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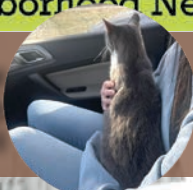
remonster

A Tremont Neighborhood Newspaper by and for Tremonsters | TheTremonster.org

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...story on page 5

photo by Rich Weiss

TREMONSTER CONTEST: Where's the Bird?



Where's the Bird? Submit your answer to win a Fat Cats gift certificate.

Submit your answer to win a Fat Cats gift certificate:



Scan to enter! ...or email or snail mail!

If you think you know the mystery location of this issue's bird character, submit your answer: Scan the above QR code, mail to 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 contest prize, which will be announced in the next issue of *The Tremonster*:

GRAND PRIZE:
\$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats!
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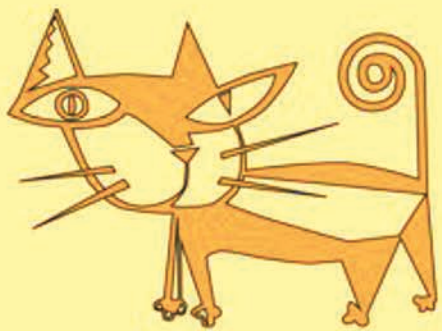
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...or mail a check payable to:
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We Have a Winner!

Announcing Last Issue's 'Where's the Bird' Contest Winner



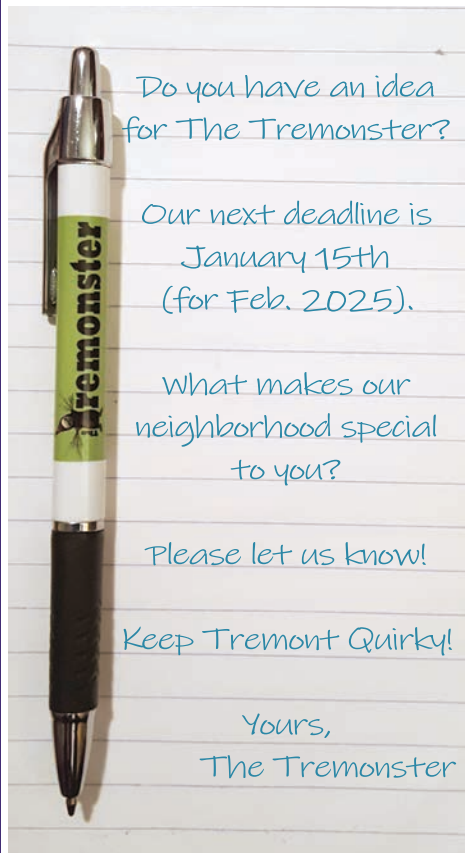
Dear John,
Thank you so much for your participation in The Tremonster's "Where's the Bird?" contest! CONGRATULATIONS!

From a fishbowl containing correct contest answers only, your answer was selected at random: The bird mural location is the "Bike rack at Southside [2207 W. 11th St.]"

We are proud to forward your prize of a \$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats.

Yours,
~The Tremonster

Submit to The Tremonster.



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P.O. Box 6161, Cleveland, OH 44101

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ScottRadkeArt.com

The Tremonster Mascot: Abbey

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Clevelanders Share How They're Feeling Post-Election

by Charlestine Randle-Pride

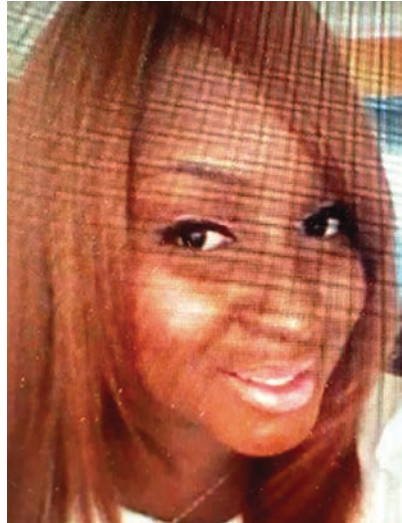
How are you feeling about the future of your community after the election? Now that the election is over and the results are in, we asked people across Cleveland what they thought might change in their neighborhoods, if anything.

These interviews were conducted as part of the Cleveland Community News Fellowship, a new initiative organized by Cuyahoga Community College, the Journalism + Design lab at The New School in New York and Cleveland's Neighborhood Media Foundation and supported by Signal Cleveland. Since September, four fellows – Diana Sette, Louis Lyons, Charlestine Randle-Pride and Christina Easter – have been interviewing people around the city before and after the election to get a sense of what priorities people have for elected officials and what information they needed to help them vote.

What impact do you think the election results will have on your community? You can email us:

<https://airtable.com/apppao8nkFu6ues40/shrEvWHSI76Auos2L>

RESIDENTS SURVEYED IN THE TREMONT AREA:



Lawrette Smith, age 40

Post Election Interview - 44109

"I feel less optimistic. We chose a dictator as a leader. I was already anxious before the election. Now, I don't have any faith in the government or the United States of America."

Charlestine's take: There are people who are losing or have lost in our government. There is almost a feeling of hopelessness.



Moses, age 32

Post-Election Interview - 44102

"Nothing is going to change. They are making it harder for people to get jobs. It will get worse."

Charlestine's take: Is job training the answer when Black youth have no hope for the future?

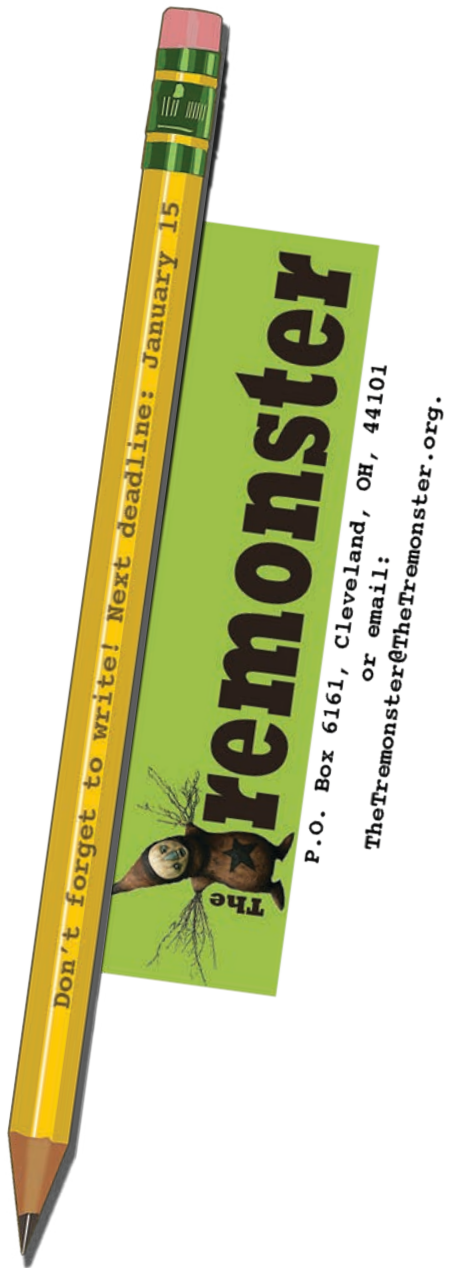


Albert Pride, age 73

Post Election Interview - 44125

"Less optimistic. We have a president who doesn't have any policies, is vindictive, and he does not respect democracy."

Charlestine's take: Most people can see that Trump is not a man of good character. It seems as if good character and moral fortitude are no longer important in leadership.



