

FREE



The Tremmonster

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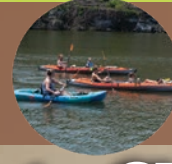


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"Normally, I do a holiday market and I do an open call for vendors. But this is a little different because the vendors aren't here, it's me. It's a store, it's retail, so everything is going to be for sale in the moment."

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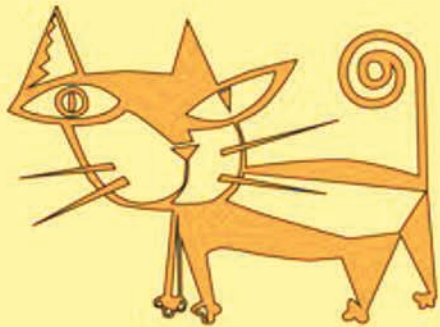
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Where's the Bird? "...The alleyway next to Edison's Pub (2373 Professor Ave)."



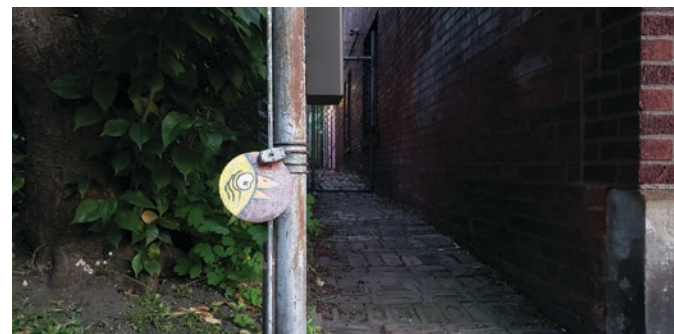
Dear Christina Zito,
Thank you so much for participating in *The Tremonster* "Where's the Bird?" contest. Congratulations! Your correct answer was selected at random from a fish bowl containing all correct contest answers. Good eye! You will receive your prize, a **\$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats**, by email on May 11th. Keep looking out for the quirkiest things about Tremont!

Yours,
~The Tremonster



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TREMONSTER CONTEST: Where's the Bird?



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Thank you to all who entered last issue's "Where's the Bird?" contest! Our winner guessed last issue's location correctly:

"...The alleyway next to Edison's Pub (2373 Professor Ave)."

If you think you know the mystery location of this issue's bird image (above), submit your answer:

P.O. Box 6161, Cleveland, OH, 44101 or email it: TheTremonster@TheTremonster.org.

If your correct answer is selected at random, you will be awarded our prize in the next issue of *The Tremonster*:

A **\$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats!**

Submit your answer to win today!



The Tremonster is a newspaper by and for the neighborhood of Tremont in Cleveland, Ohio. A Tremonster is anyone who loves our shared neighborhood of Tremont. Any Tremonster may submit content for consideration by the 15th of each month to:

TheTremonster@TheTremonster.org

P.O. Box 6161, Cleveland, OH 44101

@TheTremonster   

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ScottRadkeArt.com

Mascot: Abbey

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Ricardo Sandoval, Bob & Nancy Holcepl, Heather Haviland, Sherman DeLozier, Mike Griffin, Megan Griffin, Becca Riker, Mike D'Amico, Rhonda Crowder, Lila Mills, Lawrence Caswell, Richard T. Andrews, Stefanie Murray, Cole Goins, Keri November, Emily Kelly, and Chuck Hoven.

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Ukrainian Museum-Archives

Exhibit: The War in Ukraine



Photograph by Dmytro Muravskiy

A ball floats in a puddle at the foot of a bombarded building in this photograph by Dmytro Muravskiy, included in the Ukrainian Museum-Archives exhibit, *The War in Ukraine*.

Photos by Rich Weiss

A special report by *The Tremont* *The War in Ukraine*, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (1202 Kenilworth Ave) exhibit, open through Labor Day, is the museum's artistic tour through life in Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian conflict.

Andrew Fedynsky, Director Emeritus and Resident Scholar for the museum, described the exhibit: "It consists of a timeline illustrated by art. Aniza Kraus, Curator for the UMA, organized the exhibit. She really assembled it from scratch—she's super. There are photographs by combat journalists embedded into Ukrainian battalions. One of them is Steven Andre, who is not Ukrainian. He's from Detroit. He went over to Ukraine and is now with a battalion there—he's been taking photographs and writing press releases—he was at the museum about two months ago and brought artifacts, some military patches, and flags from the front. And then he was back off to the eastern front in Ukraine."

The exhibit walks museum attendees through the war effort, from the fight on the ground in Ukraine to the mobilization of support, globally, to the work being done in Cleveland.

Andy described portions of the exhibit: "We have on the wall some battle flags from battalions in Ukraine as well as flags of supporters of Ukraine. And that brings us to another wall where it illustrates through photographs and charts what the Ukrainian community in Greater Cleveland has been doing to support Ukraine."

Andy then provided details into the local Ukrainian support system: "That's in large part the leadership of our local Ukrainian community, called Cleveland Maidan Association (Maidan)—the name

is a reference to Ukraine's Independence Square—where there have been various demonstrations on behalf of democracy and freedom since before Ukrainian independence). Maidan has been operating in the Cleveland area for nearly a decade. They've been in existence since 2014, and some members even volunteered to go over to Ukraine. My wife—who has been volunteering with them, locally, and others, of course—we donated her mother's wheelchair, for example. She's passed away, so we sent that to Ukraine. Whatever medical equipment individuals can donate, and then whatever bandages and what have you."

The War in Ukraine exhibit, for its attendees, puts the historic moment we're living through in stark perspective. UMA Exhibit Curator Aniza Kraus has felt the weight of history throughout her work on the three-month exhibit. "This exhibit, there's a lot more responsibility to present this information. It's really hard to explain, but just the importance: people are dying. People are sacrificing their lives for their country, for other countries. If Ukraine falls, it's not going to stop there," Aniza said. "There is this responsibility that you have to present it in a way that's meaningful, valuable, important. This is an important exhibit. (Aniza sighed) It's very emotional, in general, just to see what people have done, how they're helping and how they're sacrificing their time and their money and...their everything."

Aniza felt it was most important for the exhibit to document not only the impact of donated dollars and labor but also the resourcefulness and wide-ranging backgrounds of the Cleveland community who are motivated to help Ukraine.

"A lot of American tax dollars are going to help Ukrainians, to help Ukraine, help



the country. This makes it personal. It's our family members that are getting the support, it's the country...these are people who come to these packing days and, they're donating their time, their labor, they're donating their money—their own money, not just tax dollars." Aniza added, "It's a sacrifice that people are giving. They're doing as much as they can." The exhibit also gives us a peek into the intricate network of people and institutions that evolved to deliver support from all corners of the globe, including right here in Northeast Ohio. According to Andy, "Hospitals that continually replace equipment with more modern equipment discontinue the equipment that they have, which is perfectly functional. Maidan works with our local hospitals to donate those. They're working with local safety forces, fire departments, police departments, to take discontinued safety equipment, helmets and what have you, and ship those."

