



KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 36318
CINCINNATI, OH 45236

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 CINCINNATI, OH
 PERMIT NO. 1481



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

NEWS BY, FROM, AND FOR THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

THE CARING PLACE: MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Sharifah Tafari, a resident of Kennedy Heights, is active in the neighborhood. She is a board member of the Community Council and District A, a member of the Local School Decision Making Committee at Schroder High School and Woodford Paideia Academy, the coordinator of our community garden, and advisor of the KH Youth Council. She, with her grandmother, mother and children, Issachar and Nijah, have donated and volunteered at The Caring Place over many years, so she is very familiar with the mission.



Sharifah says, "As I begin my service I hope that we continue to serve our community members in need with dignity and love by providing monthly assistance with food, clothing, personal care, household products, and needed services. I want us to sustain and expand our donor support through individual, church, school, and other partners enabling us to meet more needs. I want to increase our team of volunteers by connecting with our young folks at local schools and universities. It is important to me that we build the beloved community by valuing each person that comes to our door and encourage them to be actively involved in our diverse, inclusive community. The Caring Place is a beacon of light in the beloved community of Kennedy Heights."

Sharifah is a member of Holy Trinity Eritrean Orthodox Church in Hartwell, of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, and a member of the Citywide Kwanzaa Committee. She owns a local small business called Sharifah's Vegan Cuisine which provides catering, cooking classes, and is a personal chef. She loves to read, listen to music and dance, walk her dog, Charley Brown, and of course cook. She loves that our neighborhood is a walkable community!

Starting in January The Caring Place will need a volunteer (preferably with a large vehicle) to help pick up weekly food donations from Busken Bakery and Fresh Market on Monday mornings. If you are available, please call The Caring Place at 513-841-1499.



UPCOMING EVENTS

No January Youth Council Meeting

Tue. 01/19/16
 Financial Smarts for Seniors
 9:30am–Noon • KH
 Presbyterian Church
Call 513-559-4484 for reservations

KHCC Meeting • 7:30–8:30
 Community Dinner
 6:30–7:15pm • KH
 Presbyterian Church

Tue. 01/26/16
 KHDC Meeting • 6:30–8:30
 KH Presbyterian Church

Wed. 02/03/16
 KH Youth Council
 6:00–7:00 • The Character
 Building • 3500 Lumford

Fri. 02/05/16
Deadline for March/April 2016 newsletter submissions.
 Send information for events that start or occur from March 1–April 30 to Danielle Linn at : danielle@kennedyheights.org

Tue. 02/16/16
 KHCC Meeting • 7:30–8:30
 Community Dinner
 6:30–7:15pm • KH
 Presbyterian Church

Sat. 02/20/16
 ANTIGONE • Playhouse "Off the Hill" in District A • 7–8:30 • Nativity School

Tue. 02/23/16
 KHDC Meeting • 6:30–8:30
 KH Presbyterian Church

SAVE THE DATE!

No January Youth Council Meeting

- Tue. 01/19/16** Financial Smarts for Seniors • 9:30am–Noon • KH Presbyterian Church • *Call 513-559-4484 for reservations*
- Tue. 01/19/16** KHCC Meeting • 7:30–8:30 PM; Community Dinner • 6:30–7:15pm • KH Presbyterian Church
- Tue. 01/21/16** KHDC Meeting • 6:30–8:30 • KH Presbyterian Church
- Wed. 02/03/16** KH Youth Council • 6:00–7:00 PM • The Character Building, 3500 Lumford Pl.
- Fri. 02/05/16** **Deadline for March/April 2016 newsletter submissions.** Send information for events that start or occur from March 1–April 30, 2016 to Danielle Linn (danielle@kennedyheights.org)
- Tue. 02/16/16** KHCC Meeting • 7:30–8:30 PM; Community Dinner • 6:30–7:15pm • KH Presbyterian Church
- Sat. 02/20/16** ANTIGONE • Playhouse "Off the Hill" in District A • 7:30–8:30pm • Nativity School • www.district-a.org
- Tue. 02/23/16** KHDC Meeting • 6:30–8:30 • KH Presbyterian Church

Volunteers Needed!

