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2011 - 2026
15 Years of The Tremonster

The Tremonster

A Tremont neighborhood newsmagazine by and for Tremonsters | TheTremonster.org

Jossi's Bakery & Cafe Brings Family Baked Goods to Literary Ave. & Thurman Alley



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Lincoln Park Mural Project Update



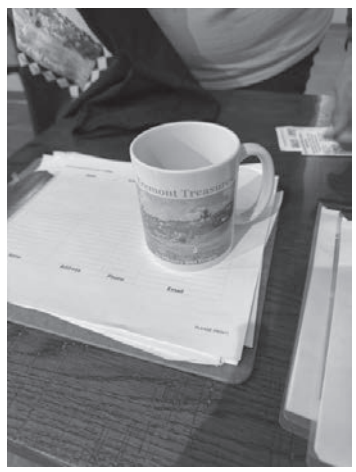
by Angelica Pozo

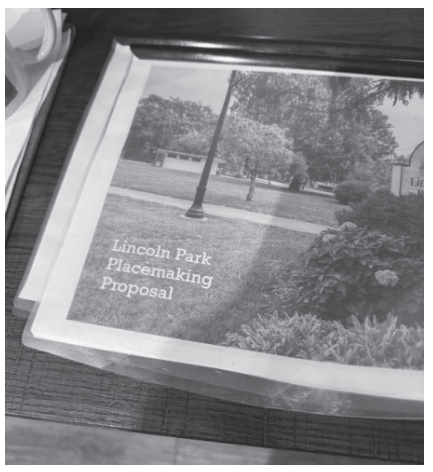
Slowly but surely work continues on the Lincoln Park Mural Project and will do so into Summer 2027. There is still much to do in the studio before we're ready for installation.

Consider getting some of our new merch (Tremont Treasure t-shirts and mugs!) to help support our efforts. These would make great holiday gifts for your favorite Tremonster. Limited quantities available of short sleeve t-shirts in S,M,L,& XL.

Now taking custom pre-orders for alternate shirt styles and sizes - v-necks, long sleeves & hoodie styles available.

Check out our t-shirt design featuring Ora Coltman's painting! Pease scan this link to find the order form:







"Little Russia, Cleveland," the painting by Ora Coltman, hangs in Jefferson Branch as a gift from Ora Coltman, who was the building's architect. The Lincoln Park Mural Project is featuring this image for it's fundraising campaign.

2026-2027 Tremont, Duck Island, & Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive

By Tremont West Development Corporation "Holiday Food Drive"

As rising food costs continue to strain household budgets, many of our neighbors are finding it increasingly difficult to put food on the table. In the spirit of community, compassion, and neighbors helping neighbors, Tremont West Development Corporation and our neighborhood block clubs are launching the Annual Holiday Food Drive on November 20th, continuing through January 15th. Together, we can help ease the burden of food insecurity and make a meaningful difference for individuals and families throughout our community.

Your generous online donation helps ensure that our neighbors have access to nutritious food and essential items during the holiday season and beyond. Every dollar donated will go directly toward supporting local food pantries and hunger relief programs serving individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

How to Give

Making a difference is easy! Simply scan the QR code below, click **Donate**, select your contribution amount, and choose your neighborhood block club team to receive credit for your gift. Then, select the food pantry or hunger center you'd like your donation to support.

And don't forget the friendly competition! Follow along as our neighborhood block clubs come together to see which team can make the greatest impact. It's a wonderful opportunity to build community spirit while supporting a cause that touches so many lives.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors — The Heart of Our Holiday Food Drive

While a little friendly competition adds to the fun, **the true goal is much bigger: neighbors coming together to help neighbors.**

Through your generosity, we can lend a helping hand to individuals, children, and families facing food insecurity in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend, while also supporting the 13 Cleveland-area food pantries, hunger centers, and community ministries that serve our wider community.

Our participating food pantries and community partners include:

- **The Greater Cleveland Food Bank**
- **Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland**
- **Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry**
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry**
- **Mega Church Food Pantry (Scranton Road)**
- **Pilgrim Congregational UCC Food Pantry**
- **Re:Source Cleveland: Pathway for Newcomers**
- **St. Augustine Family Center (Catholic Charities Hot Meals Program)**
- **Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry**
- **St. Malachi Church – Back Door Ministry**
- **St. Augustine Parish Community Cupboard & Closet**
- **St. Michael the Archangel Parish Food Pantry**
- **West Side Catholic Resource Center**

Every donation, large or small, makes a difference. Together, we can help put food on our neighbors' tables, ease the burden on struggling households, and remind one another that we are part of a caring and connected community.

Thank you for sharing the spirit of generosity, compassion, and community that makes our neighborhoods such special places to call home.

The Annual Holiday Food Drive is proudly organized by Tremont West Development Corporation in partnership with our neighborhood block clubs serving Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend.

Organized by Tremont West Development Corporation "Holiday Food Drive"

Jossi's Bakery & Cafe Brings Family Baked Goods to Literary Ave. & Thurman Alley



Photos by Rich Weiss

Inside Jossi's Bakery & Cafe the atmosphere is creative, warm, and inviting. A constant stream of Tremont regulars and the aroma of fresh baked goods and coffee keep the environment interactive and social.

by *The Tremonster*

"This shop I feel is an expansion of my love." That's how Jossi Rivera describes her three-month old shop, Jossi's Bakery & Café (720 Literary Ave.).

Take one step inside and you'll know what she means. It feels like love was mixed into the baking ingredients and into the coffee, but also guided the vibrant decor, the tables and seating, and the deli case illuminating homemade sweet and savory Latin-flavored offerings.

"I always was looking for a place where you can eat a good pastry, but with great coffee. Because sometimes you can find a great coffee, but they don't have a good pastry—or maybe it's no homemade pastry—because there are many coffee shops around here," said Jossi. "But I want something that makes me feel like, okay, it's home. It's homemade. So that why it's very artisanal, our work here, our bakery."

In evidence, Jossi's deli case looks like a rustic art gallery.

Among the artworks featured in that deli case are globally inspired empanadas, turnovers, pies, rolls, artisan cupcakes, cakes, cookies, and concha (brioche with orange zest and jasmine water topped with a sugar coating).

"We make everything from scratch and our coffee is from our country, from Honduras."

After just a few months in operation, Tremont residents have already taken note of the unique coffee offered by Jossi's Bakery & Café.

"And our specialty coffees are made with some spices from Honduras," she added. "That's why, when you drink one of our coffees—as an example the Honduran mocha—it's like you drink something cozy for your soul."

Jossi and her family have invested more than their time and labor in their new Tremont shop.

"We want to share not just our food, but the experience." Jossi gestured to the wall art, pointing out the strong Honduran inspiration, and the handmade, family feel woven through her new shop. "Everything—every detail, we did. I did that [Jossi pointed to the intricate plasterwork design spanning the wall behind the bakery counter]. It's a coffee plant, and I did that with a piping bag."

This Tremont space was love at first site for Jossi. When she saw the "For Rent" sign in the window, it was her first and only call. Building owner Giancarlo Calicchia told *The Tremonster* his experience was similarly a quick turnaround.

