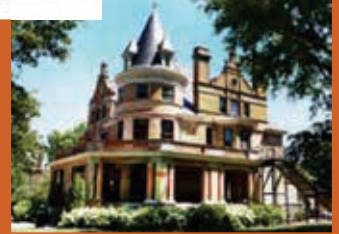
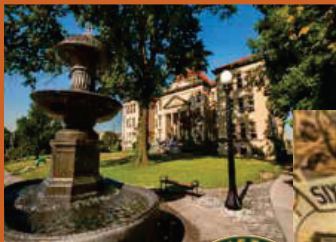




Quarterly Newsletter of the Clifton Town Meeting  
FALL 2023 • VOLUME 32 • NUMBER 3



In Clifton, We  
Live and Learn



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## Clifton Town Meeting - Your Community Council

Established in 1961, CTM is Clifton's official community council recognized by the City of Cincinnati. Our object is to preserve and develop the community, recognizing that Clifton is one of Cincinnati's first suburbs, possessing traditional charm and a unique creative character. CTM advocates on behalf of residents and businesses, giving a platform for ideas, concerns and opinions.

### President's Message

It was a typical summer in Clifton. Life slowed down as older students left town and parents of younger students juggled the activities of their kids. And we reflected on our village's amazing array of educational opportunities. This issue - **In Clifton, We Live and Learn** - spotlights our many institutions that provide instruction, pairing with stories from our ever-curious neighbors, faithful historians and hikers who magnify the cultural relevancy of our living experience. But "live and learn" also can describe an experience, sometimes unpleasant, which results in new awareness. This summer we witnessed a troubling increase locally of illicit activity, often related to poverty and mental illness: hostile panhandlers aggressing merchants and customers, indecent exposure, breaking and entering, shattering of large windows at several stores, theft including an armed robbery on the Clifton Plaza as reported by the UC news and recorded on our security cameras. Business owners and CTM leaders gathered to confer and together seek solutions. We know that cities like Seattle and San Francisco are struggling with similar issues. Clifton has not been immune to trouble while rebounding from the pandemic, work even more difficult for the frailest members of society. The lack of affordable housing and continued meager funding for mental health services underpin these problems. Clifton's well-being is ultimately bound to the health of our business district which must be protected at all cost. (It is easier to maintain what we have rather than it would be to recreate "what we once had.") The rebirth of downtown and OTR is only made possible by huge financial infusions. Having survived economic ups and downs and societal changes with minimal support from governments, Clifton has a compact and complete business district of which we can be proud, and one that others admire. So, it's time for a collective consciousness-raising about a common reflex that perpetuates a lot of trouble: giving money and food to panhandlers. Yes, we were taught as kids to oblige when we're asked to give, but giving in this manner is not productive and is a real nuisance to our businesses. Social agencies have told us that saying "yes" results in the negative consequences we've seen inflate this summer, even in "turf wars" among the panhandlers who want to "own their corners". We're told by parents of Clifton teenagers that they are hesitant for their kids to socialize on Ludlow Avenue because of increased risk, both perceived and real. So please, instead of responding to solicitations with spare change or food, choose instead to contribute to the many social services in Cincinnati that support those who live on the fringes. New habits will better support our hard-working shopkeepers.

- Gérald Checco (President)

## 2023 CTM Board of Trustees

The CTM Executive Board trustees are:

Jan Brown Checco, Mansee Chauhan, Gérald Checco, Barry Gee, Nick Gregg, Mary Pat Lienhart, Nestor Melnyk, Tim Noonan, Justin Ogilby, Jayme Ritter, Michael Roller, Logan Sand, Genet Singh, Rachel Wells, and John Whedon.

### Keep in Touch with CTM!

For announcements and links to virtual meetings, visit our website at <http://www.clifton-community.org>. When you move, please send an update to your mailing address to [ctm.chronicle@gmail.com](mailto:ctm.chronicle@gmail.com). And also let us know if you'd prefer to receive your Chronicle as an e-newsletter.

## CTM Committees, Chairs & Liaisons

Executive—President Gérald Checco  
Public Safety—Tim Noonan  
Arts & Culture—Mike Roller, Joyce Rich  
Caretaking & Beautification—Jayme Ritter  
Chronicle—Jan Brown Checco  
Clifton Community LLC—Gérald Checco, Tim Noonan  
Communications—Rachel Wells  
Events—Barry Gee  
Finance—Treasurer Tim Noonan  
Governance—Mary Pat Lienhart  
Housing & Zoning—Nestor Melnyk, Jayme Ritter  
Membership/Nominating—Gérald Checco  
Parks—Mary Pat Lienhart, Mansee Chauhan  
Transportation—Justin Ogilby, Mary Pat Lienhart

### CTM Liaison Roles

Uptown Consortium—Gérald Checco, Nestor Melnyk, Mansee Chauhan  
Invest In Neighborhoods—Gérald Checco  
TriHealth/UC Health—Justin Ogilby  
Clifton Community Fund—Tim Noonan  
Clifton Business Association—Jan Brown Checco, Genet Singh  
Neighborhoods of Uptown—Rachel Wells

**Our community council depends on the support of volunteers like you! Please contact us if you'd like to help on an event or serve on one of our committees:**  
[ctmpresident@cliftoncommunity.org](mailto:ctmpresident@cliftoncommunity.org)

## The Clifton Chronicle

Quarterly Newsletter of Clifton Town Meeting  
P.O. Box 20042, 45220-0042

The Chronicle is CTM's free-to-the-public newsletter, delivered to over 6000 readers on 3/1, 5/25, 9/1 and 12/1. To subscribe for a printed paper or to request your Chronicle by email only, please provide your postal mailing, email address(es) and full name(s) to [ctm.chronicle@gmail.com](mailto:ctm.chronicle@gmail.com)

The Chronicle is supported our advertisers and by the City of Cincinnati's Neighborhood Support Program and Neighborhood Activation Funds.

**Clifton Chronicle is available online!**  
This code and the address below will take you to the newsletter and to our archives on our website.

<https://www.cliftoncommunity.org/clifton-town-meeting/clifton-chronicle/>



### Clifton Chronicle Committee

Jan Brown Checco, Chair 2023—Josie Angel, Gerald Checco, Steve Schuckman, Barb Wriston Ruddy, Mary Steele, Rachel Wells, John Whedon, with advice from the CTM Executive Committee

### Be A Chronicle Content Creator!

We invite our readers' participation in content creation. Our next deadline is October 24 for the Winter Issue that covers activities from Dec. 1 to March 1, 2024. Send all images (300 dpi jpg) and stories (300 words max in a Word doc) to [ctm.chronicle@gmail.com](mailto:ctm.chronicle@gmail.com)

## You are Essential! Become a Member of Clifton Town Meeting! Here's how:

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is your community council, advocating on behalf of the Clifton community. We sponsor many activities and festivals throughout the year, but to continue this important community work, we need YOUR INPUT. Membership is open to all neighborhood residents, property owners and businesses, age 18 or older. **Membership dues cover 12 months, are our second largest means of support, and are tax deductible.** CTM also accepts donations, so please consider this as you sign-up or renew at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/>

Sign up online, scan the QR code or send this form with a check or money order payable to: **Clifton Town Meeting, P.O. Box 20042, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-0042.**



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Committees and Activities that interest you: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories:

___ Single (1 vote).....\$20	___ Senior citizen, 65+ (1 vote).....\$10
___ Household (2 votes).....\$20	___ Senior household, 65+ (2 votes).....\$14
___ Full-time college student (1 vote) \$10	___ Life membership (2 votes).....\$180
___ Business (1 vote).....\$40	___ Donation of \$ _____

**Thanks for  
writing legibly!**

# CTM Elections • November 6, 6-7 PM

## CTM Elections for 2024 Board – Monday, November 6, 6-7 PM

**Please review the 2024 CTM Board candidates' statements. We'll return to all in-person voting this year, so please mark your calendar to visit the Clifton Rec Center at 320 McAlpin Avenue from 6-7 p.m., then stay for the meeting afterward. To renew or become a member of CTM today use the link below and exercise your vote for community leadership. <https://www.cliftoncommunity.org/membership/>**

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is Clifton's community council, a volunteer organization recognized by the City of Cincinnati, other governmental agencies, and private corporations as the official voice of the community. Currently comprised of around 400 members, we work together and in partnership with the other established Clifton organizations to make Clifton a great place.

Our board is comprised of 15 trustees, elected by CTM members for 3-year terms. Board members are limited to serve for 2 three-year terms, and the officers of the board (President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer) cannot serve for more than two successive years in the same position. CTM board and its committees have worked very hard recently on critical issues including traffic safety, personal safety, beautification, zoning, events, and parks as well as the quarterly publication of Clifton Chronicle.

**Nick Gregg** — I have served as a CTM Trustee since February of 2023 and want to continue serving as a trustee and as a member of CTM's governance committee for several reasons. As a trustee, I have been able to offer a unique perspective on issues presented to CTM. I am a fairly recent transplant to Clifton and am also the father of a young child. I have been able to look at important issues presented to CTM, such as the future of the Rawson Farmhouse, through the lenses of both a Clifton resident and a father invested in Clifton's schools and the neighborhood generally. I believe it is critical that CTM continues to include voices for the parents and children of Clifton, and I look forward to being one of those voices if elected. In addition to being a trustee, I am an attorney and partner at a local law firm, which gives me a unique skill set that has been useful to CTM. My experience as an attorney has often put me in situations where I am advocating for clients and positions in front of courts and juries of my clients' peers. As a CTM trustee, I have enjoyed advocating for Clifton, its businesses, and its residents. And as a member of CTM's governance committee, I have been working to make sure that CTM continues operating as effectively and efficiently as possible. If elected, I will continue doing these things and helping CTM and Clifton however I can.