Community Meal clean-up (1–5 times a year before Community Council Meeting) clearing off tables and putting food away, Sap Run and Beautification events this spring. Contact christine@kennedyheights.org if interested.

Sign up for the KHCC eNews and get alerts about upcoming neighborhood events and important announcements. To receive eNews messages, sign up on the KHCC website . (www.kennedyheights.org).

Montgomery Road Safety Project

The city of Cincinnati has plans to make Montgomery Road safer in the Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights business districts. Bryan Williams, from the Department of Transportation & Engineering, will come to the January 19th Council meeting to provide background and explain the process. The City has worked with the State and has secured some federal grant funds for this project.

2016 KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Dan Kasprovicz dan@kennedyheights.org
V.P., COMMUNITY PLANNING: Douglas Linn doug@kennedyheights.org
V.P., ADMINISTRATION: Rachel Foote rachel@kennedyheights.org
SECRETARY: Peggy Brown peggy@kennedyheights.org
TREASURER: Carren Herring carren@kennedyheights.org

TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE: Jean Bange jean@kennedyheights.org

Sharyl Barnes sharyl@kennedyheights.org

Dee Cannedy Lowry dee@kennedyheights.org

Sharifah Tafari sharifah@kennedyheights.org

EDITOR, KHCC NEWSLETTER: Danielle Linn danielle@kennedyheights.org

WEBMASTER: Rick Boyer rick@kennedyheights.org

The KHCC "Neighbor to Neighbor" newsletter is published with funds from City of Cincinnati NSP Funds.

MAILING ADDRESS: Kennedy Heights Community Council P.O. Box 36318 Cincinnati, OH 45236

EMAIL: khcc@kennedyheights.org

WEBSITE: www.kennedyheights.org

CONNECT WITH THE KHCC ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! I hope that you all enjoyed a safe and memorable holiday season with family, friends and loved ones. We truly had an amazing and eventful year and I want to thank you all for making Kennedy Heights such a great neighborhood to live in. We have a lot to look forward to this year, including the return of the Home & Garden Tour and the first ever Cincinnati

Games. We are always looking for volunteers to step up and take part in one of our many committees. Are you willing to spend some time to help make Kennedy Heights a better place to live or do you know someone that would be a good candidate? If so, please reach out and make a difference!

-Dan Kasprovicz KHCC President, daniel@kennedyheights.org

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Please welcome new council members: the VP of Administration, Rachel Foote and the VP of Community Planning, Douglas Linn. You may have met Doug while he was pouring wine as the Winterfest bartender! Along with his wife Danielle (the editor of this newsletter), he lives on Beechview Circle where he enjoys gardening and cooking. He is a lawyer in Mason, focusing on business litigation. Rachel, the Director of the Conference Facility at Interact for Health, has been incredibly impressed with how welcoming her neighbors in Kennedy Heights have been. Both Doug and Rachel love the diversity and supportive nature of our community and look forward to serving their neighbors. It is also a bittersweet farewell to our former VP of Community Planning, Christine Schumacher, and VP of Administration, Scott Liming. Thank you to both for their valued time and contributions to our neighborhood. Though, this is surely not the last you've heard of them: Christine is now serving as the Communications Chair, and Scott as the Beautification Chair.



2016 KH Community Council: Standing, L to R: Sharyl Barnes, Peggy Brown, Douglas Linn, Danielle Linn, Jean Bange, and Dan Kasprovicz; Seated L to R: Rachel Foote, Christine Schumacher, and Carren Herring; Not pictured: Sharifah Tafari and Dee Cannedy Lowry.

Photo Courtesy of Dan Kasprovicz

FRIENDS OF KENNEDY HEIGHTS

Many thanks to all who contributed this year to our Community Council, and especial thanks to Bob Kamp for personally inviting many of you. Because of your generosity we were able to give support to Winterfest, Juneteenth, Play in the Park, District A, our Youth Council and Community Dinners, neighborhood beautification and Litter Magic, and publish this newsletter. We look forward to your support in 2016!