Andy gave an example of the complex obstacles the Maidan organization overcomes to deliver donated supplies to the front lines:

"They're working with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who's arranged for ships to come into Cleveland Harbor, take containers, and then send them to Antwerp. And in Antwerp—in Belgium—

there are volunteers who take those donated materials, drive them to the Polish border, where Ukrainians then take over and take them to where they're needed. So, it sort of tells the story of the war." Andy commended the work of MedWish International, which is a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization that repurposes surplus medical supplies and equipment. MedWish fulfills these kinds of orders for recipient organizations of all kinds, both locally and globally, on a daily basis.

"What's really telling about those photographs is that Maidan has forged partnerships with non-Ukrainian groups like MedWish," Andy said.

The exhibit may end after Labor Day, but the local effort to support Ukraine continues—even beyond the end of this war—and the UMA will play a role then, as well.

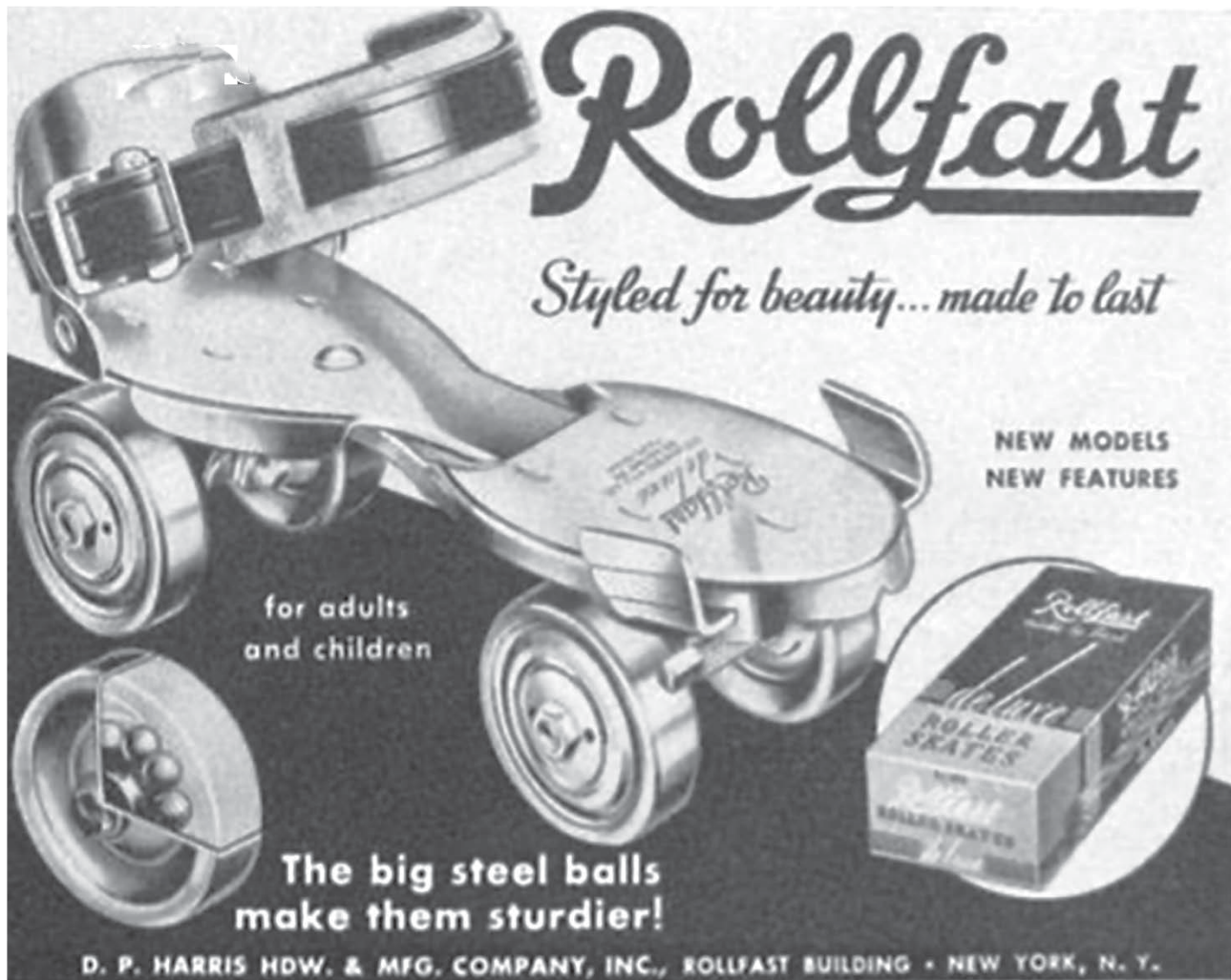
"We're in contact with our partner institutions here in America and with institutions in Ukraine to help with the rehabilitation, with the rebuilding of Ukraine. Ukraine's going to need not only help rebuilding bridges and facilities, hospitals and schools but also just replenishing its cultural base. And we have a lot of duplicates and other materials that we have been sending to Ukraine and then suspended because of the war, but we intend to continue that once victory is achieved."



CIVILIZATION
a café in the european tradition
 Where Tremont became known for coffee • West 11th and Kenilworth on Lincoln Park

Memories of Tremont Ave.

Roller Skating Season



Photos courtesy of Ken Scigulinsky

A roller skate ad

Furthermore, to leave the Tremont block you'd have to remove your skates to walk down the high curb then cross the street and up another high curb. Maybe roller skating was challenging, but it was fun and provided a small degree of mobility, like riding a bike. Besides an occasional pedestrian, the only other obstacle you might encounter was a scooter.

The scooter, a step up from roller skates, was a ride-on device consisting of a metal frame and platform with two rubber wheels, powered manually by pushing backwards with one foot while the other foot was placed on the riding platform. The low-slung frame doubled as a standing platform, and a raised steering column extended up from the front wheel to a pair of handlebars. The steering was controlled by turning the handlebars. A braking system consisted of a steel bracket that riders would step on to cause the bracket to press against the rear tire and slow the scooter to a controlled stop. Unable to afford a scooter, some of the older kids were very creative and produced unique scooters by attaching two roller skates to a board and fastening a long stick at the end of the board to hold onto. It was a clever substitute for commercial scooters but was a rougher ride, could not be steered, and braking was done by dragging your foot.

by Ken Scigulinsky

The summer sound was unmistakable—steel wheels rolling over the sidewalks on Tremont Ave. It was roller skating season. Unless we had inclement weather, we kids could entertain ourselves without leaving our block. I wasn't very old before my parents bought me a set of roller skates. They were beautifully constructed, shiny engineering marvels that had a long, useful life. Although costly, they were not an extravagance since a family with many kids only needed one set of skates because the skates were adjustable to fit the shoes of any kid in the family. The 'one-size-fits-all' idea saved people a lot of money. The mandate from my mom to "go out and play" was welcomed once I had roller skates because it was as fun as it was challenging.