**FD Harper** — As a returning resident of Clifton, I am excited to once again call my favorite neighborhood home. It is my hope to be more involved in supporting inclusive growth in Clifton, while contributing to a safe and enjoyable community for all families and business owners. With a network of strong educational qualifications and valuable volunteer and work experience, I believe I can bring a lot to our beautiful community. Professionally, after serving in the U.S. Navy, I worked at the Pentagon for the Department of Defense. I then moved to Clifton where I worked at the Cincinnati Enquirer and then the Internal Revenue Service, where I am currently employed as a Public Affairs and Media Specialist. I am an artist, designer and digital content creator. I live with my partner Lauren and our two puppies Chase and Lincoln, who demand belly rubs constantly. And I always oblige.

**Leah Kottyan** — I first moved to Clifton nearly 20 years ago as a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati. After moving away, I never forgot the sense of community that forms the heartbeat of the Clifton neighborhood. In 2021, our family moved back to Clifton. Since rejoining the Clifton community, we have enjoyed getting to know our neighbors and discovering the opportunities of our neighborhood.

When we come together in community, special things can happen:

- Feelings of togetherness that saturate our celebratory events in May, throughout the summer, and in December,
  - Opportunities to help one another through advocacy, shared meals, and neighborly acts of service,
  - Lifted spirits after running into a neighbor on the sidewalk, in a park, or in a neighborhood restaurant or store,
  - Organizing together around safety for all our neighbors, businesses, and visitors,
  - Investment in art and beautification efforts,
  - Celebrations of our diversity, and
  - Support for the local parks, businesses, and organizations that give Clifton its unique flavor.
- I would be honored to become a Clifton Town meeting trustee to support the community of Clifton.

**Josh Lea** — I am a lifelong resident of Clifton and single father of 16-year-old twin girls, Bella and Ellie. I'm a self-employed business owner of a marketing company and own multiple campus rental properties near UC. Having grown up in Clifton, I have watched the neighborhood evolve so much over the years and have a deep-rooted passion for seeing our community thrive. Over the last decade, I have devoted myself to many volunteer roles in Clifton. I currently serve as president of Clifton SAY Soccer since 2017 and have helped grow the program to support recreational youth soccer for over 400 kids ages 4-18 every spring and fall. I've coached my daughters' various Clifton sports teams over the last 10 years and still actively coach their high school-age Clifton girls soccer team. My family has had membership at

Clifton Meadows Swim & Tennis Club, where I serve as a Trustee on the board, acting as the tennis committee chairperson since 2018, responsible for coordinating our flourishing tennis program at our club along with the other duties of being a Trustee. I have also served as volunteer athletic director for many years at Annunciation School when my daughters attended there. I have met so many amazing Clifton families along this journey and I love being involved in activities that make Clifton such a special place. I believe my experience and perspective can be of great value to the CTM Board. I will work hard to continue serving the Clifton community that I love so much!

**Genet Singh** — I am an immigrant who emigrated from Addis Ababa Ethiopia to the United States in 1990 and settled in Cincinnati, and I am proud to be connected to the city, its rich history and community. I attended the University of Cincinnati to study pharmacy. While at University I met my husband of 25 years and later decided to stay at home and raise our three kids. Clifton was one of the first neighborhoods I visited upon arriving in Cincinnati, and I immediately fell in love with it. Having children who attended primary school in Clifton and being a business and homeowner in Clifton has only deepened this love for the Clifton community. I have owned various retail and wholesale businesses in Clifton, the greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas over the last 20 years. I hope to use the insights I have gained as a business owner to help the Clifton business district community. I believe that the success of the businesses on Ludlow Avenue is important for the health of the Clifton community as a whole. I welcome this opportunity to give back to the community that has welcomed and served me and my family well.

**Gene Smiley** — I have been a resident of the Clifton community for five years, and a lifelong resident of Cincinnati. I am a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) and have been licensed for over 30 years. Most of my work is parenting/family oriented, providing individual and classroom parenting instruction and parenting related counseling for parents and families referred by Child Protective Services and the court systems in Brown, Adams and Clermont counties. As a Clifton council trustee, I would like to be involved generally in being supportive of the Ludlow business community and helping contribute to Clifton continuing to be a safe and family-oriented place to live. More specifically I'd like to assist with gun-related and other violence matters, helping develop strategies involving services to the homeless population and those dealing with mental health issues — working with the council in developing ways to help curb the increase in public violence, assisting the homeless in finding shelter, and in developing better ways of helping those with mental health issues to access services in a more efficient and productive manner.







## Holidays on Ludlow Saturday, Dec. 2

Shop in our lovely  
Gaslight businesses, join  
in the evening celebration  
on Clifton Plaza  
from 6 - 8 pm.

Lighting of our  
community tree  
is at 6:15 pm!  
Please - add  
your handmade  
ornaments!

Come let  
us enjoy -  
Santa,  
Music,  
Beverages,  
& Reindeer!



Join us in Clifton Plaza  
on the fourth Monday of  
each month from 6 - 8 p.m.  
Dates: Sept. 25 and Oct. 23  
**Meet your neighbors — two-legged  
and four – for off-the-leash fun!**  
(Your own dog is not required!)



## Thursdays on the Clifton Plaza: Gardeners and Makers' Market

**On Thursdays** until  
October 26, 4-7 pm, **Clifton  
residents are invited to set  
up at the Plaza to sell  
homemade & garden goods.**

Participants, park in the Merchants Lot on  
Howell Avenue, and carry your gear up the  
steps to the Plaza. Vendors are responsible  
for set up and clean up.

**No registration necessary!**

By permission of Clifton Community LLC  
that owns and operates this space.

## International Children's Day in Clifton



Cincinnati's third annual  
International Children's  
Day will take place on  
Saturday, September 23  
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
at the Burnet Woods  
Trailside Nature Center.  
This free event celebrates  
the children of the world  
and the cultural heritage  
of our neighbors and  
friends. Cincinnati's  
nine Sister Cities will  
staff booths throughout

the day where children can learn and collect free prizes and  
giveaways representing each city. Prizes include country flags, floral  
headbands, puzzles, fans, chopsticks and more. Little passports can  
be used to collect stamps at each booth to chart kids' "trips around  
the world." Food trucks will satisfy all appetites, activities include a  
Parade of Flags, canoe rides on the lake, storytime by Clifton Library,  
and button-making with the flag of a country of choice. Enjoy a  
petting zoo, fun with Cincinnati Circus, music by the Cincinnati  
Dayton Taiko Drum Group, Zak Morgan, and Joanie Whitaker.

*Cincinnati's International Children's Day is a collaboration of  
the Cincinnati USA Sister City Association, Cincinnati Parks, the  
Cincinnati Parks Foundation, the Cincinnati and Hamilton County  
Public Library, the Camping & Education Foundation, and  
USA Balloonatics.*



Use this QR code to  
access the donation  
portal, and thanks!

## about Your Safety and Our Businesses!

**Clifton, we need your help!**  
You may have noticed an **additional  
presence of peacekeepers in our  
business district** last summer. In  
order to continue this support to  
our businesses which costs \$300 for  
every 4-hour shift, **we're seeking  
the support of neighbors to cover  
30 weeks of additional security.**

**Your gift to CTM is tax deductible  
and donations can break down to  
this schedule of coverage:**

One Hour costs	\$75
Full Shift (4 hours) costs	\$300
One Week of service costs	\$1200



**Any amount you contribute helps us to keep the peace on  
Ludlow Avenue for neighbors, customers and businesses.**

Go to <https://www.cliftoncommunity.org/products-page/>  
and scroll down to **Clifton Cares 2023 Safety Fund.**

Or scan the QR code above at right. Thanks for helping!



# Public Safety in Clifton - It's Everyone's Job!

Established in 2023, the CTM Public Safety Committee set three main goals:

- Accessing data to better understand crime in Clifton
- Working with our Clifton Neighborhood Liaison Officer to develop solutions
- Supporting safety in the business district.

Safety in our business district is essential to our collective well-being. **Aggressive panhandling and illegal activities have become growing concerns.** The Clifton Business Association holds regular discussions about this problem, working constantly to find ways to stop the behavior. Every social agency we've contacted takes the same position: **Giving money to panhandlers is counterproductive and only leads to more panhandling and an increase in petty crimes.** The alternative is giving generously to social agencies that serve those in need. Several panhandlers have threatened merchants and customers with bodily harm. Some have been arrested for other crimes including inciting violence (which required the deployment of a SWAT team), breaking and entering, criminal damaging, threatening people, and indecent exposure. Merchants report a significant problem with shoplifting and theft, losses that are hard to recover. Despite our close contact with District 5 and the provision of images from our new security cameras on Ludlow, the arrest rate for all crimes in Clifton continues to be disappointingly low. Please remember to register your home's RING cameras with the police, learn how here: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/online-camera-registration/faq-online-camera-registration/>. We continue to raise funds to schedule extra police presence in our business district. **The Clifton Cares** campaign gives everyone a way to contribute to this important help to our shopkeepers. Please see the QR code in the announcement on the facing page.

Some findings: The biggest increase in local crime in 2023 is for motor vehicle theft, mostly impacting Kias and Hyundais not equipped with a theft immobilizer and cars left running unoccupied. Installation of a steering wheel club is the best way to prevent theft. To leave a car idling without the driver is illegal and an easy target. Security cameras on Ludlow have seen theft of a car left idling in less than 15 seconds. More analysis shows that about 15% of crimes reported in Clifton actually occur in Corryville and North Avondale. This is because what the police identify as "Clifton" for their runs is different than what our community council recognizes as Clifton. Once adjusted to the boundaries that CTM actually serves, we recognize that the highest crime areas are near Martin Luther King Drive and Central Parkway, totaling approximately half of all crimes reported in Clifton. Our Neighborhood Liaison Officer Shawn Dent is aware of these problems and is working with property owners to improve things. All of us can help to preserve the vitality of our wonderful community. **But you don't need to be a committee member to help out - please join the effort!**

## What's Allowed and What's Not - Cincinnati's Municipal Codes

**Perspective informs perception.** If you put yourself in the shoes of a hardworking Clifton shop owner, the municipal code is one thing you rely on to help you run a peaceful, successful business. However- we're finding lately that current laws and codes are not ensuring our collective well-being, not for our businesses nor for visitors. One action we have taken is to hire foot patrol police for an increased presence of peacekeepers in Clifton. You can support this effort by contributing to the CliftonCares fund at <https://www.cliftoncommunity.org/products-page/> and scroll down to Clifton Cares 2023 Safety Fund.