Friends of Kennedy Heights (from October through November 2015):

- Leona Malcolm & Bertha Browning, Wanda & Robert Smith, Lois Conyers, Cleota Wilbekin, Robert Brumley, Sharon McCreary, Sheila & Bill Obermeyer, Willie & Frances Johnson, Charles & Michelle Dragga, Matthew Gildea, Diane Lewis, Priscilla Gilliam, Robert & Gail Cardwell, Joseph Feldhaus, Julie Graham & Judge Tyrone Yates, Jean S. Anthony, Anonymous

Become a Friend of Kennedy Heights! Your tax-deductible donation supports the bi-monthly newsletter and the events in and around the community. (Receipts sent via email or if no email address provided, via regular mail at year-end.)

Donation: Please check amount. Cash or check is accepted.

- \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.00, Other amount: \$

Name: Address: City/State/ZIP: Email:

Include my name (only) in the newsletter as a Friend of the Community: Yes No

Please mail this completed form and payment to: P.O. Box 36318, Cincinnati, OH 45236. Other one-time or recurring payment options—including credit card payments—are available at www.kennedyheights.org using PayPal. Kennedy Heights Community Council is a 501-C not-for-profit organization.

AGING IN PLACE

A Collaboration between the KH Community Council and the KH Development Corporation Housing Committee

AGING-IN-PLACE refers to the process of evaluating our current and evolving circumstances as we age and examining how we can maintain a high level of independence while staying in our current residences. The KH Senior Housing Team is now meeting with our senior residents through in-person interviews. We trust this will help us better understand the senior housing needs in our neighborhood as well as other issues of Aging in Place here in Kennedy Heights. Questions? Contact Steve Grieser at steve@kennedyheights.org.

We are presenting a Fraud Prevention Workshop for Seniors: Financial Smarts for Seniors

Tuesday 19 January, 9:30-12:00

Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church (6312 Kennedy Ave.)

Presenters: Tracy Collins, Cincinnati Areas Senior Services CEO and

Dean Crothers, US Bank Sr. Investigator

Reservations: call Mary Jo Gamm 513-559-4484

PLEASANT RIDGE LIBRARY

Please note that some programs require pre-registration. You can register online at www.cincinnati.library.org, in person at the branch, or by calling the branch at 369-4488. For questions about any of the programs, please contact the branch.

Library Closures – ALL LIBRARY LOCATIONS CLOSED on Friday 01/01.

Art for Kids! Join us for a book-based art project. Learn about an artist or type of art, then make a different project every month. Ages 4–12. **4:00 PM, Tues. 01/19, 02/16**

Color Me Calm Coloring Book Club! Come relax and enjoy the stress-relieving benefits of coloring! Bring your own supplies or use ours! Adults. **6:30 PM, Mon. 01/14, 02/1**

Cool Science! Make a different science project every month and learn how it works in this book-based program. Experiments TBA. Call the branch for information. Advanced registration requested. Ages 4–12. **4:00 PM, Thurs. 01/14, 02/11**

Family fun! Join us for a family-friendly activity every month. Families. **2:00 PM, Sat. 01/16, 02/20**

Get Crafty. Pre-registration is required to ensure that we have enough materials for everyone. Call

369-4488 or sign up at the branch. Adults, Teens. Make a beaded scarf to keep away the cold in style! **6:00 PM, Mon. 01/18**; Decorate a ceramic tile using natural elements such as beans, rice, etc. **6:00 PM, Mon. 02/15**

Let's Go Lego & Other Building Bricks! Join our new Lego Club and build with Legos, Duplos, and other building blocks and connectors on the third Friday of every month! Ages 3–12. **4:00 PM, Fri. 01/15, 02/19**

Make It Take It. Get creative! Make a craft and take it home with you. Snacks provided. Teens. **4:00 PM, Mon. 02/15**

Pleasant Ridge Book Club. Discuss *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. Adults. **2:00 PM, Thurs. 01/21**; Call the branch for February's title. **2:00 PM, Thurs. 02/18**

