincinnati architecture scene when, in the

1920s, he served as supervising architect of the Mariemont development plan.

It may surprise some Chronicle readers to learn that Cellarius was at the forefront – even as the modernism trend gained prominence – in designing traditional buildings for this region’s universities, municipalities, churches, high schools, and private residences. Colonial Revival and Prairie style buildings that he and his younger partner, Herbert Hilmer, designed are at many Ohio and Kentucky colleges and universities. In the 1950s, the Cellarius Group/Cellarius & Hilmer also designed high schools in Fairfax, Bond Hill, and Cincinnati. He is also credited with the design of two notable Cincinnati churches: Church of the Redeemer in Hyde Park and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Mount Washington. Another of Cellarius’ design is the Victory Parkway Shelter, built as a public comfort station during the Great Depression.

Cellarius left his mark in Clifton with two private residences and one civic building. His first Clifton client was William August Schreiber, II, (1891 - 1971, a.k.a. “Wrought Iron Willie”), grandson of founder Leonhard (Charlotte) Schreiber and owner of L. Schreiber & Sons, Co., a large Cincinnati-based structural steel, and ornamental wrought iron works (1854 - 1962) located where the Norwood Plaza sits today.



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William and his new bride, Cliftonite Ruth M. Willey (the family residence at

3453 Whitfield Avenue), lived in a 3442 Middleton Avenue apartment while their new Cellarius-designed home was built at 3502 Cornell Place. William’s company supplied steel I-beams, a metal fire door, and wrought iron railings for the home. The Higgins Company (1893–1942, Newport, KY) supplied the screen doors, win-



dow screens, and roll-down screens for the living room doors.

Cellarius was a “hands-on” architect as he supervised the 1925 construction of Schreiber’s colonial revival three-story, slate-roofed home. He left penciled instructions on the newly plastered walls for plumbers and carpenters. The home, with live-in help quarters on the third floor, is noted for its exquisite craftsmanship, durable construction methods, and materials. The fourth owners, the Millard family, have been in residence since 1988.

Cellarius’s interest in the Tudor style can be traced to 1916 when, at M.I.T., he submitted a thesis titled “A Tudor Country House” to satisfy his B.S. in Architecture



degree requirement. So, it is not surprising that, in 1934, future Cliftonite Charles Wagner hired Cellarius to design his Tudor style residence at 3 Cypress Garden Street. This was Cellarius’s second and final private home in Clifton. The fifth owners, the Giglio family, have been in residence since 1984.

The Cellarius & Hilmer firm left a third mark in Clifton in 1959 with the design and construction of the large civic building, the Cincinnati Woman’s Club, at 330 Lafayette Avenue. ■

For more information on Charles Cellarius, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3k5xbh29>.

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Home Is Where You Make It

By Bonnie Holliday Speeg

You need not look far to find a Clifton building designed by one of Cincinnati's most important architects of the late 19th and early 20th century, Gustave W. Drach. On the east side of Telford Avenue at 3414 stands an imposing apartment house, The Delmoor (these structures are called Flat Buildings). Built in 1899 by Drach, the apartment house is prominent. Clifton boasts other Drach buildings. He lived most of his career in Clifton, near his childhood roots by the Camp Washington workhouse.

Drach designed residences in late, elegant Victorian styles, such as the one on Telford, and other major structural innovations. Commercial and Renaissance Revival were trademarks. His institutional works were large, functional, and technologically innovative. Drach employed reinforced-concrete skeleton construction prior to its pioneering use in the 1903 Ingalls Building; the first high-rise of reinforced concrete in the world. His buildings of concrete, bricks, and steel were as close to fireproof as possible.

Drach's works remain significant in Cincinnati and Clifton. The elegant Gibson Hotel, Water Works Old River Station (a pump house of industrial monoliths). Considered modern for its time: Woodward High School, The School for Creative and Performing Arts, downtown's Textile Building, Good Samaritan Hospital, Longview Asylum additions, and Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Drach's work was versatile and balanced.

Born in Cincinnati in 1862 of French

immigrant parents, Drach grew up near the Camp Washington Workhouse. His father was a retail liquor dealer and owned a tavern. Drach and siblings Cecelia, Louis, and Adolph were schooled in Cincinnati; Gustave graduated from the first Woodward High School. He then went to Ohio Mechanics' Institute, eventually attending M.I.T. School of Architecture. Practicing architecture in New York and Boston, he returned to Cincinnati in 1884 to practice architecture. In 1886, he married Cincinnati Martha Heinrichsdorf; they had two sons, Edgar and Karl.