Through the efforts of CBA and CTM, our reporting of unlawful incidents to both District 5 police and to our representatives at City Hall is improving and increasing. We're also offering our best advice to our legislators about what would better protect everyone. If you are wondering why the Chronicle endorses particular social guidelines, and what actually violates Cincinnati's code, here are a few pointers:

### Panhandling vs. Solicitation (Sec. 910-12)

Solicitation is restricted by Cincinnati code. Quiet (non-verbal, holding a sign) panhandling is not restricted. Solicitation is "the act of asking for or trying to obtain something from someone." **It must be understood by all citizens that when a panhandler asks verbally for money or anything else from a pedestrian, this is restricted by city code.** The following are present restrictions, which we suggest are not working to keep everyone safe with the fact of increasingly aggressive panhandlers.

**You cannot be asked to give money or anything else to a person:**

- within 20 feet of a bank or ATM machine
- on private property
- between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- at bus stops or within 20 feet of a crosswalk

- within outdoor dining areas
- in a manner that would impede access to and/or from a facility, or in a manner that would alarm, intimidate, threaten, menace, harass or coerce

### What about interactions on the sidewalk? Here's the code:

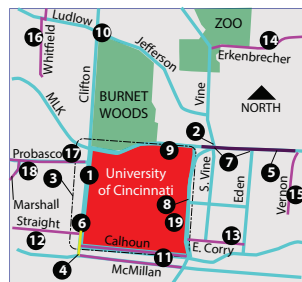
(Sec. 910-13, Sec. 510-9, Sec. 723-76) "No person shall stand or loiter on any sidewalk, street, or public place in a manner to willfully block or obstruct the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles in the lawful use of sidewalks, streets or public places. No person shall sit or lie down, or otherwise block a public sidewalk or sit or lie upon a blanket, chair, stool, or any other object placed upon a public sidewalk in any area designated for commerce, in a manner which recklessly interferes with pedestrian, vehicular or other traffic. No person shall lie down upon a public bench within the right of way in any area designated for commerce, in a manner which recklessly interferes with the use or enjoyment of the public."

**What about Graffiti? (Sec. 751-3)** Code violations like littering, graffiti and illegal postings that happen around our businesses are not reported to the police but instead dealt with immediately by volunteers of the CTM Beautification and Caretaking Committee. However, here's the rule: "...Graffiti, whether located on public or private premises within the City of Cincinnati is hereby declared a public nuisance. Every owner, occupant, or person in control of any premises within the City shall cause the premises to be kept clear and free of graffiti..."

**Prohibited Sign Types (Sec. 1427-09)** These signs are prohibited – in any public park or on any public property without the permission of the City of Cincinnati, or on any traffic control sign, utility pole, a street sign or tree.

## New Pedestrian Safety Improvements Around UC Campus

Following a year of terrible pedestrian accidents involving UC students around the campus, the City of Cincinnati in partnership with the University of Cincinnati and after consultation with community



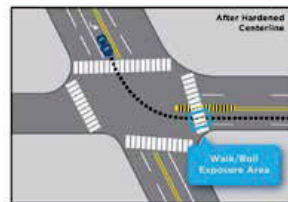
councils including CTM, issued a list of pedestrian safety improvements. The map above shows locations of projects that are funded and should be in place before or shortly after the beginning of the fall semester at UC. They include change of

speed limits (11 – 18), protected left turns (1, 9), installation of backplates (2), refreshed and new crosswalks (3, 4, 6, 8), tree trimming on medians (5), implementation of leading pedestrian intervals for crossings (7, 10), and speed cushions (19).

### Addition of Lane Hardeners to Our Intersections

You've noticed new hardware that restricts cutting corners, literally, when you turn left.

These tools are protecting both pedestrians and other motorists from too much speed and leaving the intended traffic lane.



## City Hall Corner Coming Soon: Quality-of-Life Working Group

— by City Councilman Mark Jeffreys



Quality-of-life is such a broad term, but when applied to cities it includes being “free from” negatives whether it be crime, poor air quality, litter, etc. On the positive side, it means having amenities ranging from beautiful parks and plazas to thriving small

businesses and libraries that all make our lives richer. This is the case in Clifton as well. But recently, in Clifton and in other neighborhoods, there have been increased break-ins, littering, desecration, drug use in public spaces, etc, all of which diminish our shared well-being. To address these challenges, I am working with Clifton Town Meeting leader Gerald Checco, other community council leaders and stakeholders to shape a Quality-of-Life Working Group modeled after the Property Tax Working Group several years ago. Among other things, this group will:

- Assess the ‘current state’ of quality-of-life issues, defining and better understanding which challenges and issues are unique to specific neighborhoods vs threads across the city.
- Do a deep dive into City of Cincinnati Code that may need updates and/or changes.
- Review requests made to the City of Cincinnati that have been deemed ‘resolved’ but are still not addressed, looking to understand where action falls short.
- Benchmark best practices from other cities to address some of the core quality-of-life issues through working with the League of Cities and other organizations.

As we shape this working group, I invite anyone to reach out to me any time with comments or concerns [Mark.Jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Mark.Jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov). I appreciate the opportunity to hear from residents, and to serve the people of Cincinnati.

## Dine with CCF on September 16 — by Margaret Reich, President CCF



Clifton Community Fund (CCF) holds its annual fundraising dinner on Sept. 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cincinnati Woman’s Club. There will be a wide selection of art, wine, and gifts included in the auction. Enjoy the company of friends and get to know your neighbors. Revel in the beautiful setting of the Cincinnati Woman’s Club and delight in the delicious 3-course meal with wine prepared by their talented chefs. All funds raised help support CCF’s mission to preserve, beautify, and enhance Clifton, enriching its culture and quality of life. Look for your invitation in the mail or go to [cliftoncommunityfund.org](http://cliftoncommunityfund.org) to purchase tickets. We can’t wait to see you there!

## Sea Change

*Summer shimmered in endless sunlight  
as earth birthed infinite, living forms.  
Now Autumn arrives with her golden pallet,*

*and paints the maple trees red and orange.  
Aspens murmur, flutter, turn deep yellow.  
Oaks are burnished copper and brown.*

*Fan shaped leaves of elegant ginkgos  
glow like clusters of golden stars  
lighting the chilly cerulean skies.*

*Fall foliage fireworks float slowly down.  
Under colorful coverlets, Mother Earth rests.  
Daylight is dwindling. Mornings are misty.*

*Crickets sing bravely, as long as they can.  
Then a killing frost creates the great Silence  
with a glistening wave of its silver hands.*

- Nancy Heuck Johanson

Join us for some  
Clifton Community Fun!  
CCF Annual Dinner & Auction  
Saturday 9/16, 6:00

Cincinnati Woman’s Club

For details and to purchase tickets visit:

[www.cliftoncommunityfund.org](http://www.cliftoncommunityfund.org)



**RUTH's**  
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MONDAY-FRIDAY

Dinner  
SATURDAY

Patio, dine in, carry out and  
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## At Off Ludlow Gallery This Fall

The **SOS (Save Our Souls)** show curated by Saad Ghosn closes Sept. 16. Ghosn established the SOS program of exhibits and festivals that always concentrate on issues of peace and justice as expressed by Greater Cincinnati artists. Now a non-profit, SOS has expanded to include classroom visits and workshops, more art exhibits, expanded publications, greater media presence and more dynamic public engagement.

Our first **Abstract Surrealism** exhibition's opening reception is on Friday, Sept. 22 from 5:00- 8:00 p.m. Surrealistic art taps the creative potential of the unconscious mind, resulting in interesting, imaginative, and often irrationally juxtaposed imagery. Alan Brown's work (at lower right) is created using AI commands and Richard Fruth is a sculptor who works in wood, bronze, and mixed media to create his imaginative pieces.



**Gallery Gifts V** opens on Nov. 17, presenting artwork for holiday gift giving. Local artists price their creations between \$25-\$200. Please see our Off Ludlow Gallery Facebook page for opening days and times.

Clifton Town Meeting's Arts and Cultural Committee will sell the original artwork used to create Clifton's **Musicians Murals**. Seven noted Cincinnati artists- C.F. Payne (Iggy Pop), David Michael Beck (BB King), John Maggard (The James Gang), Jenny Ustick (Judy Collins), Ellina Chetverikova (Captain Beefheart), Brandon Hawkins (Albert King), and Gabrielle Siekman (Rickie Lee Jones)- were commissioned to create these paintings specifically for Clifton. Interested in acquiring these artworks? Contact Off Ludlow Gallery at [513 201-7153](tel:5132017153).

Sold for \$106,250   Sold for \$209,000   Sold for \$16,640  
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## World Peace Yoga



### Free Community Yoga at Trailside Nature Center, Every Saturday Starting in October

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation's Stewards of Burnet Woods are proud to support FREE community yoga at Trailside Nature Center on Brookline Avenue in Burnet Woods. Starting in October, World Peace Yoga offers classes every Saturday from 10 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.- 11:45 a.m. All levels are welcome, simply bring yourself and your own yoga mat. **FREEdom Month of Yoga** - World Peace Yoga offers your **first month FREE** unlimited classes. Whether you are new to yoga, a seasoned yogi, or just a person looking to explore undiscovered capabilities in your life, there is a class, event, or training for you. More information at [www.worldpeaceyoga.com](http://www.worldpeaceyoga.com)



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**Sun 9 am – 9 pm**

## NEW! AI as a Chronicle Content Contributor

We asked an Artificial Intelligence (AI) application a question about one well-known Clifton asset. Then we handed the resulting ChatGPT story to our frequent contributor, Steve Schuckman, who graciously followed up with research and a human-crafted story. The results are yours to judge!