Story Times — Come join us for one of our story times:

Library Babies! Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, musical, scarf and puppet play for little ones and their

caregivers. Ages 0–36 mos. **10:00 AM, Wed. 01/6, 01/20, 02/3, 02/17**
Toddler Time! Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, musical and scarf play for little ones and their caregivers. Ages 0–36 mos. **10:00 AM, Wed. 01/13, 01/27, 02/10, 02/24**

Preschool Story Time! Help children develop pre-literacy skills to prepare for kindergarten with fun and educational stories, action rhymes, songs, puppets, musical instrument play and other activities. Registration required. Ages 3–6. **10:30 AM, Wed. 01/6, 01/13, 01/20, 01/27, 02/3, 02/10, 02/17, 02/24**

Teen Chef. Play with your food and eat it too! Make a food related craft or creation. Teens. **4:00 PM, Mon. 01/18**

Teen Random Club! Something new every month. Have a snack and hang out at the library. Teens. **4:00 PM, Thurs. 01/7, 02/4**

Word Processing Basics. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word 2010. Pre-registration is required. Call 369-4488 for more information or to register. Adults. **6:00 PM, Thurs. 02/18**

TELLING THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS STORY #5: LEWIS KENNEDY, PART 4

In November 1888, Kennedy told the *Enquirer* “that suburban property is in good demand,” and that he sold two houses and two lots. In the same month the *Enquirer* reported that he sold four lots on Kennedy Ave., a seven-room house for \$4,500, and a six-room house for \$3,589. In February 1889, Kennedy sold a residence in Avondale to the President of Cincinnati's Western German Bank. Later that month he sold a lot at Pleasant Ridge. Three months later it was announced that Kennedy and Alexander Clark “have gone into business as real estate brokers”. Kennedy was involved in several law suits: In 1883 he sued Martha A. Clark on a foreclosure issue to recover \$16,680, and he lost a breach of contract suit in the Superior Court. In 1884 he was sued again for breach of contract “for delivery of a number of cars of barley.” In 1887, as a result of Chicago's wheat market collapse, Kennedy was separately sued by three parties: The Third

National Bank, the Chemical Bank of New York, and Siebern. His attorney stated that Kennedy's losses were “about \$40-50,000 during the past year in speculation in wheat and other deals.” Kennedy was “compelled to mortgage his real estate to the extent of \$20–30,000... He lost \$10–5,000 in the (Chicago wheat deal)... (and) liabilities are from \$125,000–150,000... Kennedy is a man of middle age, of family, and has been in business in this city for about twenty-five years. He has always stood high in the business community.” In September Mr. Kennedy's company was appraised at \$33,140 in real estate, and \$2,100 in other assets.

In 1888 he was sued again and lost. In another situation, the *Enquirer* stated that the cause of the failure of a company (Lobnitz & Son) was the inability of the firm to collect what was owed them... They had about \$5,000 due from Lewis Kennedy for work done at Kennedy Heights. He failed and there is little prospect of getting that...”

KH NOTABLE CITIZEN: AL GERHARDSTEIN

Kennedy Heights has many wonderful people. Instead of picking one for Citizen of the Year, we will introduce a notable citizen in each newsletter. Our first citizen is Al Gerhardstein

What makes a good neighbor? Some would say friendliness, others, willingness to help. Still others might say opening your doors and being inviting. Civil rights attorney, Al Gerhardstein embodies all of those characteristics and more.

He and his wife, Mimi, have lived in Kennedy Heights since 1977. They came because it was important to be in an integrated, economically diverse neighborhood to raise their children and Kennedy Heights was an obvious choice. Their three children, Ben, Adam and Jessica, graduated from Kennedy Heights Montessori and are doing well in their chosen paths. Al knew this neighborhood was more than just a great place to raise successful children. He wanted to improve our community by giving his time and talent.