The skates in the 1940s promoted physical exercise and balance improvement, but they also introduced the skater to some basic mechanical skills. The roller skates were steel, with ball bearing steel wheels. When I brought the skates up from our musty basement for the season of skating, I always asked my dad to oil the wheels so they would spin with ease. Your shoes rested on the base of the skates, which were comprised of two pieces that slid together, locked with a nut on the bottom. After sliding the two pieces to the length of your foot, you tightened the nut to lock in your foot size. After doing this for both skates, you put your shoe in place and fastened a leather strap around your ankle to secure your foot. But there was more! At the front of each skate were two angled steel guides that needed to be adjusted to clamp the front of your shoe to secure your foot in the skate. To do this, you needed to turn a screw device on the side of the skate that moved the two clamps in unison to tighten snugly against your shoe.

The test to prove that you were ready to skate was to lift each foot from the ground and shake it. If the skates stayed on your foot, you were ready to go; otherwise, you needed to retighten things. You might think you'd need to have a couple of tools with you to get started and carry with you in case adjustments were needed during skating—not true. Presenting the skate key!

The skate key was a small, simple, ingenious, metal device that had a cutout that fitted the hex nut for tightening/loosening the sliding base, a square cutout for turning the clamping screw, and a slot for a string. While skating around, most kids wore this key on a string around their neck so they wouldn't lose it and be unable to retighten the skates on their journey. The skate key was the perfect tool to simplify a skating experience, and rarely could you venture out without having to readjust things. Leather soled shoes were the choice for skating as tennis shoes notoriously needed constant readjustments for a solid fit. Because the rubber soles were flexible, the rubber compressed as long as you adjusted the clamp screw.

My skating route was down Tremont to Jefferson then left to Starkweather then down Starkweather to Tremont and home. It was challenging, not because of the distance but because of the surface conditions. My younger sisters only skated on Tremont because they were less skilled and didn't want to venture too far. They frequently fell, scraping their knees. There were no poured concrete sidewalks, but only sections of slab stone with gaps between them. Many times the transition from one section of sidewalk to the next had slightly different levels. Also, some of the slabs had cracks. That meant intermittent skating, sometimes

walking over an uneven section with skates. It was frustrating to not be able to skate for a long distance without stopping to walk over gaps and imperfections in the sidewalk. In some cases, there a fence close to the sidewalk allowed us to hold on for stability. I do not recall anyone ever roller skating on the Tremont Ave. roadway, probably because it was red brick with an inherent rough surface. If there were smooth surfaces elsewhere in the neighborhood, we were not aware of it.



The ingenious skate key



An early scooter

The Art Shop at 818 Studios Opens for Walkabout Tremont



Photo by Rich Weiss

Barbara Merritt, pictured here hanging artwork in preparation for opening *The Art Shop at 818 Studios*.

A special report by *The Tremonger*

Tucked behind Fahrenheit at the corner of Professor Ave. and Jefferson Ave. is the familiar red door with the numbers “818” applied in white stencil. Behind that door is a tall staircase leading up to 818 Studios (818 Jefferson Ave.), where photographer and gallery owner Barbara Merritt is working around the clock preparing to open a summer-long, rotating exhibit. *The Art Shop at 818 Studios*, a 3-month, rotating exhibit of artwork extending throughout the summer, will hold its opening reception during the June Walkabout Tremont, June 9th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

“Well, I’m just hanging the show right now,” Barbara said when *The Tremonger* arrived for an advanced tour of the unfinished exhibit. “I have 25 artists, and some pieces are priced as low as \$20.” Immediately upon entering this compact exhibit we were first struck by the variety of artists on display.

“There’s lots of different stuff here: ceramics, paintings, textiles,” Barbara explained. “It’s going to be full like a little store, you know what I mean?”

Part store, part exhibit, this densely packed artist showcase manages to avoid feeling cluttered.

Time appears to slow as the customer of *The Art Shop at 818 Studios* is drawn away from one fascinating piece of artwork by another equally intriguing piece.

“It’s hung salon style, and I’m trying to coordinate so it flows evenly throughout this space,” Barbara said. “It’s a smaller space, so I want as much foot room as possible. The natural light in here plays a factor. It’s difficult to place the items where they are at their best. Some pieces that have glass are not so good in front of windows and the lights.”

The second-story window view of the neighborhood—The Flying Monkey across Jefferson and Kaiser Art Gallery across Professor—adds an ambience to this special, 25-artist exhibit that only Tremont can deliver.

“It’s a generous space because there are a lot of small walls, so I can group work and make things flow throughout the space.” Barbara described the wide variety of art available: “It’s a ‘little nooks-and-crannies’ kind of thing as well as some bigger, fine-art pieces. I’ve got everything from greeting cards to stickers to big acrylic-on-canvas pieces.”

When Barbara issued her request for art submissions for this show, she received an overwhelming response from artists who have exhibited at 818 Studios previously and an equally overwhelming response from artists who haven’t.

“Tony Van Rooy and some of my regular artists are in this show, and then there are some brand-new ones—people I’ve never shown before,” she said. “The response to my open call was crazy. I had to turn people away.”

Featuring just one artist for one Walkabout Tremont event can be fraught with unexpected challenges, but it appears impossibly daunting to juggle 25 artist contacts, selections, deliveries, arrangements, and more, in one rotating, three-month exhibit. And yet, Barbara seems less stressed than she is alive in her creative element.

“Normally, I do a holiday market and I do an open call for vendors. But this is a little different because the vendors aren’t here, it’s me. It’s a store, it’s retail, so everything is going to be for sale in the moment—not stable in this space

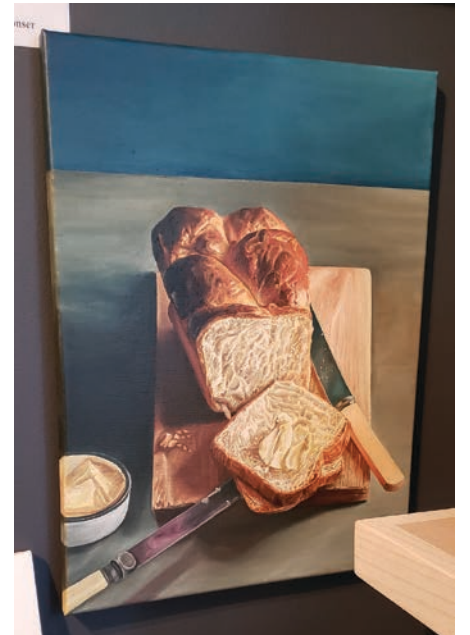


for all three months. Everything is going to go as people purchase.