In 1910, Drach designed Good Samaritan Hospital (Clifton Avenue entrance, five to eight stories, four large wards), "wasting no money on ornate ornamentation or impractical fads". Its opening honored Drach. By 1911, Drach was on the Clifton Improvement Committee. Within a short distance, as you pass by Good Samaritan hospital across from Burnet Woods, Drach's work is all you can see looking west. Censuses show Drach living in several Clifton locations. Drach's brother Louis, President of Cincinnati Quarries Company, lived in Clifton Heights at 2161 Elysian Place. Documents show Drach living on Telford near another of his creations, then at 348 Shiloh, then nearby in St. Bernard, designing the high school. Returning to live on Telford, and finally living at 3300 Jefferson Avenue.

In 1940, ailing after the recent death of his wife Martha, Drach left his Jefferson Avenue residence for nine short days and was admitted into the Hamilton County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, which he had designed. He died on July 18. Services were held at Balter Funeral Home, where the Clifton Cultural Arts Center stands today, three blocks from Good Samaritan Hospital and Telford Avenue apartments. Close to much he could call home. ■

Ludlow Business District & 1991 Historic District

By Steven Schuckman

Historic Designation is the only means of neighborhood protection from demolition in the City's zoning laws. Designation does not compel building changes but does impose design guidelines that describe appropriate exterior changes for historic buildings and guidelines encouraging compatible additions and new construction.

The designation report in 1991 stated that the "District is important as a collection of significant residential architecture and maintains a high level of architectural quality throughout the district."

Further, the report states that the "Buildings convey a sense of time and place" and "are united through scale, proportion, materials, and architectural detailing."

It is now a matter of updating and checking this prior work and looking at the streets south of Ludlow for designation, since this area was not included in the 1991 work.

The historic designation for Clifton pertains to its residential architecture, which is remarkably intact and dates largely from 1880 to 1910. However, the Ludlow Business District was not deemed historic or included within the 1991 boundaries. The buildings along Ludlow lack architectural cohesion. Many of the buildings were built or modified later than those along residential streets, and several one-story storefronts were added to the front of older homes.

Though the buildings in the business district do not meet the criteria for local historic designation, it is still important to preserve their general character and to encourage renovations and new construction in keeping with the district. Currently, an Urban Design (UD) Overlay District zone in the business district governs renovations, signs, new construction, and demolition. However, demolition guidelines are not as stringent as those in historic districts.

UD guidelines require that the Zoning Hearing Examiner consider community plans when making decisions in project reviews. The new community plan can include additional requirements to guide and strengthen the future of the business district. The coming Rapid Transit Bus Route and recent rezoning may prove to be catalysts for new development in the business district and the neighborhood. CTM and the Business Association should be in a position to anticipate and guide new development as it comes to the community. ■



The City's historic conservation ordinance describes the criteria for designating historic districts and landmarks. In 1991, a historic district was proposed for a large segment of Clifton stretching from Ludlow to Lafayette. Historic research was conducted, and a historic narrative was prepared for this area. There is a three-step public process for creating historic districts. The proposed Clifton district was approved at the first two steps: a hearing before the Historic Conservation Board (HCB) and a hearing before the City Planning Commission (CPC). However, when the subject got to City Council, the Council chose not to approve the district by a 5 to 4 vote.

This prior work demonstrated that the area met the criteria for local designation, making current efforts to reintroduce it that



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Nineteenth Century Equestrian Artifacts at Diggs Plaza

By Jan Brown Checco

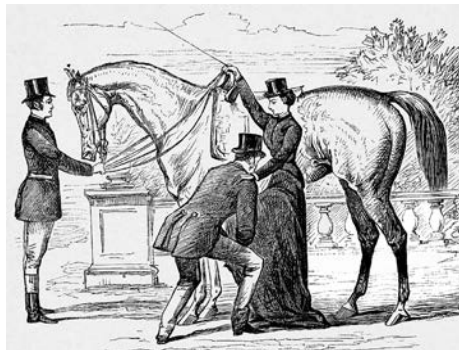
Maybe you've seen the peculiar lozenge-shaped piece of limestone sitting in the planting bed next to the Diggs Plaza fountain. It's probably like nothing you've ever seen before, unless you've got something similar sitting in your Clifton yard, a remainder from some 19th-century residents. Does the addition of the horse head hitching post just a few feet away give a clue? Imagine that your horse is tied up, and you have on a fashionable ankle-length skirt. How are you going to get up on your sidesaddle to ride home? Either you have a couple of helpful gentlemen to boost you up, or you have...a mounting block!