### We asked ChatGPT: How was Burnet Woods established?

**Note:** The type in red in the response turned out to be misinformation.

#### ChatGPT said:

Burnet Woods is a public park located in Cincinnati, Ohio, United States. It was established in the late 19th century and has a rich history. Here's a brief overview of how Burnet Woods was established: In the mid-1800s, the city of Cincinnati experienced rapid growth and urbanization. As the population increased, there was a growing desire to create green spaces and parks for the public to enjoy. This led to the establishment of a movement known as the "City Beautiful" movement, which aimed to enhance urban environments with parks and other aesthetic improvements. In 1871, prominent landscape architect Adolph Strauch was hired by the Cincinnati Park Commission to develop plans for a park in the area. The commission acquired a 90-acre plot of land located north of the city center, which included a lake, hills, and woodlands. This land became the foundation of Burnet Woods. The park was officially established in 1872 and was named after Jacob Burnet, a Cincinnati attorney and politician who played a key role in the early development of the city. Burnet Woods quickly became a popular recreational destination for Cincinnati residents, offering opportunities for walking, picnicking, and outdoor activities. Over the years, Burnet Woods has undergone various improvements and additions. In the late 19th century, a zoo was established within the park, showcasing a variety of animals. The zoo, known as the Zoological Gardens, was later relocated to a different area of the city and eventually became the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Today, Burnet Woods covers an area of approximately 90 acres and continues to serve as a vital green space in Cincinnati. It features walking trails, a lake, playgrounds, picnic areas, and other amenities, providing opportunities for recreation and relaxation for the local community and visitors alike.

*The following story was written by Steve Schuckman, former superintendent of Cincinnati Parks. Corrections are in blue.*

### Burnet Woods' Beginnings

The story of how Burnet Woods became a park is not straightforward. The land offered to the City of Cincinnati for a park was initially rejected. Robert Burnet and his brother-in-law William Groesbeck eventually got the City to agree to lease their land in 1872 with the intention that it be used as a public park, not wishing to see the land subdivided and developed. They wanted the park to be named after Judge Jacob Burnet, Robert's father. The first modest development followed plans drawn by landscape architect Adolph Strauch, and the park opened to the public in 1874 with the lake added a year later. Paved roadways and park structures

followed including several shelters, a bandstand and a nature center. After leasing the land for nearly a decade, the City finally purchased the 163 acres in 1881 to own Burnet Woods Park. But in the transaction, the City also sold 74 acres of the land to the University of Cincinnati.

Some wealthy Clifton residents opposed creation of a public park, fearing that it would attract poor people. There was also controversy about spending public money to purchase land for additional parks and for park development. In fact, no new city parks were created between 1872 and 1903, a period in which the population of Cincinnati increased from 216,000 to 325,902 (which is nearly Cincinnati's current population.) So, AI's implication that the "City Beautiful" movement caused the park to be developed is incorrect since that movement spanned from the 1890s through the 1920s, launched by the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, long after Burnet Woods' opening in 1874. The 1907 Kessler Plan for Parks came out of the City Beautiful movement.

**The zoo was never in Burnet Woods.** Due to a caterpillar infestation, Andrew Erkenbrecher had 1,000 European birds brought to Cincinnati in 1872 to control the caterpillars. They were released in May 1873 from a vacant building on the grounds of what would become Burnet Woods. In 1874, Erkenbrecher created the "Society for the Acclimatization of Birds" later renamed the "Zoological Society of Cincinnati" when the organization decided to create a zoo. They leased land at the present zoo site and in 1875 opened America's second zoo.

In 1950, an additional 18 acres of Burnet Woods Park were given to the University of Cincinnati in exchange for \$47,000 and seven acres of land adjacent to Alms Park. There have been proposals through the years that would reduce the park's footprint, or add new buildings and programs. Most have proven unsuccessful. Burnet Woods is presently comprised of about 90 acres and is a beloved green oasis within the city limits.





## The Klau - Your “Other” Neighborhood Library

Cincinnatians cherish their award-winning public library system with its extensive programs and vast shared collection. Patrons enjoy a variety of architecture, ambiance, and energy in each community’s unique library. And did you know that here in Clifton there is another beautiful library that is open to the public, just steps away from Burnet Woods and Ludlow businesses? It’s the Klau — world-renowned, built to serve the academic community of the Hebrew Union College, but the collection gladly welcomes the public as a quiet place to research, work, or meet up. The collection consists of over 600,000 printed books and over a thousand periodicals. You can find thousands of books about the Bible and commentaries, scholarship on ancient civilizations of the Near East, materials on philosophy, theology, and linguistics, and of course many resources on Judaism, Jewish culture and history. Local residents may check out up to five books at a time for a period of 30 days with the possibility of 3 renewals.

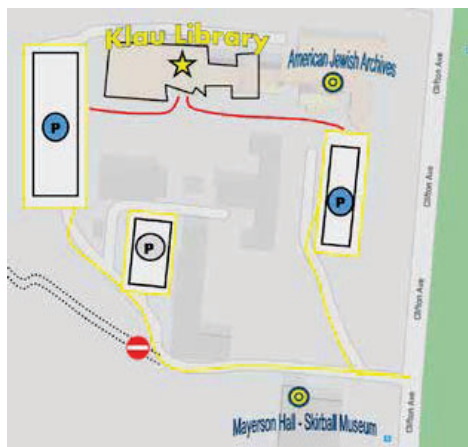
Make note of our free public lectures listed below and fall events including sessions on the evolution of High Holiday Liturgy; 500 years of the printed book; a panel discussion on antisemitism. Displays will share highlights our rare book and manuscript collections including hand-written Samaritan Pentateuchs from the 15th-19th centuries, important works in Greek from the early years of printing, and manuscript musical scores from the 18th century. For a new library experience, stop by the Klau! Find us at [huc.edu/libraries](http://huc.edu/libraries) for additional info. Our regular hours are 9 a.m.- 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

**The Different Rites That Unite Us: Mahzor Gems** from the Klau Library with Dr. Rick Sarason, Tuesday, September 5, 12:30 p.m. ET

**Feld Lecture Series:** November 13 & 14

**Backwards and Forwards: Facing Antisemitism through Looking Back**

Panel Discussion, Tuesday, December 12, 12:30 p.m. ET



## On Tap at DAAP

DAAP — the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning at the University of Cincinnati — is one of the top art and design colleges in the world. The Clifton community is invited to take advantage of the many creative learning opportunities at our world-class institution.

**Certificates:** Elevate your career, develop a new passion, or hone skills by earning a DAAP certificate in Historic Preservation, Cannabis Studies, Urban Landscapes or Pre-Art Therapy.

**Workshops:** Experience hands-on studios like ceramic wheel throwing and copper etching.

**DAAPcamps:** Middle and high school students explore DAAP disciplines in our summer DAAPcamps including Digital Film Making, Urban Transformers, Architecture, and Shoe Design. Saturday Art Program: An art program designed for K-12 students.

**Chatterjee Global Lecture Series:** Guest speakers Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman will share their work on “citizenship culture” at the U.S./Mexico border and the network of sanctuary spaces they have co-developed to support migrant populations. (10/5/23)

**School of Planning Lecture Series:** Jennifer Jewell, author and podcast host, will discuss her book “What We Sow” revealing the power of seeds in our world. (9/6/23) Congressman Greg Landsman will share legislative initiatives relevant to cities with his talk “Congress and the Urban Agenda.” (9/7/23)

**School of Art:** Join us for “Experiments in Glitch”, a symposium of visiting artists, workshops, faculty talks, and a reading list encompassing topics from queer performance art, science and technology in the arts, and nature in the arts.

**Reed Gallery:** “DAAPmade: The Exhibition” will highlight a diversity of art, craft, and design produced by DAAP alumni.

**Meyers Gallery:** “What We Brought with Us”, an exhibit by Academy in Exile will display images of objects carried by those forced to live in exile from oppression by authoritarian regimes around the world.



## OLLI - It’s About Sharing

Continuing educational opportunities are available to all, either remotely or in-person, offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Programs are available nationwide in 120 universities, including the University of Cincinnati’s continuing education program. For \$90 per term, you can access hundreds of programs taught by volunteer teachers and best of all, you’ll never have to take a test! If you are interested in attending a class, either in person at the UC Victory Parkway campus, or online (in your pajamas!) or if you’d like to present a topic, contact OLLI at [olli@uc.edu](mailto:olli@uc.edu)

## UC Digital Futures — by Jennifer Krivikas

What is that giant building on the corner of MLK and I-71 with UC’s logo and **Next Lives Here** on it? It’s the new 180,000-square-foot research facility called **Digital Futures (DF)**, UC’s first interdisciplinary research facility. This physical location brings together UC faculty to think and dream big, enhancing UC’s impact on Cincinnati and our state. By pooling our more than 20 research labs’ diverse capabilities\*, we are making UC more competitive and attractive to top talent, federal agencies, and our partners in the government, non-profit, and private sectors.

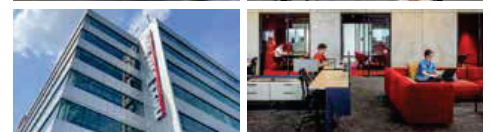
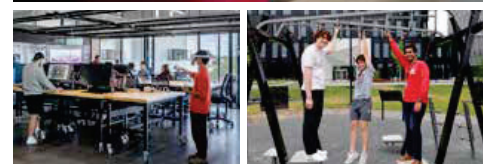
**Mark your calendar and attend our Open House on September 22, and watch for more free, public-facing events.** UC’s Digital Futures offers to Clifton and residents of Uptown:

**Inspiration.** Designed by local firm GBBN (Clifton resident Chad Burke, principle), Uptown residents are invited to visit the grounds and building with our first floor open to the greater public. We hope Digital Futures inspires Clifton kids and families to choose UC.

**Innovation.** The Digital Futures is a place where a highly eclectic group of passionate, scientific, and technical subject matter experts and UC students partner with multi-national companies, start-ups, local non-profit organizations, and with one another to solve problems that matter. Applied research is the application of deep expertise to real-world problems for business solutions and broad societal impact. We welcome the opportunity to think about Clifton’s most pressing problems and collectively consider tech-enabled solutions that have the potential for positive impact.

**Inclusion.** Digital Futures fosters the next generation of research with intellectually curious people of all abilities, genders, cultures, and racial and socio-economic backgrounds. We are fostering great minds and unlikely connections that will yield the most novel ideas and inventions, fulfilling a mission to serve the public good.