So that’s why there are going to be holes created, and I can put other stuff in there. So it’s a different feel every Walkabout.”

Although Barbara opened 818 Studios in 2018, many elements of *The Art Shop at 818 Studios* exhibit are new experiences for her.

“The Art Shop exhibit will be ever-changing; I’m just trying to work it so that it’s really easy to look at, and people can feel relaxed. There are a lot of beautiful ceramics—that is new for me. I’ve never shown any three-dimensional work before. It’s practical, but there is also nice, artsy stuff that can go on big walls in this colorful, beautiful summer show. And what I’m realizing is that the pieces are flowing because this is a very light feeling show. There is a lot of color and just a summery feeling that I’m liking.”



The red door of 818 Studios and staircase (photo by 818 Studios).



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Date Coaching: The Basics



Nancy Geiser and Devoted Matchmaker Services want to help you find "The One," and not by algorithm.

by Nancy Geiser

Look your best.

Look fresh.

Appear with styled hair. Trimmed beard for men

A spritz of fragrance (Jo Malone, men's or women's)

What to wear

Clothing that's clean with no stains
Casual chic works well but if you have a particular style (boho, everyday classic, streetwear, artsy) by all means wear it, making sure it's pulled together.

Locale

Your matchmaker will more than likely be making arrangements for your first date. However, if you are uncomfortable for any reason for the selected location be honest with your matchmaker and it will be changed. Coffee shops are great for first meetings. They are quiet and it's easy to spot who you're looking for.



If you decide a happy hour rendezvous, it's recommended to limit alcohol consumption.

The Greeting

Greet your match with a warm smile, a handshake and good eye contact. Good posture and confident body language makes an positive impression.

Politeness and good manners are invaluable.

Small talk is practically unavoidable. Have you been here before? Did you get caught in traffic? A comment about the weather.

Breaking the Ice

You can refer to the Biodata: "I saw you attended State U." Let the conversation flow naturally and RELAX! Let responses from basic questions take you to deeper conversation.

Your matchmaker will have ice breakers waiting for you as part of organizing your meet up.

You can choose whether to use them or not. They can provide interesting responses and humor.

Become an Expert Listener

Becoming a good listener requires practice and finesse.

As your match expresses themselves focus on what they are saying. Make good eye contact and don't interrupt. Don't be thinking about what you'll say next.

If you're not paying attention to what they are saying imagine the loss of credibility you'll exhibit when your response is irrelevant to your match's comments.

On the other hand, your match will be pleasantly pleased if you respond with

something poignant and meaningful to his or her thoughts. Either way, listen with intent.

Don't forget to show body language that conveys interest in what your match is saying.

Conversation Balance

You may be a very verbal individual. That's great!

Your match will know how you feel and where you stand. Just be sure you do not dominate the conversation. Give your match an equal opportunity to share.

your match. Still, it's advisable to avoid talking about either of these subjects on your first date. Keep the content of your conversation upbeat and positive.

Ending the Encounter

if you feel the date went well you can by all means ask for another date. Proceed with whatever you are comfortable with. For instance, you can broach the subject with the following: "You mentioned you wanted to go the the XYZ Gallery, I'd like to go there too." Either way end the date with politeness and remember you can reach out to your matchmaker on how to proceed.

Don't forget... Devoted Matchmaker Services clients use our "Dating Feedback Form" to get detailed feedback after any date!

My goal is to help you find "The One" ...if you need help with *any* of THE BASICS, contact me for a free 30-minute consultation!

DevotedMMServices@gmail.com

Content

Avoid talking about religion or politics unless either of these are deal breakers or mandatory desires. Your matchmaker will be aware of these prior to selecting

If you've been seeking a lasting and satisfying relationship, call Nancy to learn how human matchmaking works.

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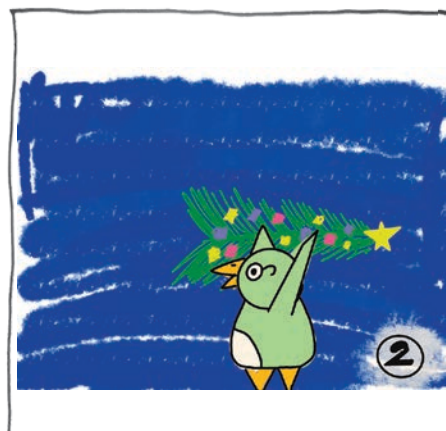
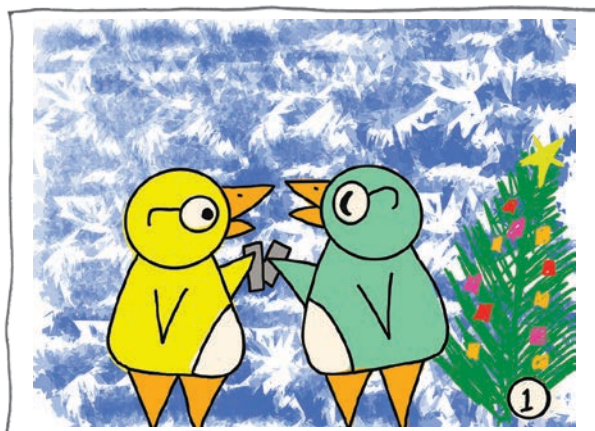
Nancy Geiser
Certified Matchmaker

DevotedMMServices@gmail.com
DevotedMatchmakerServices.com
216-606-8620

All IDs verified (BEENVERIFIED.COM)

The Adventures of Tremont and His Friends "West 14 & Fairfield Big Verbs Xmas"

The Signby/1972 *David Witzke*



©2023 David Witzke

Lavender Menace Pride Drink Recipe

A Pride Month Recipe from Chef Natasha Pogrebinsky



Photos by Natasha Pogrebinsky

Chef Natasha's Lavender Menace Pride Drink



by Natasha Pogrebinsky

Know your Pride history, kids! LGBTQA+ people are once again in a battle for basic rights, and it's important to know and understand our history in order to protect the rights of all people.

When I say "our" history, I don't just mean people who identify as LGBTQA+. I mean our American history, our history as a people, as a nation which includes people of all walks of life.

"We the people" didn't always include

everyone. Many groups have fought bloody battles to secure basic human rights and basic constitutional rights to freedom and the pursuit of happiness. Civil rights groups have historically excluded some members of society while pursuing the cause.

The Lavender Menace, for example, was a group of lesbian activists who organized to protest their exclusion from the popular and powerful feminist and women's rights groups of the 1970s.

Our social divisions are a diversion and obstruction to the actual, true cause for peace and justice, and most of all, democracy.