Jonathon Morgan's Dogs of Tremont

Dogs of Tremont: Luna



Photo by Jonathon Morgan

Amanda and Luna

by Jonathon Morgan

Meet Luna, the 1.5-year-old Cavalier who paddled her way into Amanda's heart! She was just 11 weeks old when she came to live with Amanda as a foster pup. But let's be honest, who could resist that adorable face? Amanda knew Luna was more than a guest—she was family. 13/10 would adopt forever.

Luna isn't your average doggo; she's a paddle boarding pro!

While she'll humor a kayak ride, her true passion is the board, gliding across the water with the wind in her fur. She's mastered the art of balancing and has even been known to strike a pose for the passing ducks. 14/10 for nautical skills. Let's not forget Amanda, the best barber west of the Cuyahoga! She works her magic at Sixth City Barbershop on Professor, making everyone look as fabulous as Luna feels on the water. Together, they're making waves both on land and sea. 15/10 for them both.

Beginning American Sign Language Class Starting on January 6



Hello all! The next free ASL class starts in January! Here is the link to register! bit.ly/4fgdlhu

Beginning American Sign Language

Embark on a journey of communication and inclusivity with our FREE 8-week American Sign Language (ASL) Class. The experienced and passionate ASL instructor will guide you through the fundamentals of ASL. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn ASL in a welcoming and supportive environment. Registration is required. There are 15 seats available.

Dates & Times:

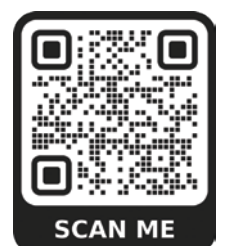
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, January 6, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, January 13, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, January 27, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, February 3, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, February 10, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, February 24, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, March 3, 2025
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Monday, March 10, 2025

Location: Jefferson - Community Space 1

Branch: Jefferson

Audience: Adults Ages 19+

Register at bit.ly/4fgdlhu or:



Tremont's Pet, Mayor Steve French, is Back in Tremont



Photo by Kevin Barre

Tremont's Mayor Steve French, here pictured on his ride back from Macedonia on mom Kerry's lap.

by Kevin Barre

Editor's note: Tremontsters were particularly alarmed to see a "missing" notice posted for Tremont's Mayor Steve French, the cat.

His parents, Kerry Nickels and Kevin Barre, hadn't seen him since November 20th. With no sign of Steve 18 days later, many in the neighborhood were worried and spreading the word.

On December 8th, Kerry and Kevin contacted The Tremontster, writing, "...We might have found him. On our way right now. We'll let you know!"

An hour and a half later they wrote: "It's him! He's back!"

Shortly thereafter, Kevin posted the following on social media.

Guess who's back?

Found in Macedonia. Maybe there was a political conference.

Both Kerry and I are so lucky to be a part of this community. Both residents and businesses alike gave so much love and effort into finding him.

Tremont is a special place, whether you have been here 50 years or 1 month. Thank you to everyone who pitched in.

That being said, he bolted from our truck the second the door opened. If you are a business or he's hanging on your porch, please call us (216-785-6118) as we need to get his collar on.

Cheers Tremont!

Steve's home!



Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors (OWLS Cleveland) Luncheon Meeting Notes

by Bev Wurm

October found the OWLS (older, wiser, livelier, seniors) celebrating their one-year anniversary and Halloween party. We celebrated with sandwiches and cupcakes. Speaker was Branden Baxter from Oak Street Health.

November brought our Thanksgiving celebration with turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, dressing, gravy, green beans, rolls, pumpkin pie with cool whip. Our speaker was Dr. Ronan M. Factory, a Geriatrician. Raffle baskets, door prizes, and 50-50 rounded out the day.

December 11th will be our last meeting of the year. A Christmas/Holiday party is planned. Besides a menu of ham, potato salad, baked beans, turkey, sweet potato casserole, and mac & cheese, Christmas cookie exchange and a white elephant gift exchange will take place.

OWLS will take January off and return the second Wednesday in February. RSVP to 216-310-6810 to join in and enjoy sharing lunch with others.

Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays and a happy, healthy New Year!



The Cleveland Division of Police Announces Expedited Hiring Event

What: For those interested in a law enforcement career, the Cleveland Division of Police will hold their next Expedited Hiring Event. The hiring event is designed to streamline the application process, allowing applicants to complete several steps in a single day. During the event, applicants will have the opportunity to submit their application, take the National Testing Network (NTN) Exam, undergo the Physical Fitness Assessment, and receive a pre-conditional employment offer. Remaining steps in the hiring process will be completed at a later stage.

When: January 3, 4, and 5, 2025 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: 601 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114 (Free Parking Available at Willard Garage)

What to bring: A valid ID or driver's license. Applicants will be taking a written (NTN) test and upon passing they will take the physical assessment (wear comfortable clothes) and the preliminary background check.

Walk-ins are accepted, but to secure a timed slot, please pre-register at 216-623-5233, or via the QR code. The Academy for the 159th class is expected to begin in April, 2025.

Chief Dorothy A. Todd, "Our Division is committed to recruiting the best candidates to serve our community. This hiring event offers a convenient opportunity for individuals interested in a rewarding career in law enforcement."

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January 3, 4, and 5, 2025
8:00AM - 1:00PM

Cleveland City Hall
601 Lakeside Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114
Free Parking Available at Willard Garage

For questions, contact the Recruitment Unit at 216-623-5233

Pace Cafe: Tremont's New Organic Scratch Kitchen is Just Warming Up



Co-Owner Sabrina loaded freshly-scratch-made bagels into the Pace Cafe display case.

by *The Tremont*

Ameen Kader and Sabrina Quinones quietly opened the door at Pace Café, Tremont's new coffee house and organic scratch kitchen (2670 W. 14th St., 216-712-3392) in August. Since then, they've held a grand opening event, expanded their menu, and befriended many devoted neighborhood customers. And they're just warming up.

This winter, Pace Café will debut their organic, scratch-made bone broth. "I'm super excited," said Sabrina. "We're going to be introducing bone broth that we're going to make in-house. I think that's going to be huge—especially through the winter. Same way, again: whole, clean, organic—"

Ameen: "Pasture raised—"

Sabrina: "Pasture raised, all that good stuff. So, you're getting good quality bone broth."

In the coming weeks, Pace Café will experiment with more soups and other winter comfort foods while keeping their regular staples of coffee, fridge parfaits, traditional bagels, and bagel sandwiches available every day.

Sabrina explained, "We do seasonal options or variations, but we'll keep the same staples as far as the quick stuff goes." She added, "And then we've got our turmeric chai lattes. We're going to introduce some winter drinks. We're going to make a peppermint coffee syrup. We're going to introduce some lavender. Just think comfort and warm and cozy and quick."

Ameen: But the main concept to this place is organic. And we're strictly trying to use minimal ingredients within everything we're creating.

Sabrina: No additives, no preservatives—so, our food does have a very short shelf life.

Behind the café counter is a fridge full of juices labelled "Socially Raw."

"That's our juice!" said Sabrina.

Ameen explained, "Part of the concept here was that we wanted to stick to what we had going on, which was Socially Raw (which is a cold press juice service). I'm sure if anybody has juiced at home, they understand the cleanup is the worst. So, we eliminate that for them—"

Sabrina emphasized: "The cleanup, the time, everything—"

"Yeah. If anybody has experienced that, they know what we're talking about," agreed Ameen. "We had started that company almost three years ago: January 1st, 2022. [Our service] acts as an old-school milkman concept: we deliver

straight to people's doorsteps every Saturday morning. Our juices are freshly juiced every Friday night."