Giancarlo said, "What happened was, I don't like to put up for-rent signs. Then Melonie (Giancarlo Calicchia studio office manager) said, 'You should put it up because it's been empty for a long, long time.' I put the sign up and I got a call from Jossi 10 minutes later."

He feels he could not have found a more perfect tenant if it had taken 10 months.

Jossi recalled, "After we spoke with Giancarlo and he believed in us, my kids were saying, 'Mom, this is the moment.'" Jossi smiled proudly, "This is our moment for them."

Jossi's kids believed this was the right place at the right time for good reasons. Jossi remembers them saying, "'It's very important to the community, here,'" she said. "They love Tremont because they know Tremont is art; it's culture. So, they said, 'Mom, this is the place and we are your partners.'"

The entrepreneurial family was very intentional about offering something unique.

"We created this space for this community, and we want to be different—to give another option to the customers around here," Jossi explained. "There are many coffee shops here, but the most beautiful things in Tremont are eclectic. [Tremont has] different cultures and that's what the people here love: different."

Tremont is indeed a home for the different.

"So, my partners here, they support and believe in mom. And, of course, Giancarlos is like a cocktail of good things. That's why I feel like it's so successful here."

The signs of success are visible: from the street, the shop's large, inviting windows reveal lines of Tremonsters forming regularly at the busy counter of Jossi's Bakery throughout the shop's open hours.

Jossi has learned more and more about her new Tremont customers. "They don't want something commercial," she said. "They want quality, and they want to support a small business."

The palpable small business enthusiasm in our Tremont neighborhood has not been lost on Jossi. She said that, while any community might tell a business, "We want to support you," Jossi has learned that Tremont residents really mean it. She said she's been encouraged by Tremont's culture of believing in small neighborhood businesses. For Tremont residents, "It's very important to support a small business," Jossi said. "And when it's a family business, they believe more."

Jossi and her family-partners are not surprised by the warm reception Jossi's Bakery & Café has received from its new neighborhood. She beamed, "Because it is the community of Tremont: diversity."



Jossi's Bakery staff are overwhelmed with the reaction of our Tremont community to their hand-made, scratch baked goods and international offerings.

TREMONSTER CONTEST: Where's The Bird?



If you think you know the mystery location of this issue's bird character mural, submit your answer by **Scanning this QR code**:
...or **mail to 3143 Cleveland St., Cleveland, OH, 44109**
...or **email to TheTremonster@TheTremonster.org**.
If your correct answer is selected at random, you will be awarded our contest grand prize announced in the next issue of The Tremonster.

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

GRAND PRIZE: $25 gift certificate to Fat Cats!

Submit your answer to be entered to win a Fat Cats gift certificate

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

We Have a Winner!

Announcing last issue's 'Where's the Bird' Contest Answer:



1115 Rowley Ave.!

Dear **Gunja Piya**,
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:

"1115 Rowley Ave. It looks like somebody's garage."

Your $25 gift certificate to Fat Cats was forwarded to the email address listed in your submission.

Yours,
~The Tremonster

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St. Theo's Dome Fire Restoration Campagin:
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New Prosperity Bird Mural Installed in Memory of Chef Ed Kubitz



A second Bird Mural was installed along the exterior of Prosperity Social Club's east wall to memorialize longtime chef Ed Kubitz, joining the existing memorial for bar manager Brian Bodnar.

Photo by Rich Weiss

by *The Tremonster*

A second memorial bird mural was recently installed next to the "Stop messin around" memorial bird mural that has adorned the exterior east wall of Prosperity Social Club (1109 Starkweather Ave.) since 2016. The new bird mural dons a chef's hat and is depicted saying, "I love you more."

We asked Jeffrey Siefer, a Prosperity employee since 2019, to explain the new mural's meaning.

"To tell that story, we've got to start with the mural that was on [the Prosperity exterior wall] already," he said. "So, this has been a bar-restaurant since 1938, famously known as Dempsey's until 2005, when it became Prosperity Social Club. I've been around since 2019, but not a day would go by that I didn't have my equally frustrating and very amusing interactions with Ed, who was running the kitchen."

Jeffrey recalled, "At that same time, I heard tons of stories about Brian Bodnar, who [was a widely loved personality] behind the bar of Prosperity. Everyone knew him. Unfortunately, I never had the pleasure, but it seems like he and I'd be kindred souls—equal parts grumpy, yet incredibly kind, and amazing at the same time. Brian and Ed were great buddies."

When Brian passed, Prosperity commissioned The Sign Guy, Dave Witzke, to create a bird mural memorial on the exterior restaurant wall.

"I know how much of an impact Brian's mural had made on everyone who knew him, including his family. They still come by and will leave flowers on his mural."

Bonnie Flinner, former owner, sold Prosperity in 2021 and, according to Jeffrey, "Myself and Ed came along with it to the new group, Buildings and Food, run by Will Hollingsworth."

Ed Kubitz, Prosperity's longtime chef, passed away this past July.

"[When Ed passed], I thought of the mural. It seemed only fitting to explore something in the same vein as Brian's mural. So, I made a call to Bonnie, who had hired me."

Jeffrey knew Bonnie had a long history with Ed.

"She opened the place as Prosperity, hired Ed, and worked with him for…I want to say 15 years. I talked to Bonnie and I'm like, 'Bonnie, I think we want to do a similar mural up front as what you did for Brian. What are your thoughts?' And she's like, 'This is how I would do it. I think it's a great idea.'"

Each of the Prosperity memorial bird characters are depicted speaking phrases.

"Apparently, Brian and Ed, being great buddies, that was their go-to phrase back and forth to each other: 'Quit messing around'—that was not only to Ed, but he got the lion's share of it—and Ed would always just sarcastically respond, 'Yeah, I love you more, buddy.'"

Will Hollingsworth, current Prosperity owner (and founder and CEO of Buildings and Food), commented on The Sign Guy's new restaurant mural by email, "Dave paid us an enormous honor by lending his talents and his time to this humble memorial to our friend."

The Tremonster caught up with mural artist Dave at the end of the long Prosperity bar recently, having dinner with his longtime friend, Kelly (no relation to the Bodnar family). We asked Dave about both mural creation processes for the two Prosperity memorials, one 10 years after the other.

"So, the first one I made at work because I was still living in Tremont. I didn't have a garage to work on stuff," he said.

10 years later, Dave has his own production space.

"The second one, I made him in my garage," Dave said. "I went and picked up the metal from this place in Old Brooklyn, came home and did everything in the garage."

Although some portions of the second mural required professional machinery, Dave said all the work was done in his own garage. "Different parts I would take to work and do there if I could and then bring it back home and put it all together. Then I painted it, then clear coated it, and drifted (a final buff and polish process) out of the garage."

Dave's friend Kelly has been watching The Sign Guy create his artwork for over 20 years.

"I actually met him when he was newer to Tremont in 2003, 2004—this is when he was first getting started doing the metal signs, and he was wiring them to the fences to decorate Tremont," she recalled.