- He served as secretary and then treasurer of our Community Council.
- He helped start the KH Development Corporation and served as its President 30 years ago. This group rehabbed many homes acquired at Sheriff's sales and was also responsible for bringing Kroger to our business district. (The location that now houses the KH Cultural Campus.)
- He serves on the board of the revamped KH Development Corporation
- He played an integral role in helping us obtain the beautiful building that now houses our Kennedy Heights Art Center. The former owner had an enormous tax bill that kept compounding. Al represented the widow to eliminate the bill and make the building affordable so our community could buy it and save it from demolition.
- He hosts the Progressive Dinner regularly and loves meeting new neighbors while getting reacquainted with old ones.
- He supports multiple efforts with generous donations to support bringing our beloved KH Montessori Center back to our neighborhood and starting the Cultural Campus.
- He has been a civil rights lawyer and advocate for over 25 years. Notably, he and his law firm represented Obergefell in the landmark Supreme Court Case, decided this past June, which legalized same-sex marriage throughout the United States.

When asked what he loves about Kennedy Heights, Al replied, “It's about settling in and enjoying people.” He shared a story about a group of KH neighbors that for many years has gotten together and raked each others' yards – sharing a ladder and rototiller for the bigger jobs – bagging and cleaning. Then they all shared a big meal. “This year we decided to just have the dinner and skip the leaves,” he shared with a warm laugh. “That's the stuff that's fun to share with neighbors – and to know they are friends.”

Thank you Al, for your time, your generosity and for calling Kennedy Heights home. We're proud to have you as a neighbor.

–Stefanie Adams

We invite you to recommend someone and/or to write the story. Please send your suggestions to Danielle@kennedyheights.org

KH ARTS CENTER

“Hanging Out” Exhibition by Art4Artists

January 16, 2016 –
March 5, 2016

Opening Reception:
Saturday, January 16,
2016, 6-8 pm

Come view the latest exhibition by Art4Artists, on exhibit at Kennedy Heights Arts Center. “Hanging Out” includes work by individual members of the group, as well as a collaborative piece. Light refreshments will be served at the Opening Reception.

ELDER SERIES

Barbara Obermeyer was the Elder Series interview presented at the November KHCC meeting. The interview is on our website, as are all of the Elder Series, www.kennedyheights.org.

KENNEDY HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER WINTER CLASSES

Winter Classes at Kennedy Heights Arts Center Registration is now open for our Winter Classes! Why not try something new or refine your skills in an old favorite. Warm up this winter by exploring your creativity with a variety of artistic joys at the Kennedy Heights Art Center. Join in the fun by participating in one of our diverse classes for kids and adults - including Painting, Drawing, Tai Chi, Creative Writing, and more! Classes meet once a week for 8 weeks. Financial Assistance available! Visit our website at www.kennedyarts.org or call 513-631-4278 to discover more. Make Art. Build Community.

Artful Resin Jewelry Workshop at KHAC

Saturday, January 23rd, 2016

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Cost \$50.00 per student

In this three hour workshop taught by jewelry designer Karen Trimble-Shell, and held at Kennedy Heights Arts Center, you will design and create TWO of your own colorful pendants! Select from a wide variety of artisan

papers and images, cut and collage your own masterpieces. You'll then encase your artworks in silver or gold settings using two-part epoxy resin. Learn the tricks to working with this exciting medium! All materials are included! Visit www.kennedyarts.org or call 513-631-4278 to register. *Hurry – space is limited!*

The Artist Share:

where artists share their passion and the community connects

Every THIRD Friday of the month

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

1/15, 2/19, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17

Located in the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Lindner Annex, 6620 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45213

Tickets available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ArtistShare>

For more information: jori@starfirecouncil.org

The Starfire Council and Kennedy Heights Arts Center present a unique series of artist talks, sharing, and demonstrations. Learn more about local artists who work in a wide range of media from poetry, music, and visual arts.

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

Calling anyone and everyone! Whether you drive, ride, pedal or walk, your input is needed to guide the future of transportation improvements in our community and across the region.

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) recently launched a survey, to understand what short and long-term transportation issues are most important to you. The online, 5-minute survey is open through Friday, January 8.

Your input will be used by OKI to update the region's 2040 Plan, which identifies the transportation projects and programs to be implemented over the next 25 years. Since transportation and economic development are closely connected, the 2040 Plan helps advance our region and improve quality of life for all of us who live, work and play here.