*\*Some capabilities in DF include bioTech, finTech, edTech, design, IoT, data analytics, sensing, AI, modeling & simulation, data visualization, augmented virtual reality, blockchain, cybersecurity, high-performance computing, unmanned/connected-autonomous vehicles, robotics, and more.*



## The Mary M. Emery Bird Reserve: Clifton's First Bird Preserve

— by Carolyn B. Miller

Most Clifton residents are familiar with the Rawson Woods Bird Preserve, established in 1923 with a donation of woodland by the Rawson family to the Cincinnati Parks. However, many may be unaware that there was an earlier bird reserve on Evanswood Place in Clifton, established in 1910 by Mary M. Emery.

In 1906, Professor Harris M. Benedict and his new bride settled into a modest bungalow at 554 Evanswood Place. He was attracted to the property situated next to an extensive woodland, Evans' Wood, which had not yet seen development due to its hilly terrain.

Benedict was a professor in the biology department of the University of Cincinnati and had long been a champion of wild birds and their habitats, frequently leading his students on birding expeditions. They noticed that, even in Burnet Woods which then surrounded the University campus, there was a dearth of songbirds. The professor was concerned that urban growth and encroachment had driven the birds away and he wanted to do something to bring them back.

From 1907-1909 Prof. Benedict gathered data and made presentations to the Cincinnati City Council and the Park Board, trying to persuade them to buy Evans' Wood as a city bird preserve. But a City bond issue to raise funds for parks failed in 1909, so ultimately no money was forthcoming for the purchase of the Evanswood Place property.

With renewed determination, the professor turned to Mrs. Mary M. Emery, one of Cincinnati's leading philanthropists and a lover of birds. Mrs. Emery was receptive to the idea of this being the first city bird preserve in the United States and, in 1910, agreed to purchase three acres of woodland on the north side of Evanswood Place.

An arrangement was made: Mrs. Emery would lease the property for a nominal sum to the University of Cincinnati with Prof. Benedict charged with the reserve's care and maintenance. The lease would be ongoing and the bird reserve would endure – in concept.

Prof. Benedict was involved from the beginning in every aspect of the Mary M. Emery Bird Reserve. He cleaned up construction debris along the front of the property, left by contractors building houses in the neighborhood. To surround the reserve, he designed 1,200 feet of iron picket fencing made by the Cincinnati Iron Fence Company. The iron pickets were spaced 1.5 inches apart to prohibit cats from entry and measured 6 feet tall with spikes at the top to discourage curious boys from climbing over. A secure gate between two ornamental iron posts held a sign reading THE MARY M. EMERY BIRD RESERVE – "Bring Back the Birds to the Cities."

The professor also designed distinctive pottery birdhouses (two sizes) and larders (feeding shelves) made by Wheatley Pottery Company of



*Professor Harris M. Benedict and the reserve gate*

Cincinnati. The rough surfaces of the houses and feeders mimicked tree bark to be almost invisible within the reserve. He planted a variety of berry-producing shrubs, vines, and wildflowers and introduced some non-native shrubs like Hall's Japanese honeysuckle. He experimented with suet and a variety of seeds- sunflower, watermelon, and muskmelon- to determine which drew the largest number of birds. A cement basin with a bubbling water jet (was there a natural spring?) provided a drinking and bathing pool for the birds. A feeding shelf was loaded with grains, seeds, and nuts for hungry birds, especially during the winter and nesting seasons.

Once equipped and planted, the reserve was ready for the 1911 nesting season, and the professor began his experiments and observations. A bird census was held monthly, finding that the overall bird population and number of species increased year to year. There were shy birds- the oven bird, the chat, and the Louisiana water thrush- and the usual wintering birds like the blue jay, cardinal, Carolina wren, junco, downy woodpecker, flicker, chewink, and nuthatch. It was clear to Prof. Benedict that birds would stay and flourish in places providing ample food, water, comfort, and protection.

An excellent promoter, the professor gave frequent interviews for magazines, and talks and lectures on birds and the reserve. He advised the Park Board on proper shrubs and trees to attract and keep wild birds in the parks. When his Evanswood bungalow burned in 1917, he relocated his growing family to Belmont Avenue in College Hill where the houses were surrounded by woodland and birds. But tragedy struck in 1928: on their way to the university, Prof. Benedict and his oldest daughter died when their automobile skidded on slick pavement and crashed broadside into a Clifton-Ludlow streetcar at Ludlow and Lafayette Avenues. In a moment, the Mary M. Emery Bird Reserve lost its champion.

When Mary M. Emery died in 1927, the Bird Reserve property passed with her estate to the Thomas J. Emery Memorial, a foundation established by Mrs. Emery to honor her late husband while continuing their charitable works. A few years later, the lease with the University of

Cincinnati was terminated. Several attempts were made to develop the property as residential lots or to have the Park Board add the Mary M. Emery Bird Reserve to the Cincinnati Park system. In 1942, the Thomas J. Emery Memorial removed four tons of the ornamental wrought iron fencing from the reserve, donating it as iron scrap for the war effort. Without a fence and a champion to tend it, the Bird Reserve fell on hard times. In 1953 the entire property was sold into private ownership. Two houses were built in 1956 and 2019 on the front edge of the property, preserving much of the back section of the reserve as open woodland, to the delight of our feathered friends.

Over the years, during walks in the woods, neighbor Sean Mullaney has found numerous pottery remnants of the Wheatley feeders and birdhouses designed and erected by Prof. Benedict. He has also discovered iron pickets and some substantial intact sections of the iron fencing. And as you stroll along Evanswood Place, you can see two large decorative iron posts, 110 years later, where they still proudly mark the front corners of the historic Mary M. Emery Bird Reserve.

*Carolyn B. Miller and her family have lived across the street from the Bird Reserve property since 1965. She has researched the historic property with the excellent collaboration of neighbor Sean Mullaney who has resided beside and within the reserve's boundaries. Additional research assistance came from: Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library; Mariemont Preservation Foundation; Thomas J. Emery Memorial; University of Cincinnati Archives; Hamilton County Recorder's Office; Hamilton County Auditor's Office; Spring Grove Cemetery; and Dr. Arthur G. King and Dr. Bruce Ryan, Evanswood history enthusiasts.*



*The birdhouses constructed for the reserve by a local pottery company*





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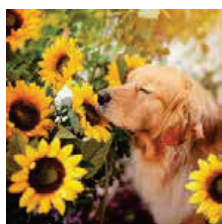
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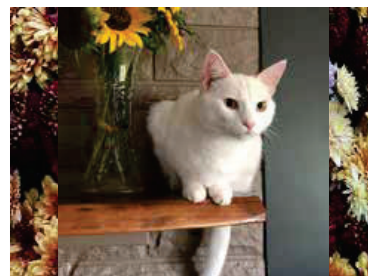
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## An Old Alum's Pause:

### Hughes High School

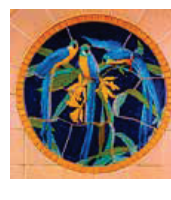
— by Geoff Gelke, *The History Buffs*

T.S. Elliot noted that "we shall not cease from exploration, and at the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time".

And so it is for this old Hughes High alum to finally see for the first time the school standing alone, without any surrounding buildings to obscure its magnificence. Stop your car, get out and just stand — absorb the inspiration flowing from J. Walter Stevens' great creation of 1908, the great "lift" with all its lines pointing spiritually upward. Notice the exceptional terra cotta panels, crenellations, turrets, towers, glazed red bricks, and wonderful ceramic gargoyles, clasping symbols of the various arts and sciences so as to suggest these disciplines can guard against ignorance. While Stevens drew his inspiration from grand Hampton Court in England, the public sentiment of his era sought to satisfy their enormous faith in education with no expenses spared, evidenced in custom carved "H"s on the hardware and doors, slate roofs, Rookwood fountains and friezes by the great Clement Barnhorn, and statuary and fine paintings that adorned the hallways. Truly, a "temple of education"! For a better appreciation of these artifacts, see *An Expression of the Community*, by Robert Flischel (The Art League, 2001), a superb photographic text of our early school buildings. Mr. Flischel is now working on a new book about the disappearance of all the great paintings displayed in hallways, and their rescue.

I propose that Hughes High School is our hilltop's grandest castle, followed by Scarlet Oaks and the rest. It is the least likely to ever be built again- truly a national treasure! Interestingly, its extravagant building costs occurred at a time when the level of national income was much lower than today - priorities? Still, modern architecture has merit when it's exciting at first glance and able to sustain fascination.

Photos by Robert Flischel





## Eight Mile Trek – Clifton/ Spring Grove/ Northside

**Description:** This walk passes several prominent historic houses of different styles, descends Clifton Avenue hill to Spring Grove Village, then takes you down the Millcreek Trail and a stroll through the solar system. The walk starts at the corner of Middleton and Ludlow Avenues.

Start at the corner of Middleton and Ludlow Avenues. Walk north along Middleton (an old streetcar route), cross McAlpin at Rawson Woods Bird Preserve, continue north to Rawson Woods Lane where you turn left at **(1) a Frank Lloyd Wright** house dating from 1954. Built for the Boulter family and on the National Register of Historic Places, it's typified by its linear form, flat roof, and band of horizontal windows. To the right is **(2) the Lowrie house**, also on the National Register, designed in an Art Deco and International style by Cincinnati architects Potter, Tyler and Martin.

Walk around the circular lane and back to Middleton, turn left and walk up to Lafayette Avenue, turning right, walk toward Clifton Avenue. On the south side of Lafayette see the Queen Anne style **McAlpin Bridal Cottage (3)** built in 1888, next to the **Hulbert House**. Designed by Lucian Plympton, both are on the National Register.

At Clifton Avenue turn left at **(4) the Lloyd House** (National Register) designed by James McLaughlin with stonework and shingles in the Romanesque Revival style. Round the bend, walk down Clifton Avenue hill, at the bottom cross Spring Grove Avenue, then turn left and walk a block to Winton Road. Turn right to enter Spring Grove Village, formerly known as Winton Place. Incorporated in 1888, the neighborhood developed along the canal and railroad, to be eventually annexed by the City in 1903. Its residential streets are lined with homes built at different times in different styles popular in their day.