Once the two realized they were on to something popular, they started to dream a little bigger. They wanted to open a shop that offered their popular cold press juice and much more.

Ameen said they were motivated to open a shop offering a host of menu items developed using the same formula they use for their cold press juices: "We decided we want to stick to the organic, raw feel. That's what inspired us to get this place."

"Yep," agreed Sabrina.

Before this energetic, entrepreneurial pair discovered the available W. 14th St. Tremont storefront, Ameen and Sabrina had been searching for some time. At least they'd been looking long enough to realize they were seeking more than a perfect spot: they were looking for the right community in which to launch their concept of an organic scratch kitchen and coffee house. Like they say in real estate: location, location, location.

Ameen recalled, "We were searching all over the place. We went to Lakewood. We do like Lakewood." Our neighboring city to the west of Cleveland presents many of the community ingredients the duo sought in the ideal community fit for their new business. "But this community was just way more..." Ameen searched for an apt description of our Tremont community, then said, "They were amazing compared to anywhere else. The community is just very welcoming." Ameen concluded, "I think that's what brought us here." Sabrina added, "The community's familiar. It feels familiar. Everyone feels familiar."

Having decided on Tremont, this specific space brought much of the vision alive for Ameen. "When we saw the windows... it was perfect with the sun that comes in here. We can't wait until the spring... When we found it, I was driving around and I was like, 'Sabrina!' (because she's a realtor as well) 'Sabrina, please find out information about this.' She did her due diligence and found a connection."

"Small world," said Sabrina.

Pace Café received invaluable help from Tremont West Development Corporation, in general, and real estate and economic development director Donna Grigonis-Bailey, specifically. Aside from the familiar community, it felt like the Tremont neighborhood came with their own small business cheer leader.

"A hundred percent," said Ameen.

"Donna is amazing. Donna has been so supportive." And that support didn't end with their grand opening. "Anything that we post, she'll post as well, which is beautiful for the community." Sabrina added, "And if we're not posting, Donna's like, 'Why aren't you posting? Give me something to post. Let's post something!'"

It didn't take long for Sabrina and Ameen to confirm they'd chosen the right spot to attract their ideal customer base.

"It was immediate," Sabrina remembered. "It was our first week, our first few days that we softly opened. We didn't announce anything. We were seeing the same few people in those few days, and we were already befriending them. Ameen's able to get to know their lives, and I'm seeing familiar faces, and it just happened so quick." For Sabrina, the choice of location proves even better the more they've gotten to know their regular customers.

"We were like, 'Oh, Lindsey, how's Hawaii?' And we'd only been here three months." Ameen added, "She brought us some Hawaii honey. That was so amazing."

Daily, many interactions like this confirm the Tremont neighborhood was the right choice for Pace Café. It's this kind of relationship with their clientele that allows for the culinary experimentation they'd hoped for.

"We're just testing things and having fun," said Sabrina. "He's making things in the kitchen and then having the community try it, and they're giving us honest feedback."

"That's my favorite part," said Ameen.

Sabrina shared, "The other day someone messaged us on Instagram like, Hey, love your cinnamon rolls, but lay off on the icing. And we're like, 'Okay! You say less. Whatever you guys say.' We're just catering to them."

Ameen explained, "She had first had it without the icing, and she loved it. And then we added the icing and she was like, 'Hey, it's too sweet. Just next time can I get one without?' And we're like, 'Of course. That's my cup of tea, so I love that: without!'"

"Adding things, removing things from the menu, it all comes from the community," said Sabrina. "We're leaning on everyone."

Ameen agreed, "Right. And one of the biggest things that I noticed—why we chose this area—was because of the walk-in traffic. So many people are walking with their dogs, walking in the morning with their families, strollers."

Many of these Tremont community members have become customers. Many of these customers have become like family.

Sabrina emphasized, "Yes, but immediate: we come in and people will either spill their lives to us or we're spilling our lives to them. Now, we follow up when they come back in and it's like—" "It's part of that cup of coffee in the morning, that's for sure," Ameen agreed.



Socially Raw Cold-Pressed Juices: their popular organic, scratch-made product that sparked the Pace Café idea.



Pour-over coffees are a Pace Café specialty.

Sabrina concluded, "You can build a business on relationships."

We asked if anything surprises Pace Café customers when they first come in. "It's that we're a scratch kitchen—that's what they're surprised about more than anything else," said Ameen.

"Yeah, and that we make our bagels," said Sabrina. "They'll be like, 'Where'd you get your bagels from?'"

Ameen agreed, "Yeah, 'Where did you guys get them from, Costco, Costco?' And we're like, 'No, we actually do them right here.'"

Sabrina added, "We actually just rolled them up."



Pace Cafe Co-Owners Ameen Kader and Sabrina Quinones

Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.'s The Nature of Tremont

Here, There be Dragons...Dragonflies, That Is!



This is a Black Saddlebags *Tremea lacerata*, a common species along the Towpath Trail, Clark Field, and Scranton Flats. Named for the black area on its hindwings, they will often hover above your head as you walk about, and the distinctive black patches are easy to see.

Photos by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

Hello fellow Tremontsters. I've been away a while because my work keeps me quite busy and away from my computer, but I'm back with another pictorial piece on some of the neat creatures we can find in and around our neighborhood. This time, I'm focusing on some of the cool dragonflies we can see along the Towpath or anywhere in and around Cleveland.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be around water to see dragonflies, and they are just as common in fields as they are along the waterways, but they must always return to water to breed.

Dragonflies belong to the taxonomic order Odonata, which also includes the damselflies, but they differ in several ways and are a topic for another column someday. Collectively, they are often referred to as "Odes"—short for Odonata—and dragonflies in their currently recognized form have been around since the Early Jurassic some 209 to 174 million years ago, although more primitive forms existed even earlier.

Dragonflies are supreme aerial hunters and catch their prey while on the wing. Each of their four wings can work independently allowing them to change direction quickly, hover, fly backwards, or bolt like a flash from a standstill. They can even sidestep left or right while facing forward. Each of their legs have long spines on them that help to grasp their prey in a death-grip from which it rarely escapes.

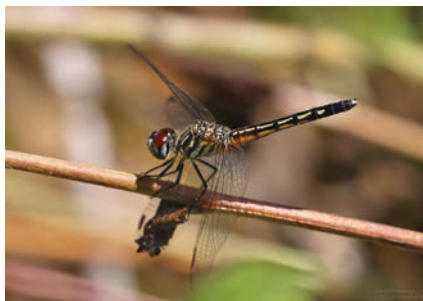
And then there's the sex...always the sex...and it's complicated! When a male dragonfly produce sperm, he stores it in a special pocket on its abdomen. When he finds a mate, he grabs her behind the head with special "claspers" found at the tip of his tail, and they fly around together that way for a while ultimately settling on some waterside vegetation in an embrace known as a 'mating wheel,' and while so involved, the male spends time using special secondary sex organs to remove any sperm from the female's previous matings. Eventually, the female extends her abdomen and reaches into her current suitor's pouch to retrieve his sperm and places it in her "spermathica" where her eggs will become fertilized. The chosen male will then jealously guard the female as she begins ovipositing (laying eggs), and this process differs between species with some simply dropping the eggs in the water, and others cutting slits in aquatic vegetation to lay their eggs within. Either way, the dragonfly nymphs live in the water for a time feeding on mosquito larvae and other aquatic creatures until they metamorphosize into adults.