"I had moved to New York and when I came back, we reconnected. Most recently, we just decided to get together."

Most recently, Kelly has tagged along on The Sign Guy projects all over Tremont and beyond. The thing she notices most frequently is how surprised many mural customers are by Dave's speed. "The most amazing thing about him is just how fast he is." She said, "People sometimes get upset because they're expecting this long, drawn-out, eight-hour thing, and it's like 45 minutes—in and out."

When the second Prosperity memorial bird mural was finished, the restaurant came out to Dave's garage to pick it up and install it next to the slightly re-positioned original mural, facing each other.

The restaurant made sure all their mural adjustments were done with the blessing of the Bodnar family.

"We still are close with Brian's sister, Kelly," said Jeffrey. "Right after Bonnie, she was the next call I made." He said, "I was like, 'Hey, Kelly, what do you think about this?' She's like, 'I love it. Do it.'"

Prosperity was very important to Ed, but Ed was incredibly important to Prosperity.

"I mean, it's not hyperbole to say that this place wouldn't still be up and running if it wasn't for Ed Kubitz walking through this door and taking that job when he did. He would've hit his 20-year anniversary if not for the cancer that took him. Not only for his amazing cooking, but the impact he made on the people that he worked with and the people that ate his food. It's one thing to make great food. It's another thing for people to come in and ask specifically, "Hey, is Ed working today?" One part because they wanted to eat his food, and another because he was just an entertaining son of a bitch."



Photo by Rich Weiss

Jeffrey Siefer



Photo by Rich Weiss

Bird Mural artist Dave Witzke dined at the Prosperity bar with friend Kelly.



Photo by Rich Weiss

Both Prosperity memorial murals, installed.



Photo courtesy of Prosperity

Brian Bodnar (1974- 2016)



Photo courtesy of Prosperity

Former Prosperity Owner Bonnie Flinner & Ed Kubitz



Photo courtesy of Prosperity

Current Prosperity Owner Will Hollingsworth & Ed Kubitz (1979- 2026)

Tremont Remembers Dr. Joy Marshall

The physician who joined Tremont Functional Rehab and Health last year died October 4 at 77.



Photo by Rich Weiss

Dr. Joy Marshall died in early October from injuries sustained in a biking accident.

by *The Tremonster*

Tremont was shocked to learn of the loss of Dr. Joy Marshall, the 77-year-old general practice physician at Tremont Functional Rehab and Health Collaborative (2401 Scranton Rd.) in early October.

She was an avid member of Cleveland's biking community and was frequently seen on our local bike routes and trails. She died October 4th, eight days before her 78th birthday. Dr. Joy joined Tremont Functional Rehab and Health last year (see 'The Doctor Is In: Dr. Joy Marshall Joins Tremont Functional Rehab and Health,' by Bruce Checefsky, *The Tremonster*, September 2025).

Tremonster Brooke Willis raised awareness of her passing in a public Facebook post that day. He said Dr. Joy was a "beautiful friend, biking advocate and community activist." Family and friends gathered that afternoon at the new Reserve Care Hospice Center Cleveland to celebrate her life. No further details of any additional memorial or service were announced.

According to a tribute published on Outspoken Cyclist, a *Substack* newsletter and podcast by Diane Jenks, Dr. Joy was injured in September when she crashed her ebike after encountering an animal minutes from home on her way back from dinner.

A Cleveland Heights native, Dr, Joy married at eighteen and lived for a year in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Upon her return to Cleveland, she and her husband opened a University Circle restaurant called Fantomas (now L'Albatros).

When her marriage ended, she raised her children on her own, periodically on public assistance. Dr. Joy worked as bar wait staff and a cook at Cleveland's Nighttown restaurant while she raised four daughters.

A Nighttown lunch regular, Louis A. Toepfer (then Case Western Reserve University president), asked Dr. Joy about her life plans. She said she wanted to go to medical school. He told her that her life story, full of rich experiences, would all count when it came to program acceptance, and he steered her toward CWRU's pre-med dean. She was accepted to the university and began medical school at age 36.

She brought her life experiences into the examination room with her. Last year, Dr. Joy told *The Tremonster* many of her patients reminded her of herself—people who had been "beaten down before they could even get started"—and she wanted to convince them that success is still possible.

Medicine ran in Dr. Joy's family. Her father was a physician at the former Huron Hospital in East Cleveland. As a little girl, she would ride along on his Saturday rounds. She noticed that patients smiled when he walked in, and that she wanted to give people that feeling, herself.

When *The Tremonster*, *Plain Press*, and *La Villa CLE* profiled her in September 2025, Dr. Joy described approaching every new patient from the perspective, "This is a partnership. I work for them."

Her fluency in Spanish was vital to providing services to Tremont Functional Rehab clients from the southeast Tremont and Clark-Fulton areas, home to Cuyahoga County's most concentrated population of Hispanic residents.

When it came to referrals, Dr. Joy preferred handing her patients off to a person rather than a department. She cited this as her favorite benefit to working alongside her colleagues at Tremont Functional Rehab and Health—they could see her patients more quickly, instead of wasting weeks waiting for follow-ups.

She wore her convictions on her sleeve: that vaccination is both a public health and a moral issue, and that United States should provide universal health care.

Diane Jenks knew Dr. Joy for more than 50 years. She described her as "One of the most impressive human beings I've ever met." She said Dr. Joy was one of the most loved and respected family physicians in Cleveland. She recalled finding Dr. Joy one morning in the late 1990s in tears over an elderly patient who had not received the help she needed. Diane described finding her grieving and angry at a system that Dr. Joy felt had failed her patient. Dr. Joy took her patient's challenges personally.

She was a lifelong cyclist who, per the tribute, commuted across town to work most days and would use her bike to run errands. She and Diane first met in the 1980s, when Dr. Joy rolled up to the registration table for the former Emerald Health Triathlon (a half Ironman that Diane founded) in a Dawes mixte bicycle with a baby seat.

She was surprised Dr. Joy actually planned to ride that bike, but Diane reported that Dr. Joy finished the swim, bike, and run ahead of quite a few other competitors, and thought it was "No big deal."

Her independent streak made the news, too. Diane recalled that Dr. Joy was once ticketed in Cleveland Heights for rollerblading down a main street—an officer wrote her up for riding a toy in the street. Dr. Joy contested the ticket in court, she lost, and she paid a $75 fine. Then, Dr. Joy kept right on skating.