This Pride Month, let's celebrate all the heroes who continue to dedicate their lives to seeking justice, let's remember the fallen, let's uplift our friends, our family, our coworkers, and most of all let's remember we are one people, and Pride is our American heritage.

Lavender Menace Pride Drink

Ingredients

- 16 oz pint glass
- ½ oz Monin dragon fruit syrup
- ½ oz Monin lavender syrup
- 1 oz half & half (almond or soy milk is a good substitute)
- 6 oz lemon-lime soda
- 2 oz vodka or rum
- Ice
- Combine all ingredients and shake well (if you have a blender or nutribullet, it makes a perfect frozen pink-olada).
- Pour into a pint glass and garnish with flowers, berries, and fruit.



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Know the facts

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cleveland Health Department

are two great resources for you to learn about vaccines that protect against Covid and other diseases.

Take charge of your life by planning for good health. Contact:

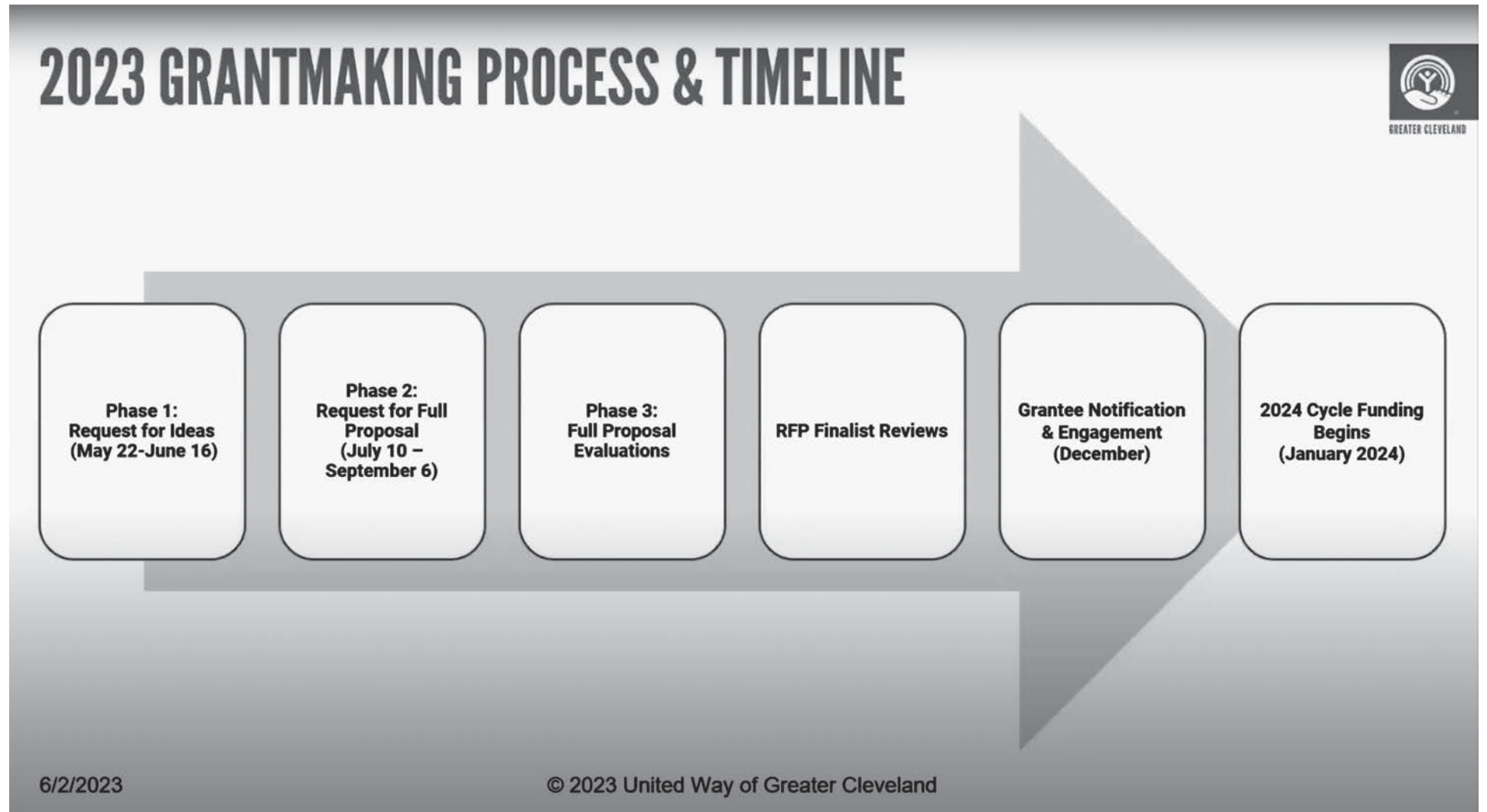
Cuyahoga County: Call **216-201-2000** for more information or visit or <https://ccbh.net/>
Cleveland: Call **216-664-2324** or visit <https://www.clevelandhealth.org/>



Western Reserve
Area Agency on Aging

If you have questions about long-term care and support services, visit www.areaagingsolutions.org

United Way of Greater Cleveland Opens 2024-2025 Grantmaking Cycle Process



Ideas invited through June 16

United Way of Greater Cleveland announced today the opening of the first phase of its 2024-2025 Grantmaking Cycle.

The organization is soliciting and accepting Requests for Ideas (RFI) through Friday, June 16, from agencies across Greater Cleveland on how to best serve residents living in Cuyahoga and Geauga counties.

“At United Way, we base the framework for making our investments in grantee partners on our intention to continue to serve as a resource for community solutions that reduce the conditions that create crises in the first place and promote long-term economic equity, mobility, and resiliency,” said Ken Surratt, Chief Community Investment Officer at United Way of Greater Cleveland.

“Together with our next cohort of funded agency partners, we seek to provide the necessary resources to help individuals and families succeed on their journey from poverty to prosperity.”

Additional information is available within the RFI FAQ on the United Way’s website at unitedwaycleveland.org.

United Way’s Community Investment team also hosted an RFI Center for Excellence Informational Session on Friday, June 2.

All organizations interested in learning more about United Way’s Grantmaking process and timeline can find this session on YouTube by searching “United Way Greater Cleveland Grantmaking Information Session and Q&A.”

RFIs must be submitted through the United Way’s RFI Survey Monkey Form (surveymonkey.com/r/UW-RFI2024) by 5 p.m. on June 16, as no other form of submission will be accepted. United Way accepts one funding request per agency during each Grantmaking Cycle. A proposal may include a request for up to \$250,000 in funding annually over the two-year cycle. Contractual agreements with grantee partner organizations selected by United Way can be renewed in the second year based on agency performance and United Way’s total workplace campaign funds raised.