Meander the village, turning right off Winton Road onto Circle, walk a block, turn right on Station, then left on Mellwood. Walk a short block, turn left on Darrow, turn right back on Circle, walking to Edgewood. Pass **(5) Fire Station #38** built in 1909. Continue to Derby and turn left, walking to Winton Road. On the north side of Derby at Winton is **(6) the 1865 home of architect Samuel Hannaford (1835-1911)**. He was a former mayor of the early village.

Turn right at Winton and walk up to Epworth, turn right and walk back to Edgewood. Turn right down Edgewood crossing through the tiny business district. The church on the corner **(7)** was once the **Winton Place Methodist Church**, designed by Hanaford and built in 1884 (National Register). Walk to the end of Edgewood, turn right on Circle. Return to Winton Road and turn left, walking back down to Spring Grove Avenue.

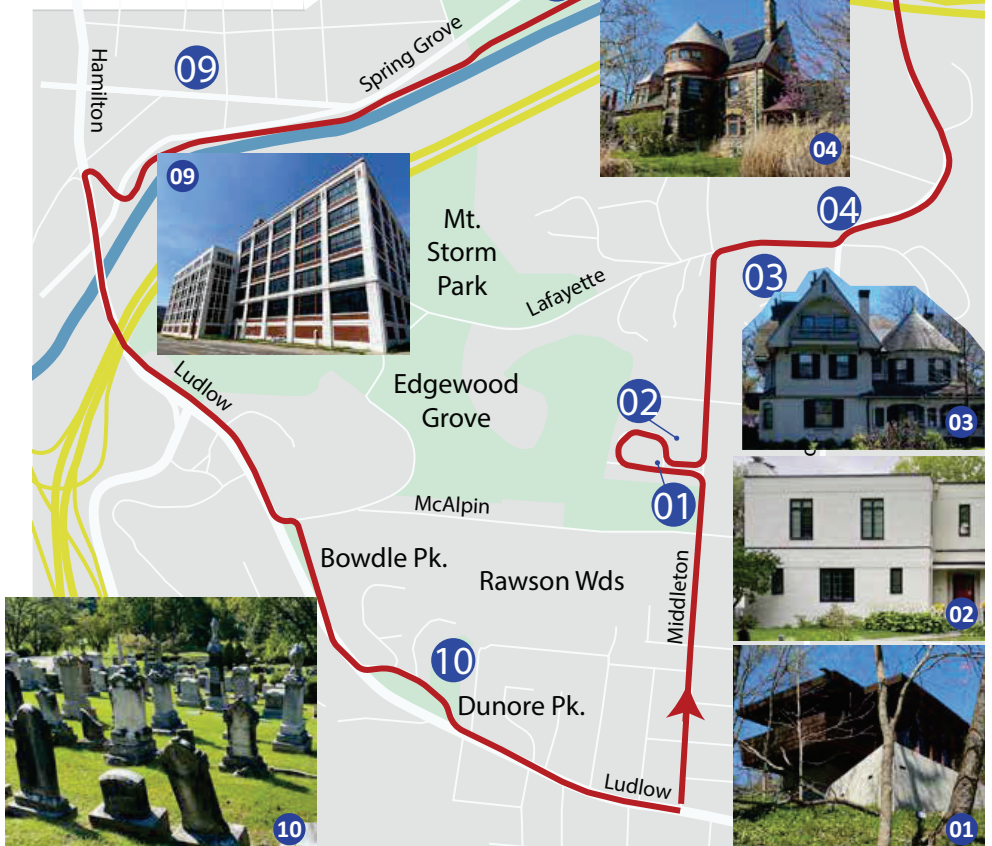
*Wait! Did you know you've just walked on the bones of the once bustling Chester Park? Street names like Derby and Circle might have piqued your curiosity. Stretching from the corner of Mitchell and Spring Grove Avenues, it began in 1875 as a horserace track frequented daily by Procter and Gamble crews and commuters on bicycles and trolleys from downtown. But Chester Park became much more when the racetrack was replaced by a lake separated for boaters and swimmers. Boasting nine roller coasters, visitors could also ride a nar-*

row-gauge railroad, spiral slide and dine while entertained. In 1895, the park got a boost by the addition of a 1/3 mile cement cycling track for the Brighton Bicycle Club and Queen Cycling Club. The park closed in 1935 due to an unpaid water bill – ironically, since the site is now the location of the Cincinnati Water Works, established in 1959 after the park's swimming facility folded in 1941.

Cross Spring Grove Avenue, turning right to enter Salway Park to walk the Millcreek Trail which is being built in phases to stretch from the Ohio River up to Springdale. Walk on, look up: there's an orange sphere overhead! Imagine it's the sun. You're "entering" **our solar system** with planets spaced at relative scale to each other, presented in glass-covered round displays. Planets and respective moons are also shown in relative scale **(8)**. Looking to the creek, you may spot a heron or a beaver, and more art features including leaping stone fish, architectural remnants and a metal bird. **The American Can Building (9)**, now apartments and a restaurant, are across the street.

Just before Ludlow Viaduct, cross William Dooley Bypass and walk past White Castle on Old Ludlow to Hamilton Ave. Turn left on to the Viaduct, returning to Clifton on Ludlow. Pass Bowdle Park and take a section of Old Ludlow on the left side of Dunore Park. **The Jewish Cemetery (10)** facing Dunore, established in 1848, is the second oldest Jewish Cemetery in Cincinnati. Finish your trek with the climb up Ludlow to the starting point.

- *by Steven L. Schuckman*



## Clifton's Four Grocery Stores — by Jeff Wilson

The Gaslight District boasts a wide of variety of restaurants, bars, two coffee houses, a brand new bakery, three banks, a pharmacy, movie theater, comedy club and concert hall. We also enjoy a diverse group of grocery stores—four all within close walking distance of each other.

**Clifton Market** (319 Ludlow Avenue) is a full-service grocery store with plenty of produce, baked goods, bulk items, a deli, and staples galore. Smack dab in the middle of the neighborhood, we appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Singh for their tireless work to keep this essential anchor business humming along.



**Clifton Natural Goods** (336 Ludlow Avenue) has been a hit since it moved to the Gaslight neighborhood in 2014. It's a well-stocked health food store with over 40 years in business and a loyal, continually expanding clientele keenly interested in well-being and healthy, natural foods.



**Jagdeep's Indian Grocery** (270 Ludlow Avenue) is one of Cincinnati's best Indian and Pakistani grocery stores. We also have a new ethnic grocery store next door to **Baladi Restaurant and Bakery** at 3307 Clifton Avenue which offers products focused on Mediterranean cuisine.



Clifton has a large international community: 16.66% of Cliftonites are not Americans, and 5.52% were not born in America. Also pertinent: 18% of Cliftonites walk as their common means of transportation, which is three times higher than the average (6.5%) for the City of Cincinnati. Buying groceries while you walk – so easy here in the Gaslight! And your culinary arts at home are guaranteed to be deliciously diverse!

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## Welcome, New Clifton Entrepreneurs!



### Thanks for bringing us your energy, talent, and investments!

Top Row: VADA Gallery- Virginia Blair and Franz Diedling and Franz Jr; Dr. Jackson Boone at Sustainable Smiles; Andrew Salzbrun at Alive and Well

Bottom Row: Nick and Vanessa Denlinger at Sproutly Farms, Blair Fornshell and Chaske Haveros at two seven two bakery

### two seven two bakery

— by Blair Fornshell, Owner/Baker and Chaske Haveros

Embracing the seasons will always be what inspires and creates our menu at two seven two. We are excited to let the flavors of fall guide our offerings this autumn. With the season's shift and the first signs of fall, we're integrating seasonal and local fruits, herbs and vegetables (late season tomatoes and corn, pumpkins, apples, sweet potatoes, etc) with familiar and comforting touches of warm spices. New pastries, bakes and beverages will rotate through the menu with the availability of farm produce. We look forward to sharing new and beautiful creations with the community.

two seven two opened this past summer, and we have felt such warmth and welcome from Clifton residents. We look forward to enjoying the shop while watching the leaves of Burnet Woods change colors, to creating new pastries, and making lasting memories within the Gaslight. Our goal is to grow our seating and patio areas, expand our operations and continue the enjoyment of providing a warm, inviting environment for our guests. Many thanks and cheers to a fantastic fall season together! For menu updates: [Instagram at @two.seven.two](#)

### Mushrooms Deluxe de Clifton

Clifton residents Nick and Vanessa Denlinger began their love affair with growing mushrooms in spring 2022 when they started Sproutly Farms. Long-time avid horticulturalists, their foray into the fabulous world of fungi was a natural fit. Their love of cooking and eating homegrown fresh foods made mushrooms a wonderful way to bring plant-based food to their three children that is both medicinal and protein-rich. Sproutly Farms is located in Clifton and boasts an indoor laboratory-quality mushroom facility that produces fresh high-quality gourmet and medicinal mushrooms every week throughout the year. The mushrooms are sold in surrounding neighborhoods, fostering a low carbon footprint local economy with nutritious fresh food

### Alive and Well

— by Andrew Salzbrun

**Alive & Well** is an experience-forward bar located at 3410 Telford Street in the heart of Clifton gaslight, the fourth and latest project by Hickory Wald Hospitality Group\*. The building's historic art-deco facade is complemented by an interior that blends timeless materials with a punk-rock atmosphere. The bar menu will always provide top-quality spirits, cocktails and wine, enhanced by a community ecosystem collaboration for food partnerships. Our high-level snack menu will include selections from two seven two bakery, Graeter's, Silverglades, and Al's Delicious Popcorn. Our curated audio experience is born of partnership with Torn Light Records. I've been in love with this building since I was in fifth grade at Annunciation School. After class we'd walk up to Ludlow for doughnuts from Graeter's, then skateboard on Telford Street before catching the #17 bus home. The building has a storied history both in my heart and in the business district. I'm now a Clifton resident and very proud to participate in the stewardship of its next chapter.