Photo courtesy of Outspoken Cyclist

"Joy's Garden" by Neil Slobin



Photo courtesy of Brooke Willis

Dr. Joy Marshall, biking enthusiast

Email questions, comments, & content to The Tremonster:

The Tremonster is an independently-owned community newsmagazine by and for the neighborhood of Tremont in Cleveland, OH. A "Tremonster" is anyone who loves our shared Tremont neighborhood. Any Tremonster may submit content for consideration by the 15th of each month to:

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ScottRadkeArt.com

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St. Theodosius Cathedral Fire Restoration Nears the End of Phase I

Contractors have successfully installed structural supports for the future main dome's base and cylindrical section

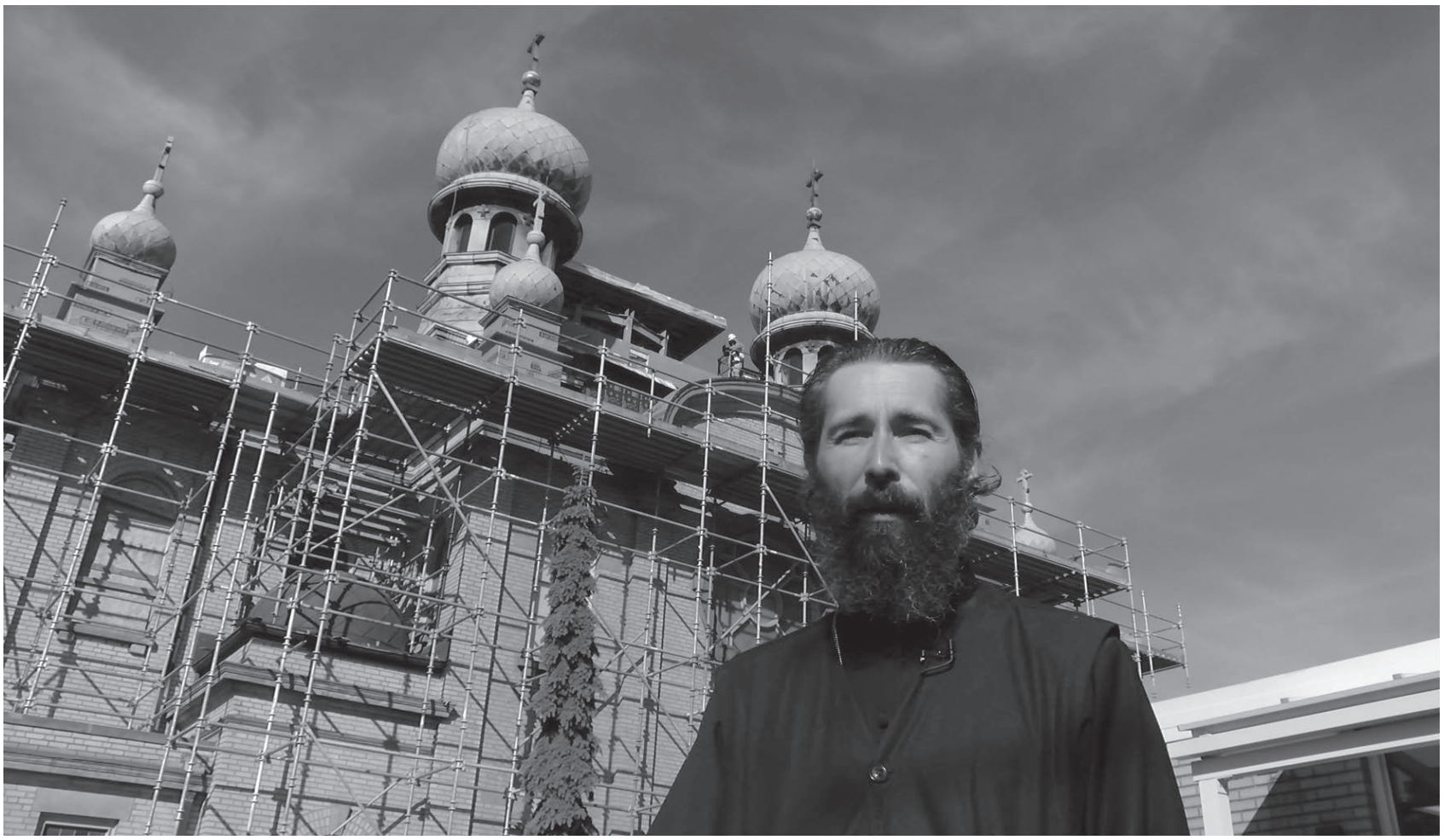


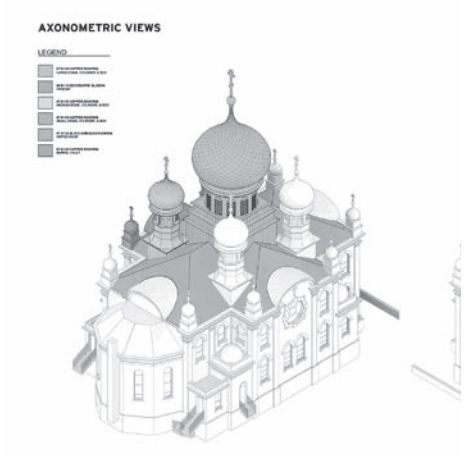
Photo by Rich Weiss

St. Theodosius Cathedral Priest & Dean Ján Čižmár in front of scaffolding and workers currently finishing Phase I of the cathedral fire restoration work.

by Ján Čižmár
St. Theodosius Cathedral Priest & Dean

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends, this week, we completed the installation of the shingles and continued installing copper on the small domes.

Some of you have asked whether we could clean the old green copper. Actually, the green patina is preferable because it is a natural protective layer that helps preserve the copper. At the same time, it is exciting to see the new copper being installed on the Cathedral domes. The last time this view was available to the people of Tremont was in 1912, when our cathedral building was completed!



We are currently working on the second and third tiers of the center square box ("wedding cake" style for the main dome structure). We have also successfully installed the structural supports for the main dome's base and cylindrical section.

Over the next two weeks, we hope to begin interior work on the western side of the cathedral, where the fire originally started, destroying the roof and partially damaging the ceiling.



Photo by Andrew November

St. Theodosius Cathedral successfully installed the structural supports for the future main dome's base and cylindrical section.

This work will include rebuilding the western gable arch.

Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and kind support. It is deeply appreciated as we continue the long journey of restoring our beloved cathedral!

Scan this code to **donate**:

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CHUCK SLUSARCZYK JR.'S THE NATURE OF TREMONT

Reviewing Our Neighborhood's Autumn Wonders

by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr

Hopefully, you had a chance to notice the days getting shorter, the nights getting cooler, and our trees as they took on color...there was so much to enjoy this autumn in Tremont. I must confess, fall is my favorite season. In our neighborhood, we saw the yellows of Honey Locust, elms, and cottonwoods, the reds of maples, as well as a variety of other color patterns on display in the various trees and shrubs we have here, and it was a great time for biking and hiking



A hillside of Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus Typhina*) on the East 9th Street Extension in the Flats. Sumacs are wonderful native trees that blaze with color in the fall, accented by their red seed clusters called 'drupes,' which are an important winter food source for many birds.

Autumn is also the time for some of the birds that nest further north in Canada to migrate through our area on their way south to their wintering grounds in the southern U.S., the Caribbean, and Central and South America. These are called neotropic migrants, and they include many of the warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and orioles.