That's what it is, and a fancy one at that, with a little step-up carved-out niche. And, just for style, a lovely, engraved fleur-de-lis on the back side. This ensemble of vintage items is situated at the exact hub of 19th-century Clifton's equestrian traffic. Stables and coach depots were located all around this intersection of Clifton and Ludlow avenues, some in buildings that still stand.

This ensemble of artifacts was organized by the Clifton Historical Society's founding members. Local historian Geoff Gelke discovered the mounting block, which was spotted at the Spring Grove Cemetery Funeral Home in Reading. Recognizing its

function and vintage, he asked permission to bring it to our community for installation with other interpretive elements and signage. They agreed, and the Cincinnati Park Board also agreed to the installation on their property, providing essential help from their staff for transportation and placement. The interpretive sign frame was designed and fabricated by Stephen Mergner. You may remember his restoration work on the Rawson Bird Preserve archway at McAlpin and Middleton avenues, also assisted by a hardy Cincinnati Parks team. ■



Ladies who lacked the help of two gentlemen could mount their horse with ease if they had a hitching post and a mounting block.



In 1891, several stables were in sight from this spot:

1. Smith-Andrews Livery Stable (at Paolo's & Dewey's)
2. The Private Stables of Mr. Howard (at Diggs Plaza)
3. Clifton's largest stable was at 3307 Clifton Avenue
4. The new Firehouse added five more horses in 1906



Clifton's Lost Architect

By Geoff Gelke, Clifton Historical Society

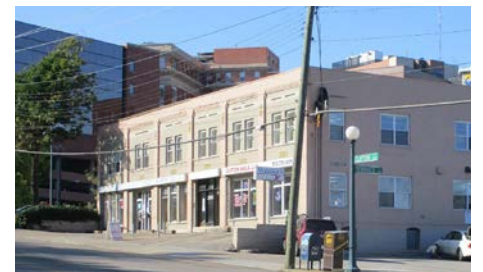
Three of Clifton's most iconic structures were created by perhaps its least known architect, Edward H. Dornette (1876–1949). A homegrown professional educated in architecture at our Ohio Mechanics Institute had as an early assignment: the



modification and moving of the William Resor home, now on Greendale Ave., to accommodate their growing family with a third floor, then later moving it to align with the planned subdivision we know as Greendale Avenue. He chose the French Second Empire style to be in fashion with France's Belle Époque, then in full swing. Besides, it was a relief to the common Italianate style, and the Resors were Francophiles anyway.

Next came Clifton School in 1906, in an appropriate Neoclassical style, using a "quincunx" design where four wings surround a central body. I believe this was learned from a notable predecessor, Isaiah

Rogers, known as the "Hotel Architect" and criticized for flat-fronted hotels in the East. However, when he came to Cincinnati to design the Burnet House hotel, it was not criticized, but acclaimed for its five frontal elevations for visual effect and ventilation. Dornette would have been aware of the controversy within his profession and followed with a pleasant appearance at Clifton School. He also designed schools in Avondale, Hyde Park, Fairmount, and Evanston. Architects thereafter have struggled with avoiding the boredom of flat-faced buildings.



Also, in 1906, Dornette finished the Clifton Livery Stables and Garage at 3307 Clifton Avenue in a faint Spanish Mission Revival style, which achieved a formal style within an urban setting vs. a rural-style barn or garage in a formal urban setting, like Clifton. Here, Clifton residents could accommodate their early cars and board their horses during this transitional period. ■