\*Other projects include Rhinehaus, The Hannaford at Pike & Madison, The Fill Inn, and the Nation Kitchen & Bar restaurant brand.

arriving straight to where it is consumed. Found at Northside Farmer's Market every Wednesday, from 4-7 p.m., their mushrooms are also restocked every Thursday at Clifton Market. Nick and Vanessa dream of convening people and evolving Sproutly Farms into a cooperative neighborhood



establishment. Meet them at Northside Farmer's Market on Wednesdays, share your ideas about community building and alternative economies, or just talk recipes and sample some great mushrooms!



## Visioning a Diggs Plaza Renaissance

Diggs Plaza was dedicated shortly after 2000 — a “millennium project” to celebrate the new century, thanks to a wildly successful fundraising effort by Clifton’s community. Sitting at the northwest corner of Burnet Woods at the intersection of Clifton and Ludlow avenues, the Plaza was designed to provide an important synapse between the park and business district as well as our churches and schools. This intersection is busy and hard to cross. Clifton Avenue has six traffic lanes with a bike lane added by the City in 2020 to connect UC to Ludlow Avenue. Early plans for Diggs Plaza included bike racks to be installed near the fountain, creating a convenient hub for cyclists. But the Plaza has become somewhat estranged from our business district, reducing its use and diminishing its appeal. We have an opportunity to improve the Plaza’s appeal and accessibility by reducing the number of car lanes on Clifton Avenue. It may also be possible to increase the Plaza’s size and add furnishings. Such enhancements could bring this corner more fully into our community’s life of events and programming. CBA/CTM’s NBDIP June 2023 grant application to the City for neighborhood business district improvements was unsuccessful. However, the City has decided to extend the new bike lane, crossing Ludlow and continuing north on Clifton Avenue to Bryant Avenue. This work could happen before the end of 2023, followed by more potential extensions. The result would reduce lanes of vehicular traffic on Clifton Avenue, creating a more bike-and-pedestrian-friendly experience. CTM has recently received a Strader Foundation grant for \$10,000 towards making some of the desired improvements at Diggs Plaza, including lighting and security cameras, bike racks and a bike maintenance station to serve more cyclists. Our original request was for \$25,000, but we believe that plans can still be developed by a group of local volunteers working with the Park Board, followed by creation of construction documents that respect the changes coming to the Clifton/Ludlow intersection as it relates to Diggs Plaza. Plans will take all corners of the intersection into consideration as well as the presence of the new CCAC structure and its activities.



## Meet Elizabeth Nourse, a.k.a. Lizzie

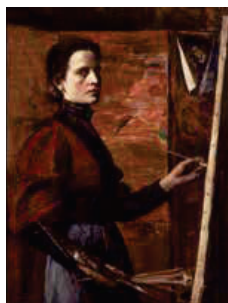
In 2024 the Clifton Cultural Arts Center will celebrate a new building on Clifton Avenue, featuring a stunning art exhibition hall named **The Elizabeth Nourse Gallery**. Elizabeth Nourse (1859-1938) was born in Mt. Healthy on the family estate and lived most of her adult life in Paris and Europe. In an ArtWorks mural - “Self Portrait 1892” located at Eighth and Walnut streets- she looks down from a five-story height. Her paintings hang in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum, Chicago Art Institute, and Musee d’Orsay.

As a child, “Lizzie” Nourse was always drawing. Early sketchbooks (1874-1886) reveal her frequenting of favorite hangouts in Clifton and Corryville. Her father Caleb Nourse was a civic leader who kept books for St. Peter’s Orphanage and was an honorary member of the Young Men’s Mercantile Library. By 1856 he had saved enough funds to establish his own bank, earning him the nickname “Old Commercial Bank.” Then in 1859, what must have been both a joy and a challenge after 26 years of marriage, came the arrival of twin daughters, Adelaide and Elizabeth – surely daunting in a time facing a civil war.

When Caleb Nourse’s bank folded due to the rupture of trade to southern states, his family’s fortunes changed radically, forcing them to move from their Mt. Healthy estate to a series of rentals in the city from 1865 to 1887, all addresses in Corryville and Mt. Auburn. Elder sister Louise reported that her family “went from very wealthy to very poor...”

*You can follow Lizzie and the Nourse family’s struggle in the winter Chronicle, revealed through Lizzie’s sketches of Mt. Auburn, Clifton, and Corryville made in the 1870-80s.*

*- by Sandra Race Geiser, art historian and curator of Niehoff Nourse Archives in the Cincinnati Art Museum*



**Self Portrait**  
(1892)  
Oil on canvas  
39 x 29 ½ inches

## Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Get ready for an exciting season as CCAC gears up for a busy fall, filled with community favorites and thrilling new additions! From arts education and exhibits to events, there’s something for everyone. Returning this season are favorites like Art+Tales, Highly Improvable, Madcap Puppets, and The Golden Ticket. Bring your family to enjoy Carpool Cinema at the Clifton Rec Center parking lot, offering free screenings of family favorites like Jumanji and E.T. At our enlightening Sunset Salons, local experts share their knowledge on various topics including “Fiber Art.”

Exciting new events fill our calendar: the brand-new “Live@ U-Square” concert series will showcase local musicians just south of UC’s campus with free music, lawn games, and delicious fare from nearby restaurants. “Camper Creations” outdoor art exhibition features artwork created by the young participants of CCAC’s summer camps, displayed along the Rawson Woods fence line on Middleton Avenue. CCAC remains a beacon of arts education. This fall, we’re offering semester-long art classes for children called CCACMakes. Elementary students can join classes after school on Tuesdays or Thursdays, and there’s also a Saturday morning option for PreK children. Families looking to bond through creativity can opt for one-day “Family Workshops” to create puppets, coasters, and more. Adults can dive into creative exploits like needle felting, arm knitting, or crafting stained glass suncatchers. Most thrilling of all - this will be the last semester of CCAC holding classes in transitional locations! Our new home on Clifton Avenue opens in early 2024 to host all the great events and classes you love, and more!



## A Reflection: Loving Living in Clifton — by Tom Osterman

I have loved my 52 years of life in Clifton, this walking community and cultural haven for all ages, an eclectic neighborhood surrounded by other exciting neighborhoods which make it one of the most livable places in Cincinnati. I have supported CCAC in the construction of its new home, sandwiched between the Clifton United Methodist Church and Skyline Chili. It is an addition that will truly add to our neighborhood’s charm which continues to attract professors, executives, medical professionals, leaders – both political and cultural – and so many others to make Clifton their home. Construction is underway on the new building, and the capital campaign has less than a million dollars left to realize its total goal. All in Clifton who enjoy CCAC’s arts education and many cultural events including the beloved Wednesdays in the Woods can help to cross the finish line. Learn more about CCAC’s new home by visiting [CCACnext.org](https://CCACnext.org).

*Tom and Marge Osterman have lived in Clifton for 52 of their 69 years of marriage.*

It's your **LAST CHANCE** to leave your mark on this new Clifton icon. Make a gift before September 15 and you may be eligible to have your name listed on the permanent donor installation.

Visit [ccacnext.org](https://ccacnext.org) to learn more.



Clifton Cultural Arts Center

**YOUR NAME HERE**

## New School Montessori

First and second graders enjoyed an early geometry lesson in the great outdoors. The blacktop just off the front porch of the Mansion was a perfect surface on which teacher Lauren Burke could demonstrate, providing plenty of practice space on the nearly endless expanse. First-level students learned all about lines (parallel, divergent, convergent and perpendicular), while second-level students learned about the different kinds of angles that live within triangles (right, obtuse and

acute angles). The entryway to the school became decorated with all manner of lines and angles as each student practiced drawing and labeling their work with colorful chalk. These lessons are built on students' earlier knowledge learned in the pre-primary and kindergarten levels, expanded upon further in the next levels where will students learn more complicated concepts in geometry, such as determining angle measurements inside a triangle and learning theorems.



**Open House**  
**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

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## Fall at Clifton Rec Center — by Collin Fitzpatrick

At the Clifton Recreation Center, we're ready for the leaves to change, for the air to cool, and for school to start! Community members know that the CRC provides youth programs and also adult programs, including Beginner Pottery Classes led by Queen City Clay, Open Pottery Studio, Friday Night Pottery, Fencing (adult and youth), Pickleball, Line Dancing, Tai Chi and much more. We'll host our second

## New in Uptown: Food Truck Thursdays

Food, fun, and fellowship are coming to lunchtime at the MLK & Reading Road Redevelopment Area at the **Digital Futures Complex**. Starting August 24 and ending October 26, two vendors each week will serve unique cuisines on Thursdays for purchase from 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. View a schedule at <https://www.uptowncincinnati.com/foodtrucks>. Through a 10-week pilot program, Uptown Consortium Inc., University of Cincinnati (UC) Digital Futures, and Terrex Development & Construction are partnering to bring local food truck vendors and music to the Digital Futures Complex. The goal: provide a variety of food options for Uptown employees, residents, and visitors each week. The Clifton Cultural Arts Center is programming music on the lawn and DJ B.B. Hutch will entertain the lunch crowd with favorite tunes. Expect fun activities with local Uptown partners such as the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. The Digital Futures Complex is located at 3080 Exploration Avenue near Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and the interchange at I-71. It is walkable from homes and businesses in the Uptown area. Parking is available in the garage for \$2 during the events.



annual Halloween Carnival on October 21, a family-friendly event with activities everyone can enjoy.

If you are interested in suggesting or bringing additional for community participation and enjoyment, give us a call at (513) 961-5681 or stop in at the center at 320 McAlpin Avenue. We are here to serve you!

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## The Queen is Dead. Long Live the New Queen!

— by Ted Johanson



Returning home from errands, I heard a loud buzzing near the back door. It was a swarm — hundreds of honeybees buzzing and flying above the patio.

Thousands had already landed in our lilac bush. Just weeks earlier, we'd sadly observed that one of our hives was queenless. Honeybees cannot survive for long without a queen. But here and now, a swarm with its own queen- surrounded by thousands of her offspring - had landed in our lilac. We put a swarm box out for them in a tree farther back in the yard, hoping these bees would decide to move into it.