There really is so much more to say but if my brief synopsis has you interested, Google has a way of satiating that interest! In the meantime, I hope you enjoy my photos of some of the most likely dragonflies you will encounter in Tremont or nearby, and each photo will come with individual captions.

Until next time,
Chuck :-)



This dashing fella is a male Blue Dasher *Pachydiplax longipennis*, more likely to be found near water than some other dragonflies.



Like most dragonflies, the Eastern Pondhawk *Pachydiplax longipennis* is sexually dimorphic with the females, like this one, usually less colorful than the male above but no less attractive.



This is perhaps the dragonfly you see most often...the Common Green Darner *Anax junius*. It is a large dragon that flies over fields and wetlands alike. With its large size and green and blue coloration, it is a pretty easy dragon to identify.



The Eastern Amberwing *Perithemis tenera* is one of our smaller dragonflies and it can be seen in good numbers at Scranton Flats. This male is in an upright position known as "obelisking" which dragonflies use on hot days to minimize the surface area exposed to the sun and by doing so, they keep from overheating.



This is another very common dragonfly that I'm sure almost everyone has seen at one time or another. This is a male Common Whitetail *Plathemis lydia*, and these stocky odes can often be seen on the towpath where they move just ahead of you and stop only to move a little further each time you come closer.



With his green face and blue body, this male Eastern Pondhawk *Erythemis simplicicollis* looks ready to pounce on an unsuspecting victim at a moment's notice.



Unlike the blue male, the female Eastern Pondhawk *Erythemis simplicicollis* is a green creature.

[continued on page 7...]

Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.'s The Nature of Tremont Here, There be Dragons...Dragonflies, That Is!



[...continued from page 6]
As I mentioned in my opening comments, dragonfly sex is a complicated affair, and this pair of Halloween Pennants *Celithemis eponina* is showing you how it's done. Pictured here in a mating wheel, the male has a firm grasp on the female's head while she is collecting sperm from the male's specialized pouch.

The Twelve-spotted Skimmer *Libellula pulchella* is named for the twelve black spots on its wings and is commonly found away from water. Females are similar but more brown than blue.



The Wandering Glider *Pantala flavescens* is a truly global species and can be found on every continent except Antarctica and in the oceans as well where they often are alighted upon seagoing vessels. These dragonflies are constantly on the move: laying eggs wherever they may be, moving onward in a never-ending journey of life, and lending credence to their alternate name of Globe Skimmer. The very light brownish tinge on the rear of the tips of the wings mark this individual as a male.



Another one of the blue dragons, this is a male Slaty Skimmer *Libellula incesta*, and they can be found with regularity in the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. This is another one that is more common around water than in fields.



This one may be harder to find in the immediate neighborhood, but if you go to the Harvard Avenue Trailhead of the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation and walk a little ways you will likely find some. This is a male Ruby Meadowhawk *Sympetrum rubicundulum*, and only one of several red dragonfly species you might find. At this time of year, the similar looking Autumn Meadowhawk is easier to find.



The Widow Skimmer *Libellula luctosa* is another dragonfly you will often see in fields at some distance to water where they like to perch on exposed twigs or stems while scanning for prey.



Very common at Scranton Flats, this is a male Prince Baskettail *Epithica princeps*, and they often fly back and forth in the same area making it easy to observe them.

Thanks for spending some time looking at these pictures and reading a little bit about the interesting lives of these fascinating creatures. I've barely scratched the surface, but if I've piqued your interest enough to get you to research even further on your own, I consider my job done! Until next time, keep on looking!

Chuck!



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

Ken Scigulinski's Memories Of Tremont Avenue

Movie Memories



Frank Sinatra in the short film, "The House I Live In"

by Ken Scigulinsky

As a youngster in the 1940's, cheap and dependable entertainment could always be discovered in the movie theatres. The old Jennings Theatre on W.14th was convenient but did not always have a movie title that appealed to me, so I'd search the weekend listings in the Cleveland Press newspaper. I am surprised how far I would walk on a Sunday afternoon to see a movie that appealed to me. Most of the time I went alone. The theatres on W 25th that were relatively close were the Marvel, near Barber Avenue; the Garden, just past Clark Avenue and then further south on W 25th, the Southern. They are all gone. On rare occasions I would take the bus into Cleveland to view a film at the Carter Theatre, the Hippodrome Theatre, the Embassy Theatre or the RKO Palace Theatre. There was also a downtown theatre named Telenews, but all that was shown was current event news reels covering the entire world.

I only went there a few times with my dad, since he could not read and it was a way for him to become acquainted with current events, especially during WWII. Until I graduated from high school our family never had a car, so I was overjoyed whatever I had an opportunity to ride in someone's car for any reason. The mother of my best friends, Red and Gumball, was dating a man who had a car. I was overjoyed when I was invited to join them to see a movie at a drive in theatre on Brookpark Road in Parma. It was my first drive-in experience and the movie we saw was *One Million BC*. The classic film starred Victor Mature and opened in 1940, but it was a few years later when we saw it. My friend Jimmy Wood lived above Kilko's Saloon on the corner of Tremont and Starkweather. His father served in the army in Europe during WWII and after he returned, he devoted much time to Jimmy, taking him to many places to bond. I was invited to go with them when they went to a movie theatre on Brookpark

Road in Brooklyn, the Yorktown. The movie was *Gunga Din* and while viewing it I became so enthralled with the action that I started cheering so loudly that Jimmy's father had to calm me down. Maybe that's why I was never invited to attend another movie with them. I continue to be amazed by the number of my childhood events that I have been able to recall with such clarity. Do you remember any of the breakfast cereal commercials you sang along with on TV? If so, I suspect the repetition of a simple, catchy tune was responsible for the remembrance, but the memory of other events may be a mystery. I still can recall the music associated with two brief films I saw multiple times at the Jennings Theatre. A ten-cent ticket for Saturday and Sunday matinees gave the audience of kids double features and a cartoon, too! There were times, however, when the matinees also included short films that were out of accord with the usual release of Hollywood movies. One was actually a commercial about Chiquita bananas and I remember the tune and some of the accompanying words that were used to instruct the audience about storing and eating bananas. The song was sung by a woman who identified herself as Chiquita Banana, revealing that bananas should never be stored in the refrigerator. That was something I have always remembered. The United Fruit Company created the character Chiquita Banana in 1944, then produced a film for movie theatre viewing. A few years later it was updated and continued to be shown on TV. In recent years I have viewed films in movie theatres and have been surprised that preceding the movie there have been short film commercials for automobile dealerships and stores. I guess what worked for bananas in the 1940s is still working today.