This is a Blackpoll warbler (*Setophaga striata*), a champion long-distance migrant. They nest in the northern half of the continent in the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska, and they set out on a south-eastward migration until they reach the Atlantic coast, where they fatten up and set out on a grueling, three-day, non-stop flight over the ocean until they reach a stopover in either Puerto Rico or Hispaniola, where they take a break before heading on to South America. Read more about this migration here:

CHUCK SLUSARCZYK JR.'S THE NATURE OF TREMONT

Reviewing Our Neighborhood's Autumn Wonders

We also have birds from up north that come down to spend the winter with us, such as the winter finches and sparrows, while on the lakefront, gulls, ducks, and geese come to utilize what Lake Erie offers.



Two Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) pursue a smaller Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) while trying to steal its fish at Edgewater Park.





The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is more common some years than others, it all depends on the seed crop from their preferred trees up north. If the crop is poor, many move south, if the crop is good, more will stay on their home turf.

The beautiful White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albifrons*) comes in from Canada to spend the winters with us, and they have just arrived in large numbers this week! This bird has two color morphs, a white-striped, as seen here, and a duller, tan-striped morph. This species also has a fascinating social-sexual life which you can read about by scanning this code:



A Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) showing off some early color at Scranton Flats. They get the name "staghorn" from the fuzzy branching and stems of the tree, which resemble the velvet on the growing antlers of a deer.

Larger green spaces, such as Public Square downtown, Erie Street Cemetery on East 9th, Wendy Park on the West Side, and Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve on the east, are well known for harboring scores of migrant birds, but honestly, every green space counts, no matter how small. Lincoln Park also qualifies, but because it lacks any sort of ground cover, it primarily hosts birds that forage higher up in the trees.



Often called the "snowbird" because when you see them, you know winter is coming, this is a Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco Hyemalis*), and while it may not look like one, they are actually a type of sparrow.



Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*), such as this one here at Erie St. Cemetery downtown, are very small but noisy birds, and their high-pitched calls can be heard all over the city presently. They are short-distance migrants, coming down from just a few hundred miles north of here, and most spend winter in the southern U.S., but some can be found in Ohio too.



This is a young male Common Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas), a type of warbler. While they breed here in Ohio, many breed further north and pass through during spring and fall migration. This bird is on its first migration.

Now, you may not think your chances of seeing any of these birds are very good, but you would be wrong. During migration, (most of which takes place at night), our green spaces—parks, backyards, gardens—get invaded every morning by hungry birds that have just crossed Lake Erie or more, and even seemingly insignificant green spaces can serve as important resting and feeding places for these tired, hungry birds. No matter where you go, you are sure to see the wonders that autumn brings, be it the colors of the trees, the migrating birds that pass through on their way to the tropics, or the birds that come to stay. There's so much to see...get out and enjoy!

JULIE DAHLHAUSEN'S SERVING THE TREMONT COMMUNITY

A Season of Community, and a Look Ahead to 2027



Photo by Rich Weiss

Event attendees took a seat on the Lincoln Park Gazebo steps during another well-attended Tremont community event.

by Julie Dahlhausen
Executive Director, Tremont West Development Corporation

As we head into the holiday season, I find myself reflecting on what makes Tremont such a special place. It's not just the buildings, businesses, parks, or events—it's the people who continually show up for one another, invest in this neighborhood, and make community happen. This year has given us plenty of reminders of that, and I'm excited about what lies ahead.

We recently wrapped up our annual fundraiser, "Celebrate Tremont," bringing together neighbors, local businesses, sponsors, and friends to celebrate the people and places that make our neighborhood so special. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised more than $30,000 to support Tremont West's programming! These funds help sustain the events, services, initiatives, and opportunities for connection that bring people together and strengthen our neighborhood.

Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, donated, volunteered, and helped make the evening a success. It means a lot to have a community that not only rallies around Tremont but invests in its future.

As we move into the holiday season, we have another opportunity to come together through our **Annual Holiday Food Drive**, which runs through January 15th. This year, donations will support 13 Cleveland-area food pantries, hunger centers, and community ministries serving our wider community. Food insecurity continues to affect families across our region, and I hope you'll consider joining us in whatever way you can—whether by donating food, making a monetary contribution, or helping spread the word. Donations can be dropped off at our office (2406 Professor Ave.) or at satellite locations across the neighborhood.

I'd also love for you to join us for a little holiday cheer! On **December 17th, from 6–8 p.m.,** we'll gather at **Riff's (2418 Professor Ave)** for finger foods, light refreshments, a cash bar, and an opportunity to drop off your food drive donations and spend some time with your neighbors. Consider it an excuse to take a break from the hustle of the holiday season, catch up with friends, and celebrate the spirit of community that makes Tremont special. I hope to see you there!

Looking ahead to 2027, we have a lot to be excited about. Building on the momentum of the Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley Mentor-Castle-Clark (HBR-MCC) Neighborhood Plan, we'll begin a similar planning effort in Metro North. This next neighborhood study will give residents the opportunity to share their perspectives, identify priorities, and help shape recommendations around housing, transportation, public spaces, neighborhood connections, economic development, and infrastructure. Our goal is to turn community voices into a thoughtful, actionable roadmap that helps guide future investment and improvements. Neighborhood plans don't change things overnight, but they help us establish a direction, build partnerships, and make sure future opportunities are grounded in what residents want to see.

Tremont continues to evolve, and it's exciting to see the interest in our neighborhood and the possibilities that come with it. There's a lot of work that happens behind the scenes before an idea becomes a project, but I'm encouraged by the conversations taking place and look forward to seeing continued investment take shape throughout Tremont. It's a reminder that our neighborhood's story is still being written, and our community will have an important role in what comes next.

One project I'm particularly excited about is the future of Tremont Montessori. Working alongside Sustainable Community Associates and, most importantly, our community, we look forward to bringing new life to this site and exploring what it can mean for the neighborhood. Projects like this carry so much possibility, and I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together as this process moves forward.

Of course, 2027 will also bring back many of the traditions that make Tremont a destination and give us so many opportunities to see one another throughout the year. The Tremont Farmers Market and Walkabout Tremont will return May through October, Taste of Tremont will pop off in July, and we'll continue hosting the many meetings, gatherings, celebrations, and smaller events that bring neighbors together in between. Sometimes those smaller moments - an impromptu conversation, a community meeting, a volunteer opportunity, or simply running into someone with a familiar face—are just as meaningful as our biggest events.

As we close out the year, I want to thank our residents, business owners, block clubs, volunteers, community partners, board members, and staff. Tremont West's work is made possible because of your willingness to participate, collaborate, lend a hand, share an idea, and care about the future of this neighborhood. I hope you'll continue to follow along with our work and all that's happening in Tremont by following us on Instagram at **@tremont.cleveland** or on Facebook at Tremont West Development Corporation. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter at **experiencetremont.com/about/newsroom** to stay up to date on neighborhood news, local business spotlights, upcoming events, community initiatives, and ways to get involved.

I hope you find time this holiday season to slow down, support a local business, connect with a neighbor, and enjoy the community we've built together. There is a lot of good ahead, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish in 2027. On behalf of the Tremont West Board and staff, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, good health, and joy!

Donating to the Holiday Food Drive is easy: Simply scan this QR code, click **Donate**, select your contribution amount, and choose your neighborhood block club team to receive credit for your gift. Then, select the food pantry or hunger center you'd like your donation to support.