Then came a very heavy rain, followed by blue sky. The bees sent out scouts and then the swarm followed from the lilac into our box. (Some beekeepers move honeybees into a box with their bare hands, but we were not ready to do that! It's only our third year of beekeeping.) We did not have a hive available for this new family. We had been waiting to see if our queenless hive could raise another queen in time, but it didn't happen. The last five surviving bees hovered together in a corner, their formerly busy hive now overtaken by wax moths.

We quickly built a new hive for the swarm, and a happier day came when our daughter's family arrived in town for a visit. Our grandchildren witnessed the bees moving into their new home! In just weeks, the bees built a beautiful comb, had made honey, and a brood began to fill in some of the frames. Nature has a wonderful way of surprising and gifting to us. A queen and her hive had been lost, but a new one gained even here in the midst of the city.

## Clifton Area Neighborhood School/CANS

This school year marks a momentous achievement for CANS. Many in the community have watched CANS' development since its foundation in 2017. Thanks to support from CPS and tireless advocacy from Clifton families, CANS is now the PreK-6th neighborhood grade school that the community envisioned. This spring, our inaugural class will graduate from CANS and venture out to high school. We thank the Clifton community for its support and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Upward growth is now achieved, and outward growth begins. Homerooms have been added to support higher-than-ever enrollment, and our partnerships with the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State are expanding to provide even more academic support to our students. Students have lots of afterschool programming to choose from, such as Girl Scouts and Basketball, and newly added are a Cross Country team run by Cross Country for Youth, a theater club by Clifton Performance Theater: Kids Act Out!, plus other fun enrichment opportunities.



## Clifton Library Corner

As autumn begins, we all prepare for another school year. One of the five core priorities of the Library is limitless learning, and it is a priority we love to engage in with customers every day. Students, parents, and teachers, we are here to help you on your learning journey. This link will connect you to resources that help students tackle homework challenges, including **Homework HelpNow**, a free service that provides online tutoring for students of all ages: <https://chpl.org/teens/homework/>. Teachers and homeschool parents can apply for an Educator Card and request book collections on specific topics and multiple copies of the same title for classroom use here: <https://chpl.org/education/educators/>. Take your teaching and learning to the next level!

For the third year, **International Children's Day** happens at Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods on Saturday, September 23 from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Come for the fun and activities for kids and families including music, crafts, storytime, and learning about Cincinnati's Sister Cities around the globe.

We're throwing a party, you're invited! Our first-ever **Clifton Library Open House** is on Saturday, October 14. Connect with friends, neighbors, and library staff to celebrate the wonderful Clifton community. Please check the Events section of our website and select Clifton for event details: <https://cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

**A Work in Progress** on Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m. is an hour of socializing with fellow crafters! Bring your current project – knit, crochet, cross stitch, embroidery, collage, sketching- whatever you like to do! For more fun events at the library please check out this link: <https://cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>

**Now Serving Brunch between 8:00 am -2:00 pm. Try our Dosa-battered healthy savory Vegan waffles, made fresh! Aloo Paratha (savory potato pancakes) with skillet hash made from fresh vegetables, Indian spices, topped with eggs your way. Fresh squeezed juice, chai, coffee and more.**

**Mention this Clifton Chronicle ad and receive \$5 off the second entree!**

**Hours:** Sunday - Wednesday  
11 am - 10:30 pm  
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Lunch served 11 am - 2:30 pm

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## New Four-Way Stop at Bryant and Middleton

Thanks to the ongoing work of the CTM Transportation Committee with leadership from board member Justin Ogliby, and the initiative of the Springfield and Macke households, we have a new and safer four-way stop at Bryant and Middleton Avenues. This problematic intersection is now safer for both pedestrians and motorists. Thanks, City of Cincinnati!



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DECEMBER 8TH 6:00 PM

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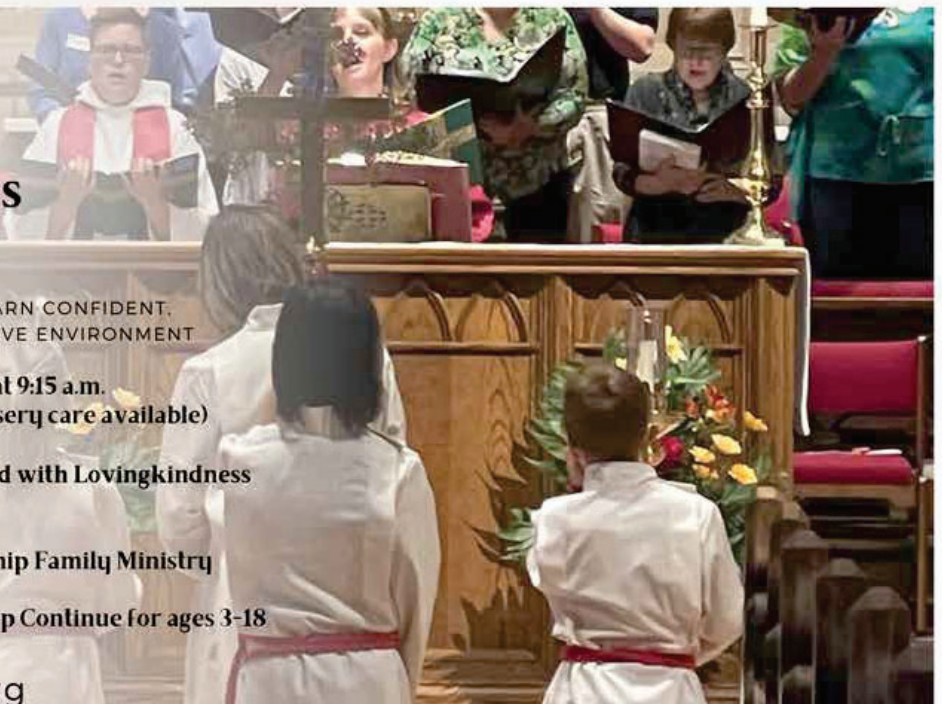
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## Restoration of Blenheim Mural — by Jan Brown Checco



At the angle where Telford Street becomes Thrall Street, an iconic Clifton multifamily property at No. 334 — **Blenheim** — has charmed pedestrians and motorists alike since 1905. Realtors have effused, “Charm abounds throughout the building w/beamed ceilings, butler’s pantries, porches, ample closets & gorgeous hardwood floors and woodwork.” Not to be confused with Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England, (seat of the Duke of Marlborough), this deceptively compact Bavarian-styled structure is home to five households. Among the improvements being made by the new

owner is a fortuitous restoration of the mural on the façade. Even if you never see the interiors, the mural is admittedly unforgettable. Painted by Cincinnati watercolorist Dale Benedict (1932-2002) it depicts Mespelbrunn Castle. When first mounting the scaffold to assess the condition of the mural,



Before



After

professional conservator Michael Ruzga found it to be in a powdery and scaling condition. He said, “We caught the degenerating condition without a minute to spare as the outermost paint surface had become powdery and large five-layer thick paint had been lifting and ready to fall off. The paint was consolidated behind the lifting, and the paint was relaxed back into planar stability. The hazy paint surface was re-saturated with a protective and consolidating coating, so the colors were once again brilliant and vibrant.” The mural, now restored, will continue to hold a special place as one of Clifton Gaslight’s earliest and most charming works of public mural art.

**Michael Ruzga** - Director & Chief Conservator of **Fine Arts Conservation, Inc.** for 20 years conserves paintings and murals for museums, corporate collections, and individuals for over 30 years. He is a Professional Associate of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. [mjr\\_faci@zoomtown.com](mailto:mjr_faci@zoomtown.com) For more about the original artist Dale Benedict, a former resident of Clifton: [www.Dalebenedictart.com](http://www.Dalebenedictart.com)



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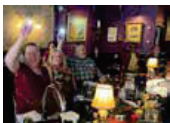
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“We welcome all people: all genders, gender identities, gender expressions, races, ages, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, economic circumstances, family configurations, or differences of faith perspective. We celebrate the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a child of God.”  
- Our Reconciling Statement



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Follow @WildChurchCinci for the latest



**Laundry Love:** Third Wednesdays  
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## The Power of Your Purchase — by Jodi Bockenstette

A store dedicated to sustainability and social consciousness exists in nearby O'Bryonville at 2011 Madison Road. Ten Thousand Villages (TTV) is mindful about the power of our purchases, working for over 20 years as a non-profit fairtrade store, meaning that artisans are paid a fair wage for their work as set by the standards of that country, with no middleman to mark up the price of goods. Artisans from over 30 developing countries are paid 100% in full for their products. 50% is paid when an order is placed and the other 50% when the goods are delivered to the American dock. Long-standing relationships between TTV and the artisans help in the development of goods that will sell well in Canada and the US while still honoring craft traditions. Artisans often use materials that are at their fingertips, resulting in beautiful objects, be it jewelry, clothing, housewares or rugs. About 70% of the TTV artisans are women who are able to earn a dignified living, feed and send their children to school.



## Always a Village — by Aaron Weiner

No one stays a stranger for long in a neighborhood like ours, despite the constant movement and diversity. Coincidences abound when you live in a truly small world. A couple of years ago while working out, I overheard a woman mention that she lived in Clifton. We chatted and I learned that she lived on Resor Avenue in a home that I pass every day. We became friends, just by chance. Then, just weeks ago, while chatting with a gentleman at the same gym, he mentioned that he'd grown up in Clifton. Naturally, I asked where. It was in that same house on Resor, where his family had lived from 1944 to 1971! Some other owner(s) had inhabited the home between my two new friends. As is the Clifton way, next I connected them: the present owner talked about



changes made over the years, and the past resident shared fond memories of that home and of growing up in Clifton - memories

that were vivid, fresh and obviously keeping a warm place in his over 70-year-old heart. The two made plans to meet and tour "their" house together, a new friendship was born. Beyond this chance encounter, it seems that nearly everyone I meet knows someone who once resided on, or now resides on my own Clifton street. It's some comfort to know that, even while cities continue to sprawl, in our cohesive historic village, it's still a small world.

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