Another more interesting short film was done by Frank Sinatra and screened after the war, in 1945. About 7 minutes long, the story line has Frank encountering 10 kids who were bullying one kid on the street because his religion was different from theirs. Frank proceeds to openly question whether the kids are Nazis because of their action. To make his point about anti-Semitism Frank tells the story of Colin Kelly, the pilot of a bomber who drops a destructive bomb on a Japanese ship. (The story of Colin Kelly is worth reading. He is identified as the first hero of WWII because shortly after Pearl Harbor he stayed at the controls of his crippled B-17 to allow members of his crew to bail out. He ultimately died in the crash). Frank Sinatra tells the boys the pilot was a Presbyterian while the bombardier was a Jew named Meyer Levin and they worked together in spite of religious differences. After using another illustration showing that blood plasma does not respect religion, Frank sings "The House I Live In," also called "That's America to Me." I still remember the melody and some of the words. The lyrics praise America, mentioning the grocer, the butcher and the churchyard with the "house" as a metaphor for our country. I have learned that the song was performed on the Armed Forces Service's 1945 V-J Day Broadcast. Interestingly, in 2013 Frank Sinatra and Neil Diamond recorded a version of the song. It is a poignant message about tolerance – something that needs promotion today. Interested readers can view the video on YouTube. The Jennings Theatre was closed in 1950. There are many benefits derived from movie experiences, but for me the ability to reconnect with the past, when life seemed simpler and easy is something I cherish most.



The Marvel Theatre was a relatively close movie theater on W. 25th near Barber Ave.

Photo courtesy of Ken Scigulinsky



Jennings Theater, 2236 West 14th, Cleveland, OH. James L. Smith Collection.

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Natasha Pogrebinsky's Diaries of a Chef

25 Reasons



Chef Natasha Pogrebinsky

by Chef Natasha Pogrebinsky

In Y2K, the world didn't end, and since then, a quarter century has passed in a blink of an eye. War, revolutions, movements, and strife will continue, but progress will also come. Good things will come for women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and immigrant rights, but they won't come easy. I'm an optimist—most chefs are. I also know that we need to work very hard for this progress to come, especially when a major setback puts progress back a few decades. I've spent most of the last 25 in culinary and restaurants, and here's what I've learned and what I hope and wish for in the next 25.

Perhaps the most impactful innovation in the culinary world has been in kitchen equipment. The biggest worldwide trend in kitchens will be switching to induction and electrical kitchens and away from gas. I remember my first Michelin restaurant: I was wedged in on my station with about two feet between my mise en place and the hot line, with two guys about two feet away on each side loudly joking about rape in a tiny kitchen (roughly 700 square feet) which also held a dish pit.

I hated the rape jokes. I was incredibly uncomfortable. I had to survive that to be

here, now. I, like so many others at that time, believed that was the life: the abuse, the misogyny. And if you could survive... you were special!

The 400F degree grill and oven burned against my back for hours, and I was sure my synthetic men's white coat would catch on fire. I loved every minute of it! I was doing important work. I quickly impressed the boys with my skills. I felt lucky to be there. I also thought, "It doesn't have to be this way."

The mind-blowing tech coming into our kitchens now is the answer to the unbearable heat that is the culprit in a lot of the drama. Can you remain calm and rational on your feet for eight hours next to a jet engine? The air quality alone is a health hazard and would probably be deemed illegal if it were outside or even in the dining room. The hoods can only do so much. I envy the young cooks now who get to grow up with this new tech, and I'm excited to be a part of this evolution. But can you sear a perfect scallop or steak on electric? Can you sauté pasta on induction? Yes, and faster and with more precision, less energy waste, and my all-time favorite: easy clean up! If you're doing it right, you're cleaning two hours a day in today's conventional gas kitchen. Imagine all that extra time spent on being creative instead. The commercial kitchen in the next 25 years is unrecognizable, for the better.

There's not much reporting on the early 2000s about kitchen demographics. It's not a secret that the kitchen is a brutal environment, but only recently are we seeing concrete evidence, reporting, and analysis of just how significant the brutality really is. According to several reports and the National Restaurant Association, about 70% of women employed in restaurants experience sexual harassment as often as on a daily basis. Shocked? I'm not, I think the number is probably higher. A lot of this harassment is at the hands of male customers, because it is culturally acceptable to say inappropriate things to servers and

bartenders. It's so much a part of the culture that most women in these jobs believe it is "part of the job." It's widely known and talked about but incredibly under-reported, mostly because people are scared to lose their jobs if they complain. The so-called "boy's club" is still here; women are not believed when they report assault and harassment and are shunned,

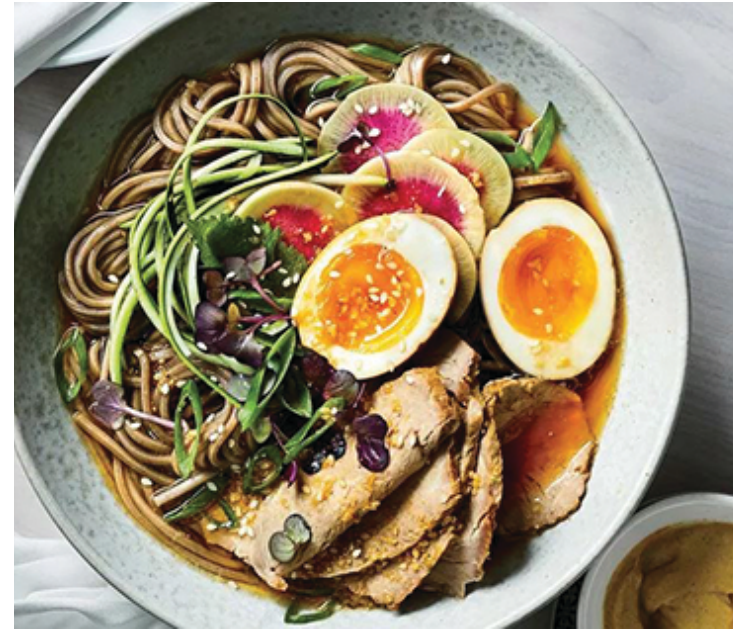
demoted, punished by losing their shifts, or subjected to quiet firing techniques, which is also a form of harassment. Although the vast majority of victims are women, men are subjected to it as well. Male victims are even less likely to report or even to speak up against it. It doesn't have to be this way.

As a young cook, twenty years ago, I knew what I was walking into. I was not naive. I knew there would be sexism, and I knew I'd have to deal with a lot. The dirty, hot, offensive kitchens were romanticized by Anthony Bourdain, and it made that life seem appealing, somehow. The sacrifice seemed worth it in the name of culinary greatness. The difficult, painful road to success is legitimized by the glory of it all. It doesn't have to be that way. I've implemented anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies in all my kitchens throughout the years, which is uncommon. I've dealt with so much pushback and backlash for just aiming to improve people's work lives. I've heard everything from, "How are we supposed to have fun now?" to "If I wanted all these rules, I'd go work for a corporation." If your idea of having fun at work is terrorizing your employees or coworkers with unwelcome, explicit sexual content, harassment, and mental abuse: do better. Let's eradicate the toxic, violent, abusive culture of restaurants within the next 25 years.

What's at stake? The next great chef, the next great restaurant, the next great culinary innovation. My generation lost so many great people to suicide, drugs, alcohol, burnout, and disillusionment. It doesn't have to be that way. Today's young people are not putting up with the old ways. I'm happy to see that. Young cooks expect better conditions from culture to hours and labor load. Pay is on the rise, the profession is gaining legitimacy, and benefits are becoming a common part of the contract. Respect should be "part of the job."

The fact is this is one of the best, most exciting industries to be in. Restaurants are where people fall in love, meet their spouses, find lifelong friends and mentors. Food is love; bringing people together, creating something beautiful, cooking for someone and making their day better or their special celebration unforgettable—this is the meaning of life. I love the beautiful chaos of it all, the comedy and the drama.