VETERANS OF TREMONT **sponsored by PLAV Roosevelt Post 58**

Roosevelt Post 58 Donates Funds to Five Organizations



Photocourtesy of Post 58

Roosevelt Post 58 donated $10,000 to Tremont's Ukrainian Museum and Archives. UMA Director and resident scholar Andrew Fedynsky (second from right) accepted the donation check from Post 58 First Vice-Commander Bohdan Samokyszyn (left), Post 58 Commander Terry Zacharyj (second from left), and Post 58 Officer and Adjutant Tom Matia (right).

by Terry Zacharyj
Roosevelt Post 58 Commander

Roosevelt Post 58 leadership and members were particularly busy from August through September, donating Post 58 funds to five organizations. Four are in Tremont and one is in Ohio City. Since Roosevelt Post 58 sold their building nearly five years ago, they have been gradually knocking their profit down to zero by donating funds to various organizations who are, in their own way, supporting the Veteran community.

Here is the list for this year:

- **St. Augustine Hunger Center - Tremont. Received $5,000.**
- **Merrick House - Tremont. Received $5,000.**
- **St. John Cantius Church - Tremont. Received $5,000.**
- **Ukrainian Museum and Archives - Tremont. Received $10,000**
- **St. Herman House - Ohio City. Received $5,000.**

Roosevelt Post 58 members are grateful to be able to donate funds to these excellent organizations.
Publisher's note: The Tremonster is grateful to have also received a $1,000 donation from Roosevelt Post 58 in support of our ongoing veterans reporting.









POETRY BY GIANCARLO CALICCHIA

sponsored by Giancarlo Calicchia Gallery Studio

"Knowing Eachother"



by Giancarlo Calicchia

Knowing Eachother

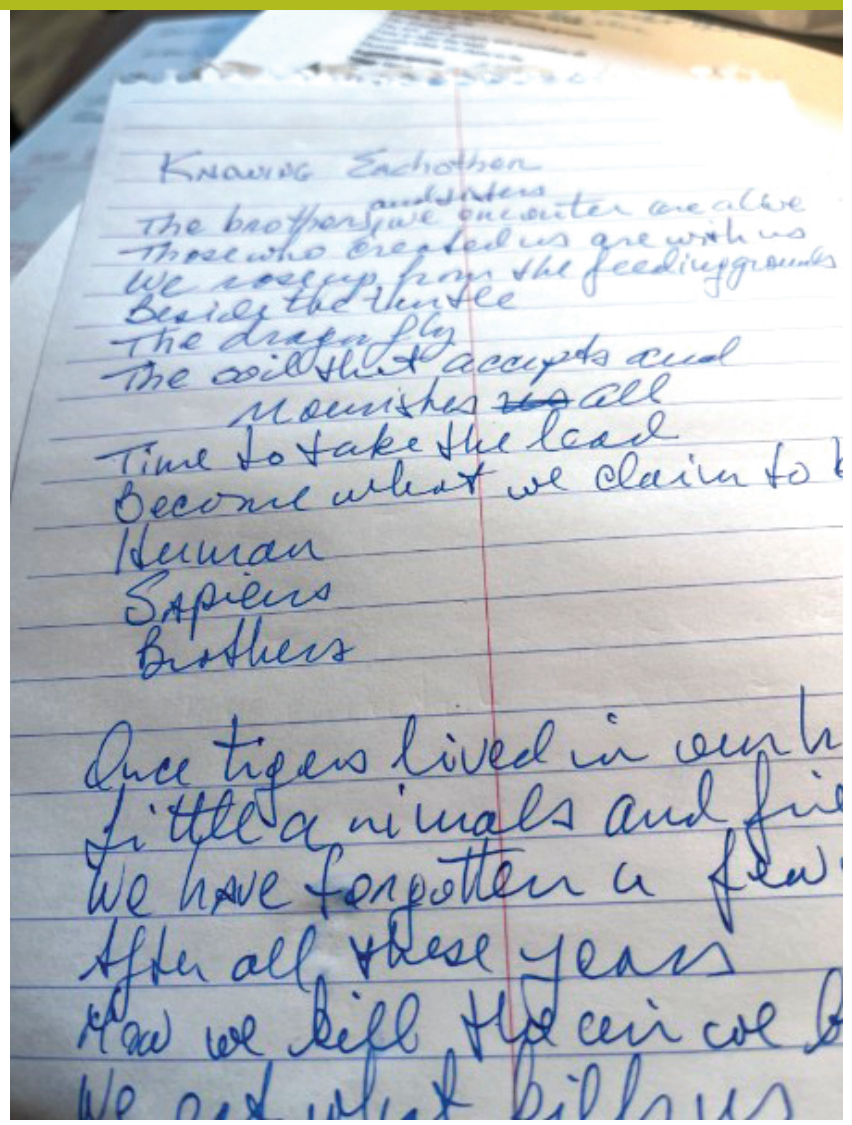
Brothers and sisters we encounter
Those we created
Those who created us
All rising from the feeding garden
Beside the turtle
The dragonfly
On the dirt that nourishes us all
It is time to take a leap
Be what we claim to be

Human
Sapiens
Universal

Once tigers lived with us
Other animals with friends
We understood their words

All these years
Yet to understand
We have learned so much
Yet we kill the air we breathe
We eat what will kill us

We look to Moon and Mars
For intelligent life
Fearing it seems to find ourselves
Let us come back come back
Come forth to love and guide
This Earth of ours is all we got



"Creative Development" Podcast Hosted by Giancarlo Calicchia Debuts on TremonsterTV with Guest Ronaldo Rodriguez Jr.



I am Giancarlo Calicchia and I cordially invite you to view my video podcast, Creative Development.
In this new podcast series, we will be talking about a wide variety of subjects with guests you might know from around the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio.

The function and the purpose of this podcast is the concept of growth and development. I'm a sculptor, so I'm always in the process of creating things from raw materials that the earth has created for us.
In our first episode, we talk with Tremont resident Ronaldo Rodriguez Jr.

Ronaldo is a REALTOR® at The Socher Team (Keller Williams, Greater Metropolitan) who helps individuals and families find homes that fit their lives in Cleveland's neighborhoods. As a community journalist, he extends that commitment by keeping residents informed and giving them a stronger voice in shaping the future of the places they call home.
Please like and subscribe to Creative Development with Giancarlo Calicchia to be notified when future episodes of my new podcast drop on TremonsterTV, the YouTube channel for The Tremonster.

Scan this code to find the Creative Development podcast:



Only in Tremont: A Fish Story



Photo by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.'s backyard goldfish pond had never needed a repair for 20 years.



Photos by Rich Weiss

Chuck's favorite goldfish



Photos by Rich Weiss

Chuck's goldfish transport route from his fish pond to his Tremont neighbor Giancarlo Calicchia's fish pond was less than 350 feet, total.