Take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XWTM397>

Questions? OKI is happy to share additional information. Please contact Florence Parker, OKI's public involvement specialist at (513) 619-7686 or fparker@oki.org.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING

Interested in becoming a lifeguard this summer? Pre-Lifeguard Classes and Lifeguard Training Courses are being offered now from the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC)!

Pre-Lifeguard Classes

Swim Sessions to teach and refine swimming skills in preparation for American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Courses. Ages 14 and older, adults and seniors welcome. Courses take place at the Mt. Auburn Indoor Pool, 2034 Young Street. Classes from January 4—May 26, start anytime!

Lifeguard Training Courses

Show up and come prepared to swim, no pre-registration required! Course is free for those who work full-time for the CRC the entire 2015 summer season, \$300 for non-CRC lifeguards. Must be 15 by end of course. Recommended that you complete at least one pre-lifeguard class. Courses take place at Mt. Auburn Indoor Pool, 2034 Young Street, starting on March 4 and continuing throughout the year. Additional courses are at Ryan Pool, 3324 Meyer Place starting on May 31.

For more information visit www.cincyrec.org/pools, call 357- POOL, or email aquatics@cincinnati-oh.gov.

CELEBRATING OUR KENNEDY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORS!

KENNEDY HEIGHTS SUNFLOWER CONTEST

The Sunflower contest team comprised of Ally Nurre and father-daughter duo, Craig and Marlee Rush (a 2013 winner). The contest was launched at the SAP RUN and continued to be promoted to mid-May, planting time. Forty entries were achieved in large part due to door to door promotion by Marlee. The 4 winning growers of the tallest sunflower were recognized October 20th at the KHCC meeting. They were presented with metal sunflower garden ornaments painted this summer at one of Play-in-the-Park events aided by Lois Patterson. What a fitting end to the Sunflower Competition!

We had three second place contestants, all of whom grew sunflowers taller than 9 ½ ft but just less than 10ft: Alicia Harris of Wyatt Ave., George Kalomeres of Montgomery Rd., and Lin and Steve Grieser of Red Bank Rd. Our first prize winner was Paityn Alexander of Wyatt Avenue whose winning sunflower grew taller than 10ft! Congratulations!! Marlee Rush presented the prizes and then was awarded her own sunflower garden ornament for her great contribution to the team. Remember the world record is 29 feet...we hope someone will try and challenge the record in 2016!

-Ally Nurre



Left: First place winner Paityn Alexander Right: Lin and Steve Grieser, one of the three runners-up. Photos courtesy of Ally Nurre

WINTERFEST 2016



Kennedy Heights residents enjoying the wintery festivities at the KH Arts Center and Lindner Annex. All photos courtesy of Will Jones.

Friday evening on December 4th, found community folk at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center for lite bites, wine, cookie decorating and ornament making. The lively crowd enjoyed Todd Hepburn's Christmas music at the piano and an opportunity to purchase gifts at the Arts Guild shop.

Those donating time were Sharon McCreary, Douglas Linn, Jayne Dressing, Julia, Ian, and Norah Dressing, Anne, Jack, and Ella Knellinger, Mary Ella Berta, and Jane Patty. Food and wine donations were provided by B.J. Gardner, Jeff Dey, Jane Patty, Melissa and Tom McNally, Sharifah Tafari, Annie Brown, Jean Bange, Rachel Foote, Jody Barkley, Danielle Linn, and Christine Schumacher.

New this year was an adult party at the Arts Center Lindner Annex from 9 until 11, showcasing the local talent of Julie Spangler, keyboard and vocals, and Roger Klug, guitar. The Young Professionals Chorus provided delightful Christmas acapella music. The Overlook Lodge, a new business in Pleasant Ridge, provided specialty Winterfest cocktails.

Thanks to Mallory Fetz, Arts Education Coordinator, and Ellen Muse Lindeman, executive director of Kennedy Heights Arts Center, for making the evening a festive event for all!