In the last 25 years, we've come a long way. More women are in the kitchens than ever before, and there's a conscious move to push women forward, yet only 23% of executive or head positions are held by women. It's not only that women are passed over for promotions, but the conditions are



Ramen

a deterrent: from something as small as work uniforms, to lack of maternity leave, to the big one—income inequality. Did you know almost all uniform and linen supply companies carry only men's styles, designed for men's bodies? Only in the last decade did we start to see new, smaller brands emerge that make women's chef jackets and pants, but the costs are usually up to five times that of menswear. It doesn't have to be this way. Let's work harder to eradicate unnecessary barriers for women in the industry. The last 10 years also saw a big shift away from a masculine to more feminine style of menus, cooking, techniques, and use of ingredients. Molecular gastronomy, almost exclusively practiced by men, has all but disappeared. A lot of great innovations and techniques of MG have been incorporated into the mainstream, however. Chefs are infusing, dehydrating, and vacuum cooking, and xanthan gum is on every spice rack. What's gone is deconstructed dishes, gels, foams, and flash freezing. The future is female, indeed. Chefs are reaching for their grandmother's recipe cards; plate design is inviting and nostalgic; and flavor and substance rule over gimmicks and tricks, smoke, and illusions. Feminine cooking is not flashy. feminine techniques utilize a lot less toys and tools and rely more on developing skills, sense of taste, and intuition. This is the future.

Here we go 2025, as we all hope for magic on December 31st, our collective optimistic wish for a better future is cast. The collective "we" have plenty of regrets; let's learn from them and leave them in the past.

The quarter century also brought us Food Trucks, and Ramen went mainstream! We all wanted to know where our food came from and how to eat healthier. We became obsessed with farmers markets and locally sourced ingredients. Local businesses bloomed.

Vegan and gluten-free diets pissed off chefs all around the world but grew into a beautiful movement for sustainability, vegetable-forward menus, plant-based foods, and functional processes like fermentation.

The last 25 years also gave us artisanal bread, coffee, and avocado toast! Instagram made us all "foodies," and Yelp was spawned—a satanic torture device for the social media age. We "Americanized" more foods from around the world, and now can get Korean and Indian at a fast-food chain, like we did with "Mexican" food in the '90s.

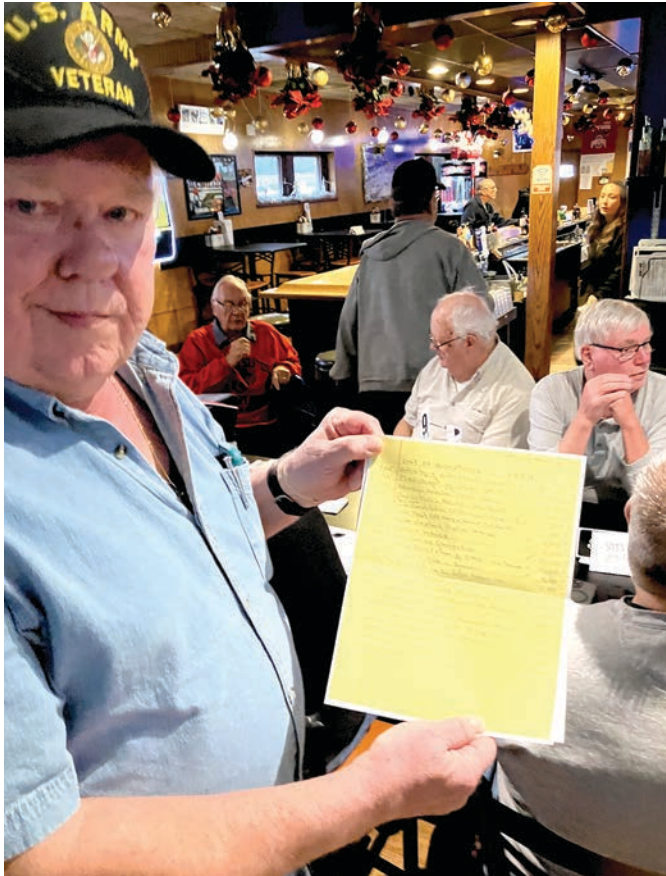
Life is a recipe. Let's make a good one for the next 25!

Happy Holidays!



Avocado Toast

Roosevelt Post 58 Reviews its 2024 Giving and 2025 Planning



Post 58's Commander Terry Zacharyj reported an impressive list of causes Post 58 supported in 2024 through generous donations, totaling \$135,000.



Photos by Rich Weiss

Post 58 held a meeting at Srinan Cafe in Bedford (where the original Post 58 sign now hangs on a wall) to review the Post's support for charitable causes over the course of 2024. This veterans organization, originally housed on Professor in Tremont, continues to have a strong impact across Cleveland—and in the Tremont area, particularly—every year.



by *The Tremonster*

Commander Terry Zacharyj called the November 16th meeting of Roosevelt Post 58 to order at 11:05 a.m. at Srinan Café in Bedford, with officers Commander T. Zacharyj; 1st Vice, B. Samokyszyn; 2nd Vice, B. Berdys; Treasurer, M. Polichuk; Sgt. of Arms, J. Meyers; Judge Advocate, R. Grabow; Adjutant, T. Matia; and Director, J. Pastva, present (M. Delaney and E. Blind, excused). Members and guests present were D. Ernst, D. Burkhardt, J. Lecznar, S. Lishchuk, E. Landrau, D. Cyngier, L. Lustig, T. Mollett, J. Rutkowski, and R. Weiss. During the meeting, Post 58's Commander Terry reported an impressive list of causes Post 58 supported in 2024 through generous donations, totaling \$135,000. After the meeting, *The Tremonster* asked Terry to describe the kinds of donations the Post has given to Tremont-area organizations in recent years. Terry answered, "The Ukrainian Museum – Archive (UMA) was a very interesting donation, and I'll tell you why they chose the UMA to be one of the recipients: The UMA is bringing over a lot of Ukrainians that are displaced after the taking over of their villages after the Russian invasion," he said. "These Ukrainians have escaped to America, come here to Cleveland, and the UMA has found members of the Ukrainian community to take them in—many in Parma—and they help find them jobs, help them learn a new way of life, help them get a car." Terry added, "And they did the same thing for my parents when they came over in 1952: got them a job and helped them out." The Post donations have not been small. "I think our most recent donation was \$20,000, but I think we also gave them another \$20,000 the year before," Terry said. "And just for the record, in 2025, we're looking at making a substantial donation to the UMA for that purpose. So, yes, we're doing a good deed. From a little neighborhood ethnic club that would always serve Polish dill pickles, we've done a good deal throughout the years." Terry listed other recent Tremont beneficiaries: "Merrick House was one of them. St. Augustine—quite a bit for St. Augustine—and the Post gave \$10,000 a year or two ago toward the restoration of the church bells at St. John Cantius." It was also at the November meeting that Treasurer Mike announced he is retiring from all PLAV activities at the end of his term as PLAV State Commander.