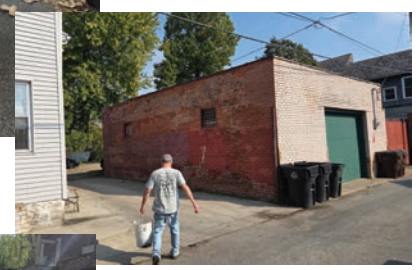
Photo by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

A fallen tree branch pierced the pond during a storm in late summer.











by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

Hello friends. I just want to tell you a little story about neighborly connections and unforeseen circumstances, and how these things can intertwine.

I live on Thurman Alley and have a small backyard garden that I've always considered my little "urban oasis." It's tiny, but when I step back there, I am transported to my peaceful place.

The star of my backyard is a little pond some friends and I dug 20 or more years ago, a watering hole for migrating birds with natural stone surroundings and a waterfall. I also had a thriving little goldfish population.

Last spring, a storm caused a large branch from my neighbor's tree to fall into the pond and puncture it, after which, it started leaking. It was a slow leak, but it was enough that it kept me filling it up at least once a week to keep it to the level that my fish and I were accustomed to.

With winter approaching, I was faced with a dilemma. I knew I couldn't keep filling the pond up, and besides, it was getting expensive. In all the years I've had the pond it would freeze over solid, but it was deep enough...and with a continuous waterfall, my fish had always survived.

Unable to find the leak, I feared the pond would drain over the winter and my fish would perish.

I needed to drain the pond, find the leak, and make repairs.

Starting late this fall, I quit re-filling the pond so that it would drain to the level where the leak is, but I needed a home for my fish.

Enter Giancarlo Calicchia, my long-time neighbor down the street. I've known of him forever, and we met years ago, but we have never really talked. I knew he had a fishpond in his beautiful sculpture garden next to his studio on Literary Ave. [see The Tremonster issue 91, "Giancarlo Calicchia: Painter, Sculptor, Developer, Gardener."].

I contacted him, explained my situation, and he graciously allowed me to transfer my fish to his pond, which is about 350 feet away from mine.

It was easy for me to just walk over there with a bucket and make the transfer.

Although the water level was low, when I tried to catch the fish, the sediment stirred up and I couldn't see where they went, so it had been pretty hard to catch these guys. I could usually only catch one at a time on my days off from work. I managed to catch the third of my four large fish and transferred it over, but the one that remained was my favorite of the four big ones.

The water level in the pond was still going down, and I really wanted to catch this last goldfish.

On a Friday in late October, another concerned Tremont friend joined me to help and by mid-afternoon (after three hours of fishing with two nets), my "White Whale Goldfish" was finally safely secured in a bucket of pond water, transported just a few back yards away, and arriving at 'Casa Giancarlo.'

It took over two weeks to collect them all, but they all went to join the happy fish already residing in Giancarlo's pond, and there they shall live the rest of their lives.

Now that my pond has drained to a point where it stopped leaking, I have an idea of where to search for the hole that the branch caused and where to begin repairs. With luck, early next spring I can make the repairs, and I will have a functioning pond again, but I'll need some new fish!

Giancarlo...if you happen to read this...I can't thank you enough, and I have some fish food for you!



KEN SCIGULINSKY'S MEMORIES OF TREMONT AVE.

Living in the Neighborhood in the 1940s



W.25 Weekend Outdoor Market 1944

by Ken Scigulinsky

Humans are endowed with five senses: taste, smell, touch, hearing, and sight. Each of those senses can contribute to life's memorable experiences by recalling past events that may have been full of joy or were emotionally challenging.

Recently, I noticed that my sense of smell seemed to have dulled without apparent cause. I subsequently learned that victims of COVID frequently experience loss of taste and smell, but I have never had COVID.

That loss of smell gave me the idea to share some notable smells that I experienced as a kid. These are some indelible smells that bond me to the Southside. These are smells that I did not purposely seek, like trying to smell a flower – instead they flooded my immediate space with a distinct aroma.

Although I remember many of the smells that surrounded me, describing them was a challenge. I'm not the guy that sniffs a glass of wine and is able to identify 10 fruits, herbs, and flowers that are contributing to the wine's bouquet. I recognize that some of the following may not be unique to the Southside, but they are the ones that registered with me during my formative years.

STEEL MILLS.

Most obvious was the all-encompassing influence of the byproducts from the steel mills. While it was somewhat wind dependent, the contributions from the blast furnaces were able to engulf much of the Southside with thick, gritty smoke possessing the odor of coal, rotten eggs (sulfur dioxide) and steel. In the winter, the distinction between the steel mills and the coal-heated homes as the culprit was difficult to make.

WET BRICK. Going outside to play after it rained, the brick that used to cover Tremont Ave. quickly emitted a smell that was carried into the air as the sunshine heated the bricks. It was a humid, earthy, rusty smell that was not unpleasant. Interestingly, the smell that emerges after a light rain has been given a specific name, petrichor, but is not associated with bricks.

LINCOLN PARK POOL.

In the 1940s, there was a circular children's pool in the center of Lincoln Park and in that vicinity the air was especially humid with the smell of chlorine and a little musty element. The same smell was prevalent when I went to the YMCA Clark Avenue pool or the pool at Brookside Park.

TREMONT SCHOOL.

The school building had its own array of smells. In winter, some classrooms had the overwhelming odor of melted wax because mischievous kids would press crayons against the hot radiators to create a colorful puddle of wax on the floor. A trip to the school cafeteria during lunch meant you were breathing hot humid air from the steam tables disbursing the aroma of the hot meal of the day.

WEST SIDE MARKET.

Probably the West Side Market was the source of the most pleasurable smells. Walking through the covered produce stands there was a mixed fragrance of the abundant vegetables and fruits, some of them cut open to entice the customers with a sample. The alluring smell of ripe strawberries might blend with cut pineapples before you passed a stand with the earthy smell of potatoes mingled with overly ripe tomatoes. Adjacent to the outside covered produce stands was the large brick building containing stalls selling sandwiches, bakery goods, cheeses, spices, meats and fish; but to me the most enticing of all the smells resident in that building came from the smoked meat stands – hams, kolbasi, smokies, and other delicious items.

CHICKEN PROCESSING.

Slightly north of the West Side Market was a chicken processing building. While I waited inside for my mom to select a live chicken, I had the whole array of lively activity to amaze my youthful mind. It was a very unpleasant smell that was associated with that building – and it greeted you before you even entered. It was a pungent mixture of the feces in the chicken cages coupled with the smell of everything associated with a chicken as it was slaughtered and had its feathers removed under steaming hot water mixing with blood. It was always difficult to breathe in that facility.

FARMERS' OUTDOOR PRODUCE.

In the 1940s, there was a farmers' outdoor produce market on the west side of W. 25th, south of the West Side Market. On Saturdays, vendors occupied sidewalk space next to the curb as well as part of the street. Shopping with my mom during canning season, the dominant fragrance was dill, used for canning pickles. The smell of dill was very intense with a fresh, grassy highlight. It is still my favorite herb smell and easily identified.

HOLY GHOST CHURCH.

Close to my home was the Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, where I frequently attended Sunday mass and made my communion. The mysterious service was conducted in a language I didn't understand, but I always enjoyed one aspect of the experience: when the priest came down the aisle swinging a smoking metal container on a chain.