2023 Grantmaking Process Timeline

5/22: Request for Ideas announced and Survey Monkey Tool available for applicant submissions

6/02: RFI Center for Excellence Informational Zoom Session at 9:30 a.m. (session recorded with a replay to post on unitedwaycleveland.org)

6/05: RFI Center for Excellence Q&A Session (full details will post on unitedwaycleveland.org)

6/16: RFI Survey Monkey due by 5 p.m.

7/10: Notification of Request for Full Proposals

9/06: Full Applications due in eC-Impact by 5 p.m.

October: Finalist interviews

November: Funding decision made

December: United Way announces grantee partners

2024

January: Funding Cycle Begins
In December 2021, United Way announced the 16 grantee partner agencies in Cuyahoga and Geauga counties selected for the 2022-2023 funding cycle, awarding \$2.4 million in grants yearly.

About United Way of Greater Cleveland

United Way of Greater Cleveland was founded in 1913 and is a local, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting poverty across the Greater Cleveland area. United Way invests in efforts that address poverty using a two-pronged approach. The first prong focuses on the daily issues affecting those living in poverty. The second drives research and innovation, identifying long-term solutions to break the cycle of poverty. For more information, visit unitedwaycleveland.org and twitter.com/UnitedWayCLE.



My Prius C and the Greek Orthodox Festival



Photos courtesy of Bruce Checefsky
Bruce Checefsky and his wife, Tina Cassara, sat with a family of seven and had a great time at the Tremont Greek Fest, on assignment.



by Bruce Checefsky

I usually interview some Tremont personality, a business owner, artist, or regular neighbor, on these pages. I have been doing it for several years. The influx of new people in recent years means the neighborhood has lots more people of interest to interview. I like that idea. Often, a subject will invite me into their space for a brief chat about this or that. We make a few jokes about how expensive everything has gotten. We talk local politics and the first time we heard gunshots confused as fireworks that were confused as gunshots. The problem is a serious one. Stay clear of any windows. I am not joking.

Luckily, my car is yet to be jacked or stolen. I know a few people that have had it happen to them. I would never buy a KIA anyway. Something about the name KIA will not stick with me. Maybe it has to do with childhood memories. I'll let you know later.

When Rich Weiss, the founder, publisher, CEO, and literal magician who makes *The Tremont* appear nearly every month, texted me to say that the deadline for publication was 5 PM the following day, I had forgotten about it. The time was 2:30 PM, with plenty of room to mobilize my network of friends and colleagues in the neighborhood. Before I could reach anyone, I got diverted by a call from a Safe Auto Insurance representative in Florida trying to process a claim for damages to my car made by a driver from Lorain while I was parked downtown. My tiny Prius C rear driver's side bumper and quarter panel were scratched and dented. There were four empty parking spots across from me, and her van, much larger than my car, would never fit into the space. Go figure.

I said nothing about her parking skills. I have had plenty of fender benders in my driving career. Instead, we exchanged insurance policies. I took a picture of the damage to her van and my car, and off she went.

Insurance claims are done remotely, with photos from your cell phone and answering questions online. I sent the pictures and received an email with a damage estimate the next day. It was a fair amount. Amanda, my insurance adjuster, was calling to follow up on the claim. I found an auto repair shop to do the work. Everything seemed fine until my espresso machine broke that same day. Yes, I make my espresso despite the number of coffee shops in Tremont. I patronize them, too. It just happens that, well, my espresso is good. If it were up to me, I would have a coffee shop on every corner because I

enjoy seeing and meeting friends there. It might happen someday, a cafe on every corner, given where things are going. Amanda said a check was in the mail and should arrive soon. My espresso machine was still down, so I searched the Internet for Rancilio Silvia because I heard they were good products. I previously owned one for years and bought it from the stimulus money given out by George Bush Jr in 2008, four presidential campaigns and elections, and a deadly pandemic ago. You could probably guess what I will do with the insurance check, but I dare say it out loud. I know nothing about Ohio insurance law.

Rich sent another text message. He wants my pictures of the Greek Festival and my thoughts, too. Here they are: eat. The food is good. Next year, make sure you go early and stay late. Live music with a full accompaniment of musicians was spectacular.

At the table next to us was a birthday party for someone who just turned fifty. I can hardly remember fifty. We sat with a family of seven and had a great time. The lines for food wrapped around the interior of the banquet hall. People waited outside for grilled pork on skewers, kababs, and gyro sandwiches. I ordered feta cheese and olives with a hefty serving of fried smelts and keftedakia or Greek meatballs. My wife had a large square of multilayer moussaka, fried smelts, and a green salad made by the parishioners of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Outstanding food and company, music, and friendship come to mind at the Greek Festival, so much so that we went back the following afternoon for more. The lines were long, and the food was even better the second time.

I share here a few pictures I took to send to my brother. He was celebrating an Italian festival on the East Coast on the same afternoon.

Tremont is terrific with food and festivals, many organized by the churches in the neighborhood. More people than ever are gracing our paradise enclave in the last decade, with no signs of slowing down. The festival was full of people from Tremont and beyond.

I got another text from Rich telling me that Scott Sosenko at the Clark Bar is cooking lunch tomorrow. I have to text him back. I might get that one-on-one interview after all. Food time again, not that I am complaining.

A deadline of 5 PM looks possible if I skip the dessert.



A Greek Fest youngster proudly read up on Cleveland's West Side community news from our fellow community media association member, the *Plain Press*.

6/24 Cuyahoga River Rally offers Fun, Free Events Highlighting the Cuyahoga River's History

Celebrate Clean Water with Canalway just north of the Columbus Bridge, at Hart Crane Park



Photos by Canalway Partners

Kayaking on the Cuyahoga River is just one of many activities designed to encourage community interaction with our river at the Cuyahoga River Rally on June 24.

by *The Tremonger*

It's River Rally time, Tremont! On June 24, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, walk, bike, or scoot just north of Columbus Bridge to Hart Crane Park (named after the Cleveland poet and former *Plain Dealer* reporter Hart Crane) in The Flats for a day of free events celebrating a river renewed. Presented by Canalway and sponsored by Cargill, Cuyahoga River Rally celebrates the history of the Cuyahoga River and the lifestyle enhancements clean water provides. The event will include a beer garden, live music, and free history tours. "The Cuyahoga River is an amazing resource. We want to highlight the recreation opportunities it provides while honoring the history of the river, and how it has impacted our city and even our nation," says Canalway Executive Director Mera Cardenas. "River Rally offers so many opportunities to get out on the water and learn about our river." Last year, more than 900 people attended the event, taking advantage of the many ways to connect to the river: riverside yoga, guided kayak tours, free boat rides down the Cuyahoga, and a bike tour highlighting the history of the river and its bright future.

One particularly noteworthy River Rally activity, the Kayak Cleanup, encourages you not to forget your kayak when you head down to Cuyahoga River Rally to join Eddie "Trash Fish" Olschansky for a fun and rewarding river clean-up session. Participation is free. Buckets and trash grabbers provided (a limited number of kayak rentals are available for \$25). Trash Fish is an environmental conservation organization offering hundreds of residents and visitors the opportunity to roll up their sleeves to pull trash—and in particular, plastics—out of the Cuyahoga River by hand. The event all started with a broken leg. We caught up with Eddie Olschansky, Trash Fish owner-operator, to ask him about how first started fishing for trash in the Cuyahoga River.

"I've been a fisherman for a long time," Eddie told us. "I love going out and fishing. Where I grew up, I could throw a baseball from my childhood home to the national park. I was hiking this river, riding my bike along the river my whole life. I broke my leg at the skate park, and fishing out of a wheelchair was no fun, so I bought my first kayak."

Eddie recalled, "The moment I got in the water and really was up in all the nooks and crannies with my kayak, I realized how big of a trash problem we had." That's when Eddie discovered he loved to fish for trash. "Years go by, and I was just

doing it as my own little hobby. When I couldn't catch fish, I could always bring back my kayak filled with trash." When others started noticing what Eddie was doing, they wanted to help. So Eddie made it easy for them.

"I had a couple extra kayaks because I know firsthand owning a kayak is expensive," Eddie explained. "Storing it is expensive and having a way to transport it is difficult, so I bought a bunch of extra kayaks to bring my friends out there." Eddie's hobby then began to grow into something more. "When they were seeing what I was doing, they were like, 'Man, you're doing something good and you're making a big difference, but if you want to really make an impact, you've got to not hide this and you got to tell people about it.' They're smarter than me," said Eddie. "I listened to them, and here we are a couple of years later. Now, I've got hundreds of volunteers every summer coming out using our fleet of kayaks for free. They come out, they get a little science lesson, a tour around the flats, and we pick up some garbage together."

How much impact can really come from one person with one kayak removing a fraction of the waste that has found its way into the Cuyahoga River?

"I tell all my volunteers: 12 million people drink from Lake Erie, so every plastic bit that we can keep from going into that drinking-water source is a good day." After fishing for trash with—and seeing the reaction of—hundreds of River Rally volunteers, Eddie has boiled down what's most vital about the work he's doing. To him, it's about connecting our communities to the Cuyahoga. Eddie said, "To me, it's all about getting the community down to the Cuyahoga River, get them access to the river, get them on the river and enjoying it so that they want to protect the river—so they want to utilize the river as a recreational resource that a lot of other cities around here don't have access to. We get a ton of people down there. Whether you're coming down to listen to the bands play or get some food or come out on one of our kayak trash tours, there's something to do for pretty much everybody out there."

Eddie continued, "At River Rally, I take out the volunteers, I give them all the kayak gear and all the safety equipment they'll need to go out there. I guide them around and we talk about some of the pollution problems that are plaguing our river and how we can stop them at home. That's our trash tour."

Cuyahoga River Rally offers many "non-trash-picking" tours, too. Eddie explained, "If you're not looking

to get real dirty, there's plenty of other tours for the day—other kayak tours that are just historical that tell you really awesome, interesting facts about the river and the area that you're paddling through. And then we normally do boat tours, bike tours, and walking tours. It's a really good time to just come down and become more familiar with the great recreational resource that we have down here."

Some who come to the River Rally event only seeking a fun summer outing leave with an unexpected urge to pick trash. And they come back.

"Last year, we did a couple of tours throughout the day and a lot of the people who went on the 'not trash picking tour,' learned just how much garbage there is and how much they could do to help solve the problem down there. A lot of those people signed up for a second tour, and they came out and picked up trash with us."

There are lots of surprises when looking at the Cuyahoga River up close, but the biggest surprise for Eddie was how many Cleveland community members have had no interaction with our precious waterway at all.

"The best part is the people who have never been out on the river," Eddie said. "Whether you're getting on the big boat (that you can sit down and have your lunch on) or you're coming out for a paddle with us, there are so many people there that have lived in this city their entire lives, and they've never been on the water."

Eddie sees an important shared mission between his own organization and Canalway's Cuyahoga River Rally: "Like I said earlier [about Trash Fish], that is the biggest thing with River Rally: just getting people access to the river. The more we use it, the more we can do good to protect it. Just seeing that many people at the little vendor area where you can get some food, or you can come talk to me, or buy a T-shirt, or look at some of the trash that we find, or visit many other good organizations that have their tents up...just the smiles...just seeing that many Clevelanders in one little park, enjoying the river, enjoying each other's company, and smiling during the summer: that's all River Rally's about."

Free 2023 River Rally activities include:

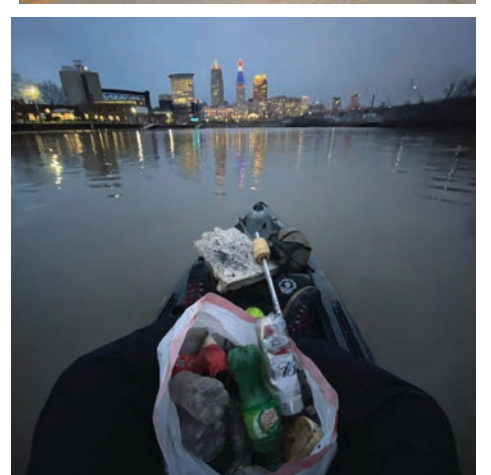
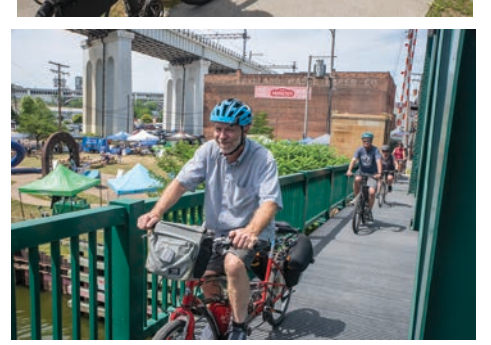
- Walking tours focused on history and nature around the river;
- Kayak tours;
- Dragon boat rides provided by the Cleveland Dragon Boat Association;
- Boat rides on the Holiday;
- Bike tours led by Ohio City Bike Co-op;
- Many, many more activities!

River Rally also features live music and a beer garden. For more information and a full activity list, visit CanalwayPartners.com/RiverRally.

Advanced registration is free and recommended for most activities. Canalway Partners is a 501(c)3 non-profit cultural heritage organization that serves as a catalyst for projects and programs within the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area in Cuyahoga County.

We connect people to place for the prosperity of all.

Meghan Tinker Paynter, Director of Communications for Canalway Partners, contributed to this report.



Trash Fish photo by Eddie Olschansky

Trash Fishing on the Cuyahoga River

Tremont To-Do List

CPL Jefferson Campus



0 to 3: Read to Me Playdates

Friday, June 09 | 10:30 am

Building your child's brain is as simple as reading, singing, playing and talking! Join us as we read engaging books and sing lively songs with plenty of time for playing and talking! For children ages 0 to 3 (36 months) and parent or other adult family member. Siblings welcome. Giveaways! Questions? Call 216-623-7114. These programs are made possible by a generous grant from The Bruening Foundation. Register and browse a complete listing of upcoming O to 3: Read to Me programs at cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/

My Digital Life: Online Safety

Saturday, June 10 | 11 am

Learn how to stay safe in the online world.

Tremont Think and Drink Book Club

Monday, June 12 | 7 pm

Join us for an engaging book discussion while enjoying your favorite beverage at Lincoln Park Pub, 2609 W 14th St, Cleveland, OH 44113.

We will discuss the following great reads:

June 12: Leaving Isn't the Hardest Thing: Essays by Lauren Hough

July 10: Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

August 14: Bomb Shelter: Love, Time, and Other Explosives by Mary Laura Philpott

Rain Barrel Workshop

Friday, June 16 | 10:30 am

Learn how to harvest rainwater for all your garden needs and combat stormwater pollution with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. Optional rain barrel kits are available for a fee with pre-registration by June 5 at rb.gy/uq6ozp.

0 to 3: Read to Me Playdates

Friday, May 19 | 10:30 am

Building your child's brain is as simple as reading, singing, playing and talking! Join us as we read engaging books and sing lively songs with plenty of time for playing and talking! For children ages 0 to 3 (36 months) and parent or other adult family member. Siblings welcome. Giveaways! Questions? Call 216-623-7114. These

programs are made possible by a generous grant from The Bruening Foundation. Register and browse a complete listing of upcoming O to 3: Read to Me programs at cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/

My Digital Life: Searching Basics

Saturday, June 17 | 11 am

Finding what you are looking for on the internet is easier than you think it is. Ms. Lorraine learns the tips and tricks to make her searching for things much easier!

Once Upon A Family Storytime

Saturday, June 17 | 11 am

Join us for a story time for all ages. Stories, crafts, songs and more to celebrate the tales that delight all of us.

Tie Dye Day on the Longest Day

Wednesday, June 21 | 2 pm

Make tie dye items while we share books from the era when tie dye was all the rage. (Supplies provided while they last.)

0 to 3: Read to Me Playdates

Friday, June 23 | 10:30 am

Building your child's brain is as simple as reading, singing, playing and talking! Join us as we read engaging books and sing lively songs with plenty of time for playing and talking! For children ages 0 to 3 (36 months) and parent or other adult family member. Siblings welcome. Giveaways! Questions? Call 216-623-7114. These programs are made possible by a generous grant from The Bruening Foundation. Register and browse a complete listing of upcoming O to 3: Read to Me programs at cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/

Register and browse a complete listing of upcoming O to 3: Read to Me programs at cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/

0 to 3: Read to Me Playdates

Friday, June 30 | 10:30 am

Building your child's brain is as simple as reading, singing, playing and talking! Join us as we read engaging books and sing lively songs with plenty of time for playing and talking! For children ages 0 to 3 (36 months) and parent or other adult family member. Siblings welcome. Giveaways! Questions? Call 216-623-7114. These programs are made possible by a generous grant from The Bruening Foundation. Register and browse a complete listing of upcoming O to 3: Read to Me programs at cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/

CPL South Campus



Once Upon a Cuento

Saturday, June 10 | 11 am

Join us for our bilingual Storytime in English and Spanish! Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in both languages. Únase a nosotros para nuestro cuento bilingüe en Inglés y Español! Disfrute de historias, canciones y rimas en ambos idiomas.

Crafts to Go

Monday, June 12 | 12 pm

Fire up your creativity every week. Pick up a free craft kit to go and enjoy some crafting time at home (while supplies last).

Duct Tape Universe

Wednesday, June 14 | 2 pm

Create extraordinary objects from ordinary duct tape.

Tiny Art Show

Wednesday, June 14 | 4:30 pm

Create your own, one-of-a-kind miniature masterpiece and, if you like, display it in our Tiny Art Show.

Family Circle Time

Thursday, June 15 | 5 pm

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our family storytime!

Coloring in Cleveland

Saturday, June 17 | 12 pm

Coloring books are not just for kids anymore. Join us for Cleveland Reads Coloring Days, which will include Cleveland-themed books and some of your favorite storytime characters. Coloring books and supplies will be provided (while they last), but participants are welcome to bring their own materials from home.

Junk Journaling

Saturday, June 17 | 2 pm

Learn how to make a junk journal from scratch. This class will build from one class to the next, but beginners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Crafts to Go

Monday, June 19 | 12 am

Fire up your creativity every week. Pick up a free craft kit to go and enjoy some crafting time at home (while supplies last).

DIY Reading Buttons

Wednesday, June 21 | 2 pm

Come on out and design your very own READING button and if you haven't already done so, we can sign you up for Cleveland Reads.

Family Circle Time

Thursday, June 22 | 5 pm

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our Cleveland Reads family story hour.

Once Upon A Cuento

Saturday, June 24 | 11 am

Join us for our bilingual Storytime in English and Spanish! Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in both languages. Únase a nosotros para nuestro cuento bilingüe en Inglés y Español! Disfrute de historias, canciones y rimas en ambos idiomas.

Crafts to Go

Monday, June 26 | 12 am

Feeling crafty on the go? Grab one of our craft kits available all month long (while supplies last.)

MakerSpace Mondays

Monday, June 26 | 4 pm

3D Printer, Laser Engraver, and STEM projects...oh my! Visit the MakerSpace Corner for fun projects.

Block Party: Build with Blocks

Tuesday, June 27 | 2 pm

Join our block party: all sorts of building blocks will be available for you to build and create anything you can imagine.

Afternoon Painting

Wednesday, June 28 | 4:30 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of painting inspired by the work of a different artist at every session. Supplies provided while they last.

Family Circle Time

Thursday, June 29 | 5 pm

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our family storytime!

Coloring in Cleveland

Saturday, July 01 | 12 pm

Coloring books are not just for kids anymore. Join us for Cleveland Reads Coloring Days, which will include Cleveland-themed books and some of your favorite storytime characters. Coloring books and supplies will be provided (while they last), but participants are welcome to bring their own materials from home.

Crafts to Go

Monday, July 03 | 12 am

Fire up your creativity every week. Pick up a free craft kit to go and enjoy some crafting time at home (while supplies last).

South Sound Booth Orientation

Wednesday, July 05 | 4:30 pm

Learn everything you need to know to use the South Sound Booth and make your own audio, video, or streaming projects come to life. (Teens ages 13 & up and adults.)



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