This is bittersweet news as Mike is a Legend within the PLAV and Veterans Communities, both at the local and national levels. Here is a list of the positions Mike has held since 1993: 1) Post 58 member since 1993; 2) Post 58 Treasurer since 1999; 3) State PLAV Commander: First Term – 2002 – 2005; Second Term – 2013 – 2015; Third Term – 2023 to 2025; 4) National PLAV 2nd Vice-Commander: 2006 – 2008; 5) National Acting PLAV News Editor: 2008 – 2009; 6) National PLAV 1st Vice-Commander: 2010 – 2012. Mike leaves an amazing legacy with the PLAV, and he will be missed. Following the meeting, we asked Terry to describe his own relationship with Mike. Terry said, "Mike and I grew up together; we met each other playing soccer in Lincoln Park—the area where there are no trees across from where the Ukrainian Museum is today. That's where the Ukrainians used to meet on the weekends—the parents, the mothers, and the kids—and play soccer. The men would play cards; the women would sew and knit. That's where I met Michael at around the age of 12. We belonged to the Ukrainian American Youth Association. We went to public schools and Lincoln [West] High School. The funny thing about Mike, and what made our friendship really work, is Mike and I are like The Odd Couple that used to be on television. Mike was the treasurer, and he had the knack for money, the brains; I, on the other hand, was the talker who had the gift of gab, who knew how to do what it takes to make the money." We asked Terry to describe his thoughts as he listened to his friend from youth deliver a speech announcing he was stepping down as Post 58 Treasurer. "There was a big void that I felt coming. My mind was traveling," said Terry. "Sure, I'm still going to be able to talk to him, but he prefers not to be involved with the Post or any of the paternal organizations that he is stepping down from. He wants to get away—he's older in life, he wants to spend time with the grandkids while they're growing up—and he's paid his dues. But when he was giving that speech, I felt sad. I felt sad." At the end of Mike's November parting announcement, 1st Vice-Commander B. Samokyszyn spoke to how much the Post appreciates all that Mike has done and thanked him for his service.



Commander Terry Zacharyj, Treasurer Mike Polichuk, and Adjutant, Tom Matia (from left to right)

Also at the meeting, R. Grabow read a card to the meeting attendees thanking Post 58 for a get-well card sent to him. Rich Weiss, Publisher of *The Tremonster* and associate member of Post 58, visited the meeting and discussed how *The Tremonster* will be promoting the activities, past and current, of Post 58 in upcoming issues of the newspaper. Terry reported he found a great meeting place in Newburgh Hts. at the American Legions Post on E. 42nd street of Harvard Ave., and Post 58 members are welcomed there. Terry also gave an overview of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., a non-partisan, non-political, and non-sectarian organization, which offers many services to all Veterans. They are a 501(c)3 organization that is made up of mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military.

Terry proposed that Post 58 should look into supporting Blue Star Mothers of America with a future donation. Terry concluded by reporting that the Post needs to recruit more members to sustain the organization into the future. *The Tremonster* asked for more details after the meeting on who the Post seeks to become members. Terry said, "We're open to anybody—we have people who are not service related; we call them Honorary Members. As long as somebody has a desire to help the cause, to help what we stand for." The next meeting of Roosevelt Post 58 will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the American Legions Post on E. 42nd St. and Harvard Ave., date TBD. Terry adjourned the meeting after a motion by J. Meyers was seconded by D. Burkhardt. *Tom Matia contributed significantly to this report.*



Treasurer M. Polichuk (third from left) announced at the meeting that he is retiring from all PLAV activities effective at the end of his term as PLAV State Commander. This is bittersweet news as Mr. Polichuk is a Legend within the PLAV and Veterans Communities, both at the local and national level.



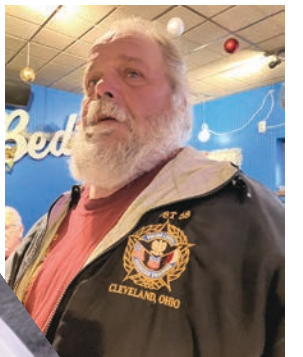
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Officers of the Post, 1995

Photo courtesy of Post 58



Bohdon Samokyszyn, 1st Vice-Commander of Post 58, modeled his blue Post 58 windbreaker.

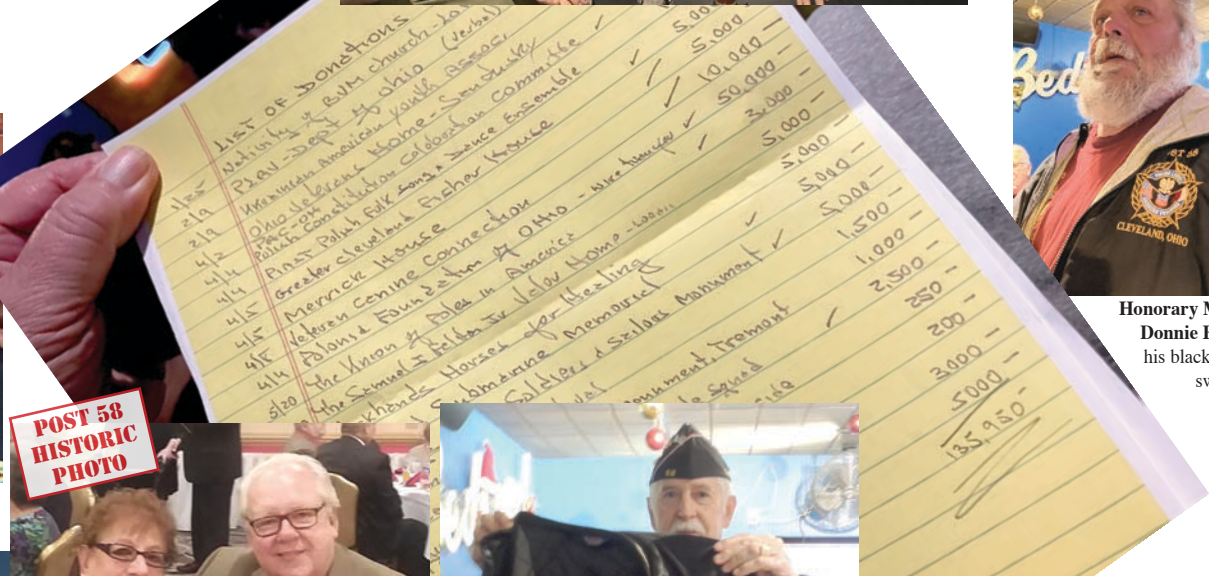


Honorary Member Donnie Ernst, in his black Post 58 sweatshirt



Photo courtesy of Post 58

A television report at the old Post 58.



POST 58 HISTORIC PHOTO



Brett Holycross, Sirnas Cafe Owner-Operator, with Member Elliot Landrau, veteran and retired police officer.



Taras and wife Darlene Photo courtesy of Post 58



Mike Polichuk, proudly modeled his Post 58 jacket.

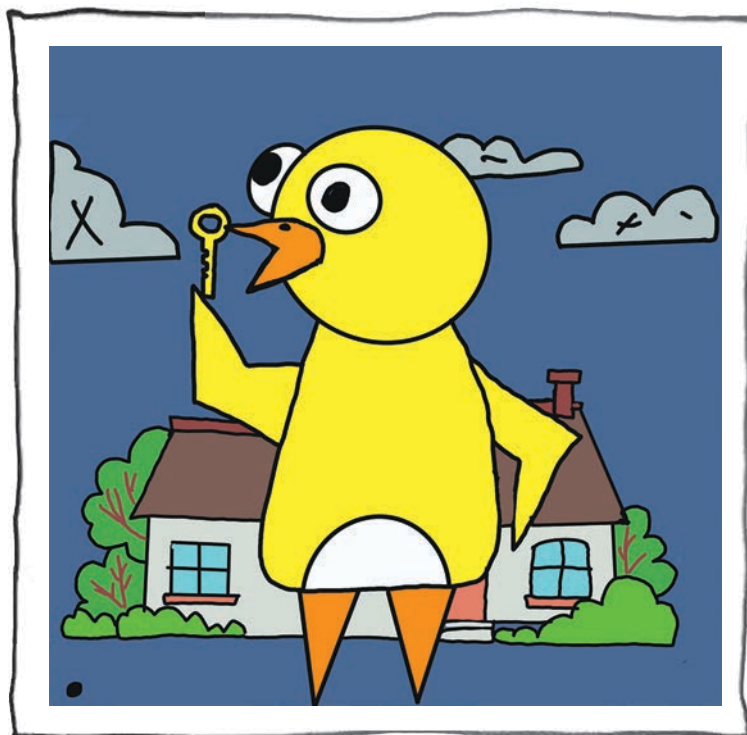


Commander Terry Zacharyj and Treasurer Mike Polichuk, at the Roosevelt Post 58 November meeting