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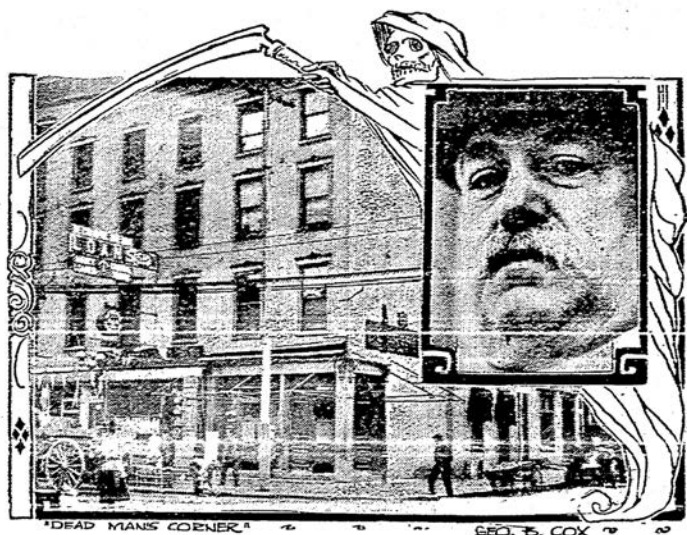
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Cox's Saloon at Dead Man's Corner in the West End

George B. Cox – Cincinnati's Boss, Clifton Resident

Part 2 of 5 Stories By Jan Brown Checco

George B. Cox was a cordial man with an easy laugh. Streetwise and savvy, his power was built on personality, but at times, he was stubborn and not always ethical. He joined the Cincinnati workforce at 8 years old to support his mother, two sisters, and brother after his father's death in 1861. George learned the value of sociability while working odd jobs: newsboy, tobacco salesman, on steamboats, with butchers, shoe shining, and delivering groceries. He dabbled in gambling parlors and eventually bought a West End saloon at Longworth and John streets – “Dead Man's Corner” – surrounded by unpoliced neighborhoods. Here he met Caroline Shill, who lived with her West End parents, and whom he married in 1890. A Republican living in a Democrat-controlled town, Cox's book-making operation was repeatedly raided by the local authorities. So, in 1877, Cox ran for his ward's city council seat and won.



The 24-year-old Republican was associated with the middle and lower classes, which caused an enduring social reluctance from his party's elites. But his easy manner

made him a rising star, and by 1880, he was the most powerful person in Cincinnati despite only having served two terms in the city council. He sold his saloon in 1881 to concentrate on politics, real estate, and business enterprise.

Personal wealth grew along with political influence, expanding Cox's business holdings to dozens of bars and theatres that welcomed the common man. Burlesque was on offer, stiffening elite society's shunning of Cox. Nevertheless, he fostered alliances with his flexibility within the political system's fragility. “Boss” political machines were thriving in America because poor residents needed jobs in overcrowded cities, new immigrants were eager to please, and the machines provided services that government and charities could not. Cox paid off government officials, and rumors of voting fraud were common. Anyone with political aspirations needed his advice and blessing. Because he was reputed to keep promises, he built a robust following. Those who received his help gladly returned the favor.

“Boss” Cox held forth in Wielert's Beer Garden at 1410 Vine Street, working into the night with his lieutenants Rudolph (Rud) Hynicka, August Hermann, and their cronies, solving problems and making good on promises. He became the very corruption he once sought to combat. Named chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Committee in 1885, he ran city politics without any official appointment for 25 years (1886–1911), experiencing only two electoral defeats in 1897 and 1905. Finally, eschewing government office, he used money and patronage to keep voters in line. Once his candidates were in office, 60% of city jobs and contracts went to Cox loyalists. The Republican Committee received kickbacks from salaries, creating a fund to pay voters from Indiana and Kentucky to vote as instructed on Cincinnati issues and candidates.

Few challenged his power. Eventually, the nation took notice.■

Clifton's Abundant Destinations for Heavenly Rest

By Gérald Checco

It's often quipped that one can go from cradle to grave without ever leaving Clifton: born in our hospital, educated in our schools and university, with a faith community that includes virtually every religion, a lifelong Cliftonite is also guaranteed a comfortable final resting place.



In Spring Grove Village, Spring Grove Cemetery was created largely by Clifton members of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society. Salmon P. Chase signed the cemetery's articles of incorporation. You'll find most of the “Clifton Barons” demurring there. A decade after the first burials in 1845, Adolph Strauch - Prussian landscape architect who embellished many Clifton estates - was commissioned to create a garden cemetery. Today, with its 733 acres, it is America's third-largest cemetery with about 250,000 interred, including Civil War soldiers, notable business and political leaders. A National Historic Landmark with a renowned arboretum, it's home to two National and 20 State Champion trees.



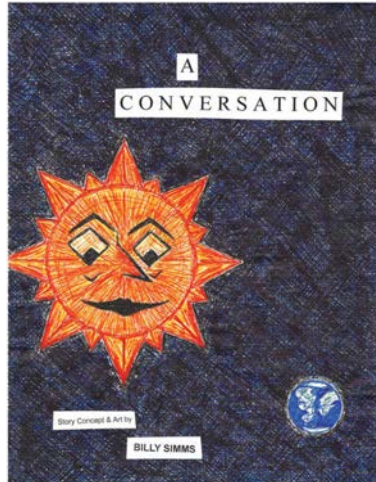
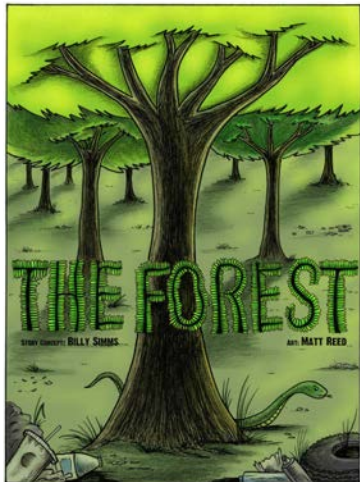
The Clifton United Jewish Cemetery was established by The Society of Brotherly Love, which, in 1847, was Cincinnati's third Jewish congregation. The

congregation prioritized the creation of a cemetery. At that time, antisemitism was prevalent among Clifton village's council members, who refused to grant a building permit to Charles Kahn, a successful Jewish industrialist who sought to create a home on Ludlow Avenue. In response to the denial, Kahn sent a famous note to the municipal council: “Very well, gentlemen, if you do not care to have a Jew living near you, surely you cannot object to dead Jews, and you shall have many of these, for many years...” He sold his plot of land to the Society of Brotherly Love, and they created their cemetery. Illustrious individuals are among the nearly 2000 people buried there, including Rabbi Isaac Wise, founder of American Reform Judaism and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. It's also the resting place of Murray Seasongood, a Mayor of Cincinnati from 1926–1929, known for ending bosses' control of Cincinnati City Council.



The German Evangelical Protestant Cemetery was founded in 1849 by the members of the German Evangelical Reform Churches of St. Peter and St. Paul of Cincinnati on Vine Street. Land for the cemetery was purchased between 1850 and 1882. During the 1870s, the graves previously located by St. Peter's on Queen City Avenue were reinterred on the grounds surrounding the “Kappell.” The German-American architects George and August Brink designed this Neo-Romanesque chapel, a style popular in 1830s Germany. Notable individuals buried there include August “Garry” Herrmann, (Cincinnati politician and crony of Boss Cox) who became owner of the Cincinnati Reds and chairman of the National Baseball Commission; several Cincinnati Reds players, including Nick Altrock and William Edward Voll. The cemetery's name was changed to Vine Street Hill Cemetery in 1941 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 28, 2008.■

Comics for Peace & Justice Workshop: Environment



The Clifton Branch Library – in partnership with SOS ART – hosts a FREE comic book workshop for young artists ages 7 to 12 on Saturday, June 14 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The theme of Environment will be discussed and two comic stories, “The Forest” and “A Conversation”, addressing Environment, will be reviewed. Using techniques demonstrated in the comics, student artists will create their own story and comic illustrations addressing Environment.

Link to information and registration: <https://tinyurl.com/mryhw33t>

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expressions for Peace
and Justice*

June 20 – July 13

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Program of Events

(FREE and open to the public)

Friday, June 20

6:00 p.m.: Opening of the art show

6:30 p.m.: Introductory notes and Tribute to late SOS ART fellow artist Gary Gaffney

Sunday, July 13

2:00–3:30 p.m.: Artists’ Walk and Talk

3:30 p.m.: “Journaling” workshop with Alecia Lott

4:30 p.m.: Artists’ Get Together and Closing Potluck Reception

7:00–9:00 p.m.: Potluck Reception and Music Entertainment by the “Lastboppers”



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Happy 10th Anniversary, Clifton Branch Library!

Ten years ago, in 2015, the Clifton Branch moved from its storefront location on Ludlow Avenue to its current location in Parkview Manor.

Sharing Memories... Thank YOU, Clifton, for 10 years of fun, friendship, and learning!!