The burning material was incense containing frankincense and the container was called a thurible. The rising smoke was more like perfume with a rich aroma—spicy and woody. In my adult life, I have occasionally experienced a similar smell and it quickly reminds me of my special, mysterious church experience.

There were many other signature smells that I remember from within our house that would have existed in neighboring houses on the Southside. Some, such as the aroma of yeast from rising bread dough, or cabbage being boiled are still found in today's homes. I know some of my fellow Southsiders will also remember the smell of a damp basement or the delightful fragrance coming from one of the local bakeries.

All of those sensory fingerprints connect me with a wonderful childhood living on Tremont Ave.



Photos by Ken Scigulinsky

West Side Vegetable Stalls



Steel Mill Smoke

Dr. Bob Litkovitz Announces His Upcoming Retirement from Tremont Animal Clinic



Photo by Rich Weiss

Dr. Bob Litkovitz announced he will retire at the end of 2026 from his long career as a veteranarian at Tremont Animal Hospital.

by Dr. Bob Litkovitz

Dear Clients and Friends,

After 37 rewarding years of practice, I am writing this letter to share that I have made the decision to retire.

I am lucky to have been in a career that has made this decision difficult. My final day of practice will be December 31st, 2026.

It has been my privilege to care for your furred family members over these many years. I have shared the joy of new puppies and kittens and the loss of our senior friends with so many of you.

The deep bond between humans and animals will never cease to amaze me.

Through the happy and sad days, you have allowed me to be a part of your pet's life, and I will be eternally grateful. Getting to know so many people and their families has also been a wonderful part of this job.

There is the pain of losing old friends at this stage, but also the wonder of seeing children grow into successful adults with their own families and pets. I value every relationship and will miss that part of practice as much as caring for your pets.

I have worked with many wonderful veterinarians and staff over the years but none better than this group at Tremont Animal Clinic. The concern and collaboration on difficult cases is unlike anywhere else I have ever worked. You would be surprised at how many veterinarians here know your pet's name and medical conditions even though they have never seen you.

The support staff is amazing and helps make everything work. They all love animals and it shows when they handle them as if they were their own pet. Everyone here helps make a sad day better and a good day a celebration.

I am happy to be able to leave my patients in very capable and caring hands. You can expect to receive the same exceptional level of care for your pets from the doctors and staff at Tremont Animal Clinic with no changes needed on your part.

Thank you for your kindness and trust.

Thank you for sharing your pets and family.

Thank you for more wonderful memories than anyone deserves.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dr. Bob Litkovitz

Dr. Bob Litkovitz

Tremont Animal Clinic

Now at convergence-continuum: ‘The View Upstairs’ by Max Vernon

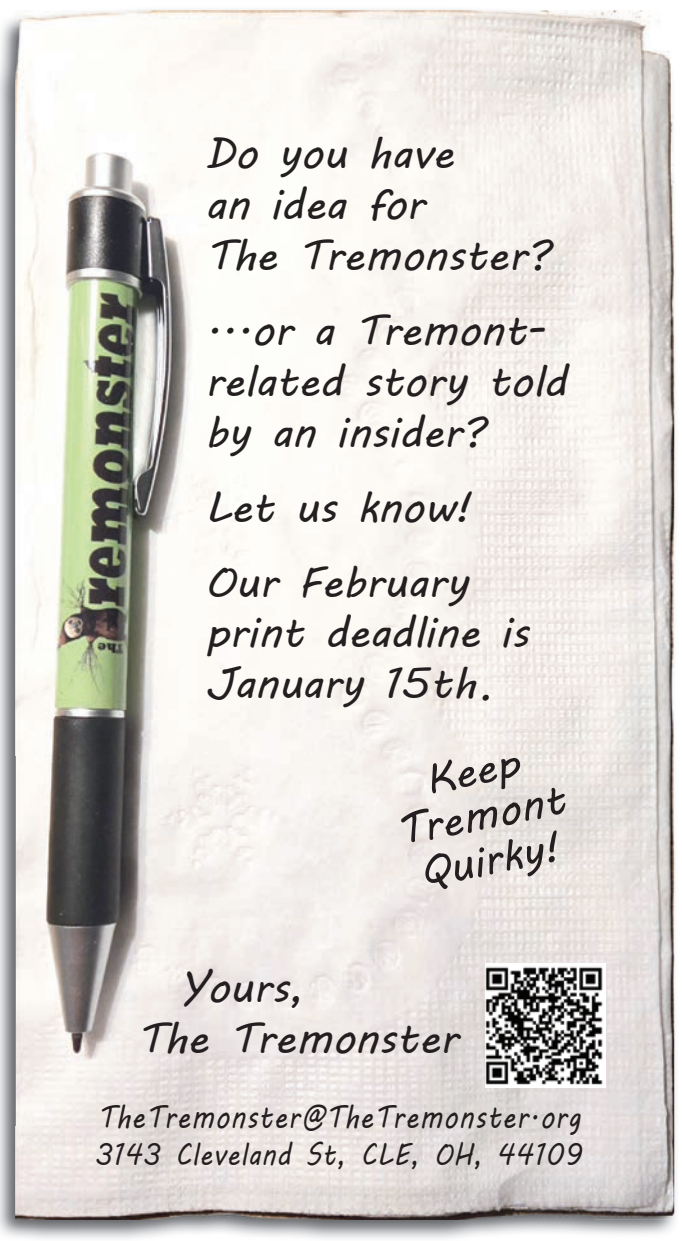
convergence-continuum presents:
The View Upstairs
by Max Vernon
November 27th - December 19th
The View Upstairs is a fiercely original, soul-stirring tribute to queer history, community, and resilience. With a lush, genre-blending (and sexy) score by Max Vernon, this boundary-pushing work transports audiences to 1973 New Orleans and into the Upstairs Lounge—a vibrant gay bar and haven for queer joy, chosen family, and radical self-expression. The line between past and present, audience and experience, dissolves. You’re not just watching the Lounge come alive; you’re inside it.
Inspired by the true story of the deadliest attack on the LGBTQ+ community in U.S. history prior to the Pulse Nightclub tragedy, The View Upstairs reclaims a moment many tried to erase. It invites us to gather both in celebration of and in solidarity with those we lost, and challenges us to confront what allowed the world to look away.

“Vernon’s score, which draws from the period’s disco, soft rock and glam sounds, is solid. Highly theatrical, unexpected and marvelous... channels a vintage camp that is all too rare nowadays.”
– The New York Times

“A jambalaya of sexed-up tunes... The View UpStairs has all the ingredients for an iconic cult phonomenon.”
– EDGE Media

“Vibrant! The View UpStairs is a moving homage to LGBT culture, past and present. The show swells with heart.”
– Entertainment Weekly

“Absorbing, disarming, filled with biting laughs yet deeply moving in the most unexpected ways. The View UpStairs is an ambitious and deliciously dissonant score with excellent and unrelenting material.”
– Richmond Times-Dispatch









The Adventures of Tremont and His Friends — “Old Innerbelt Bridge Days”