The Adventures of Tremont and His Friends

The Last Straw (part 3)

The Sign Guy 1972 *David Witzke*



©2024 David Witzke

Kaiser Gallery Changes Hands



by Tanya Kaiser

Tanya Kaiser has announced the sale of Kaiser Gallery (2418 Professor Ave) to Sam Skelton, marking an exciting new chapter for this celebrated Tremont art space. Opened by Tanya in the challenging year of 2020, Kaiser Gallery has since become a cherished fixture at the corner of Professor and Jefferson Avenue, known for its dynamic exhibitions and engaging public programming that connected deeply with Cleveland's arts community.

Reflecting on Tanya's impact, Donna Grigonis, Director of Real Estate and Economic Development at Tremont West Development Corporation, shared, "We're grateful for Tanya's dedication, which has shaped this corner of Tremont and strengthened our vibrant arts community. She has truly kept the momentum going in the post-COVID landscape. While we'll miss her, we're excited to see Sam build on her legacy and keep that momentum growing."

Julie Dahlhausen, Executive Director of

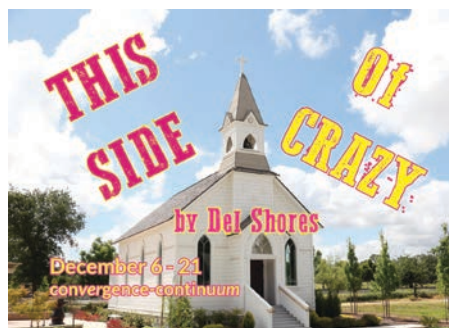
Tremont West Development Corporation, echoed this sentiment, adding, "Tanya and Kaiser Gallery has played a vital role in shaping Tremont's arts culture, and it's truly been a pleasure to have them as part of our community. We are saddened by Tanya's departure but are equally excited to extend a warm welcome to Samuel Skelton as he takes the helm, and we look forward to seeing his vision unfold. Tremont remains a vibrant arts community, and we're excited for what's to come."

The gallery's new owner, Sam Skelton, is a NE Ohio native filmmaker and photographer. Sam has been living in Tremont for the past nine years and hopes to add another great hangout to the already vibrant neighborhood.

Sam's vision for the gallery includes a rebranding effort in the new year including a patio buildout, though he assures the community that the space will remain a hub for artistic expression, public engagement and live music. The gallery held a soft opening in late November to welcome Sam Skelton and partners to Tremont as they work to build on the gallery's vibrant legacy and bring fresh energy to this beloved arts space under its new name, "Riff's."

Look for the doors to re-open on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Professor in early 2025, as its new owners build on the gallery's vibrant legacy and bring fresh energy to this beloved arts space.

'This Side of Crazy' Now Showing at Convergence-Continuum through 12/21



From the brilliant and hilarious mind of Del Shores comes a brand-new comedy about fame, family, and finding your way back home. THIS SIDE OF CRAZY by Del Shores

Ditty Blaylock, the most prolific singer in gospel music history, is being honored by Gospel Music Network. All the stars are aligning to showcase Ditty's songs on her TV special. But there is one glitch. A little hiccup. Ditty has promised a reunion of The Blaylock Sisters, her three adult daughters who were once national sensations – "little superstars for Jesus."

Rachel, the oldest sister, who lives with Ditty, is furious when she finds out that her baby sister Bethany, an atheist and lesbian, and Abigail, her middle sister who has "anger issues" and currently is confined to a mental facility, are headed home. What the public doesn't know is that these complicated sisters have been estranged for over twenty-five years – and extreme past circumstances, including a husband left in a coma, have made reconciliation impossible.

Once the sisters are reunited, secrets are revealed, tempers flare and family wounds are exposed. But... the show must go on! Featuring Jason Romer as Ditty Baylock, Katelyn Cornelius as Rachel Baylock, Susan Stein as Abigail Baylock and Samantha Cocco as Bethany Baylock. Directed by Kate Smith. Now through December 21st. Visit convergence-continuum.org for more information.

Buy Scan to buy Tickets



Tremont History Project 2025 Calendars for Sale



Discover our rich history with the 2025 Tremont History Project Fundraising Calendar!

Perfect for history buffs and proud locals alike!

Every purchase you make directly supports our mission.

Please help us achieve our goals and positively impact our community. Thank you for supporting the Tremont History Project — your contribution is invaluable.

Two versions are available in limited quantities: Historic Images of Cleveland and Churches of Tremont. They are \$10 each for pick-up or Tremont delivery or \$15, including shipping.

Purchase yours today:

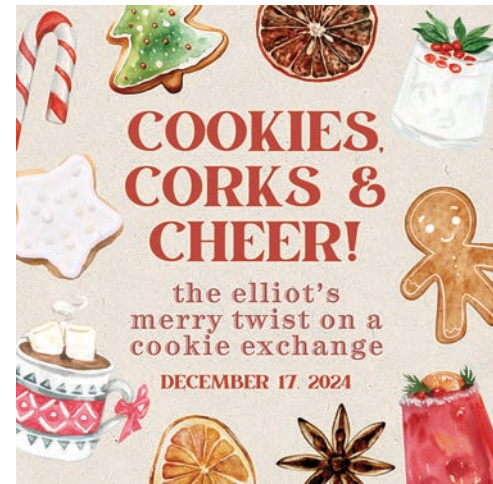


SCAN ME

or or by visiting: <https://bit.ly/30L4FEG>



Cookies, Corks & Cheer! The Elliot's Merry Twist on a Cookie Exchange



Tuesday, December 17, 6-9 PM, at The Rosehip Room

Indulge in a variety of homemade cookies, curated wine pairings, festive cocktails, savory snacks & a hot cocoa bar. Enjoy cheerful music, pose for a photo with Santa, and vote for your favorite cookies in the cozy holiday atmosphere of The Rosehip Room. 25% of all ticket sales will be donated to Go With The Good Foundation, a local organization that provides financial assistance and support to those impacted by advanced brain tumors. If you bring a gift card of \$20+ value you will get a free drink ticket and your gift card will be donated to patients living with brain cancer as part of a comfort package.

Tickets (21+)

Cookie Crate Admission | \$35

- Receives a take-home cookie crate
- 1 drink ticket
- Chance to win best cookie prizes
- Digital cookie recipe book

Here to eat the cookies not make the cookies | \$20

- 1 drink ticket
- Digital cookie recipe book



Order Your Own Tremont Flag!
Artwork by Tremont Flag Design Contest Winner: **Natalie West**

*Pole not included

*Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for delivery

Order your Tremont flag today by visiting [The Tremonster](http://TheTremonster.org/tremont-neighborhood-flag) web page

or by scanning this QR code:

