

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Kennedy Heights Community News

Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild

written and photographed by Christina Miller



“We’re just a bunch of old guys who like to make things.”

The title is a bit misleading. Yes, woodturner Dave Kratzer is retired. And the three other men I met at the Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild in the Kennedy Heights Cultural Campus were also gray-haired. But they aren’t the only ones who like to make things there.

The Guild hosts members from the Greater Cincinnati area of Southwest

Ohio, Northern Kentucky and South Indiana. Some even come from Dayton. It is multi-cultural, women are members and there are classes for children.

The Guild, which began in 1995, has only been housed in the Cultural Campus for the last seven years or so. Prior, they worked out of the basement of a church, hauling their lathe and tools in a U-Haul hitch. But when Casey Kindell obtained their current space, the members went to work on creating the space before using it. While they didn’t have the capability to do the heavy lifting like the HVAC, they did put in the floor, build the cabinets and Dave designed the workstations that they all built.

As I myself have been developing a love

(continued on page 4)

upcoming events

Yoga, Mon.-Wed., 6-7pm,
Pleasant Ridge Rec Ctr.

Adult Basketball, Thurs/Fri.,
6-9pm, Pleasant Ridge Rec Ctr.

Teen Basketball, Mon.-Fri.,
4:30-6pm, Pleasant Ridge Rec
Ctr.

Indoor Pickleball Mon.-Fri.,
4:30-6pm, Pleasant Ridge Rec
Ctr. (membership required)

Storytime, Tuesdays,
10:30-Toddlers; 11:15-Preschool
Pleasant Ridge Library.

Holiday Art Market, 11/6-
12/23, Tues.-Fri., 10am-5pm, &
Sat., 11am-4pm. KH Art Ctr.

Movers & Shakers, 11/13,
12/11. 11am. Ages 1-5. Pleasant
Ridge Library.

KH Community Council
Tues., 11/16, 7:30 pm . Virtual
meeting via [GSuitesmeet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq](https://gmeet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq). See back pg.

Imagine Lab, 11/17, 12/15.
4pm. Ages 6-12.. Pleasant
Ridge Library.

Adult Book Club, 11/11,
2pm, PR Library, Pleasant Ridge
Library.

Teens Create, 11/1, 12/6.
4pm. Pleasant Ridge Library.

**Family Ornament Work-
shop**, 12/4, 10-noon. Pleasant
Ridge Rec Ctr. FREE.

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A LETTER FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS



Kate Elliott



Sharifah Tafari

Dear Neighbors,

We hope you have enjoyed autumn in Kennedy Heights. The weather has been excellent for getting out and seeing your neighbors. We hope you were able to enjoy a few of the events hosted by the Arts Center, the Cincinnati Police Department, and Greater Vision Baptist Church.

Heading into winter, we will be finishing the Neighborhood Plan. We are in the home stretch, and we are deeply grateful to all residents who have volunteered their time and thoughts throughout this nearly two-year-long process. You still have time to contribute! There are Working Group Sessions in November and December that need YOU. (see sbelow)

Our November meeting will include the elections for the new Community Council Board. We hope to see you on November 16 at 7:30 on GoogleMeet so that you can cast your vote for the next round of volunteers. We cannot predict the future, and so this may be our last letter as your co-Presidents. It has been an honor serving you and watching us get through yet another long and challenging year. We are so thankful to be a part of a neighborhood that sticks together and will continue to grow and blossom into the coming years.

Happy holidays,

Kate & Sharifah
Kennedy Heights Community Council

WORKING GROUPS

Safety & Infrastructure - Oct. 12, 6:30
Housing - Oct. 12, 7:30
Business Development - Oct. 12, 8:30
Safety (virtual recap) - Oct. 13, 6:30
Housing (virtual recap) - Oct. 13, 7:30
Business (virtual recap) - Oct. 13, 8:30
Communications & Events (virtual) - Nov. 3, 7:15
Parks & Green Space (virtual) - Nov. 4, 6:30

All location information or log-in information can be found on the Community Plan website (www.cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan), or on the Kennedy Heights Community Council Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kennedyhts)

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TIME TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 2nd
Early Voting:
October 5—November 1

On the ballot: Mayor, Cincinnati City Council, Cincinnati City School District School Board, Hamilton County Judges, and three Issues.

Issue 1: A tax for the benefit of Hamilton County, for the purpose of supplementing the general fund to provide support for children services and the care and placement of children for five (5) years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

Issue 29: a proposed additional tax levy for a period of 10 years for Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC). It will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$33.25 per year.

Issue 3: a Charter Amendment that proposes a number of changes to the City of Cincinnati Charter.

Vote411.org provides a customized ballot, candidate profiles, full ballot language information, and, post-election results. Data is supplied by the League of Women Voters, candidates, and the Board of Elections.

The polls will be open on November 2 from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. **You must have been registered to vote by October 4, 2021 in order to participate.**

Remember to bring proof of identity to the polls when you vote. For more about acceptable forms of identification, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/>. For your voting location, go to Vote411.org or call the Hamilton County Board of Elections or the League of Women Voters (513-281-8683).

THANK YOU to our volunteers!

You've worked hard behind the scenes and made a lot happen! Thank you for giving your time to the Working Group process, sharing your ideas and reactions. We also thank **Abby McKenzie** for writing posts for the Kennedy Heights Community Council Facebook page; **Aaron Burton** for designing flyers for events through the year; **Rick Boyer** for his years of work on the website; **Eric Ziegler** for starting a redesign of our website; **Fred Foote** for starting a Neighborhood Resource Guide—a list of businesses, organizations, and services in the neighborhood that we can share with new residents; **Caitlin Siegel Hart** for her help organizing events like the Bridge Celebration, as well as working with neighbors and the Council Board to build a vision for the Shroder property.

For working in the Community Garden and passing out flyers, we thank: **Erika Evans, Erik Evans, De'Vontae Evans, Jada Bush, Selena Oldaker, Javiana Johnson, Jeloni Hall, Samari Jones, Simi Jones, Poppy Magill, Owen Magill, Ian Dressing, Norah Dressing, Marlee Dressing.**

The Neighborhood Plan revealed many great ideas for community events and improvements. But we cannot execute them without the additional help of neighbors like you! Please email board@kennedyheights.org or call 513-919-5710 and let us know what you can do to support our neighborhood in the coming year: planning events, building minor amenity improvements, gardening, writing/sending emails, setting up or cleaning up events, managing social media, etc. We can also use high schoolers in need of community service hours! KHCC is a 501(c)3 and can sign papers verifying volunteer hours.



Our Slice of Paradise

Kennedy Heights is truly a slice of paradise with its 45% higher than average tree canopy which purifies the air, lowers the temperature, and shelters wildlife. We have six parks and green spaces—Triangle, Kennedy Heights and Drake parks, Tot Lot, June Alexander and Lang playfields—here for us to enjoy. People come from far and wide for our pickle-tennis-basketball courts, playgrounds, walking trails and bike lanes.

As part of updating our Kennedy Heights' ten-year plan, the Parks and Green Spaces Committee is compiling ideas to preserve, promote and enhance our green spaces. We want to keep our community a desirable place to live and raise a family. Writing the strategies and implementing our plan will need all of us to play a part. Whether doing things at home – plant pollinators, compost, maintain trees and lawns, pick up litter—or getting involved in the community—adopting a plot, upgrading common areas, helping with programming—YOU are a necessary part in assuring that Kennedy Heights continues to be a slice of paradise. See more detail and contribute your ideas at Cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan



Dave Kratzer,
OVG Webmaster and Member



“Once you develop that coordination and learn the tools, . . . you can pretty much make anything.”

of wood, I was curious about what it takes to be a woodturner. Dave explained that it is mostly about hand-eye coordination. He worked for more than twenty years with aircraft, which he believes helped prepare him for the art. “Once you develop that coordination and learn the tools,” he said, “you can pretty much make anything.”

While there are other wood crafts such as furniture making, there is an immediacy to woodturning that has a special appeal. At noon you can begin working with a piece of wood, and by 3pm you can have a fully finished plate. While Dave doesn't work at the lathe as much as he used to, he has made as many as three hundred pieces a year. And, made enough money doing shows like the Appalachian Festival that he was able to pay for his machinery and tools.

For as little as \$40 per year, you can become a member of the Guild. That membership gives you access to not only instructional meetings and use of the machinery, but also the possibility of one-on-one learning. The Guild also has bi-annual symposiums. As Dave pointed out, “there's not a better deal in town.”

You can visit their page at ovwg.org and see the really beautiful work of these craftspersons. You'll find everything from bowls, to cowboy hats, finials to fire hydrants. There are thousands of photos to testify of the beauty of this craft and maybe even make you want to try your hand at it.

Homeschooling in the Time of COVID



Heather Bowman has been homeschooling her children Max, 10 and Emma 11 for the past four years. Originally from Northern Kentucky, Heather and her husband Danny found it a bit confusing when they came to Cincinnati and attempted to get their kids in school. Kentucky didn't have a lottery

like Cincinnati. So after finding out that the results of the lottery had her children attending two different schools, she found herself spending three hours a day dropping them off and picking them up. An undesirable position to find herself in.

When her children were younger, Heather had considered homeschooling. But it wasn't until the worlds collided—her discontent with her children having to go to two different schools, and meeting women on her job that were homeschooling and raising pretty great kids—that she began to think about it more seriously.

Deciding to homeschool was not easy. And in fact, Heather might say it was a bit scary. But to prepare, she met with a lot of moms to discuss the development of a curriculum for her kids. She also attended the annual homeschool convention at Sharonville Convention Center where speakers presented different methods of teaching

and different curriculums. In the four years she has been homeschooling, Heather says she has tried four different methods. But that is the beauty of being a homeschooler—the flexibility to explore and find the thing that works for you and your child.

The most difficult thing she finds is keeping herself motivated, particularly since she also has to motivate her kids. However, she says her kids love to learn and soak up learning like a sponge. The kids also help to direct the curriculum. In fact their daughter Emma developed an interest in astronomy and so now that is part of their learning day.

Heather is also able to take the kids at their own pace. One child who didn't learn to read until eight, is now on course. Another who has difficulty with math can move at her own pace, only moving to the next thing as she masters what she is currently learning.

While one wouldn't necessarily think that COVID would affect homeschooling, it has. A lot of the learning the kids do is not at a table or behind a computer screen. The kids are out visiting places they study and doing hands on learning. So COVID did restrain the places that were open to them.

Heather's advice to those who may be homeschooling, or thinking about it, “remember relationship over task,” is so important. And, “give yourself grace to try things and acknowledge if it's not working and then switch.”

“All people are gifted in certain areas, so do broad learning, and let her child shine where they are gifted.”

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PLEASANT RIDGE RECREATION CENTER

Saturdays, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 9:00pm



KENNEDY HEIGHTS ART CENTER GALLERY

**“Breathe”
November 6—December 23**

The Kennedy Heights Art Center is pleased to announce the exhibition Breathe, the annual group show featuring new works by Kennedy Collective members, on view 11/6—12/31 in the Gallery, located at 6546 Montgomery Road. The show includes new and previously unseen works in all media by local artists, including paintings, photography, collages, sculptures, fiber, and more. The exhibition also features Off the Wall: a collection of smaller works for \$50 each, with half the proceeds going to support Kennedy Heights Arts Center. The public is invited to join us at the Opening Reception on Saturday, November 6 from 6-8pm. Masks are required inside the building, and please RSVP at kennedyarts.org.

**Holiday Art Market
November 6—December 23**

Looking for a special, one-of-a-kind gift this holiday season? Look no further! The Kennedy Heights Arts Center Art Shop & Holiday Art Market offers an array of unique, handmade items by more than 50 local artists, perfect for gift-giving this season. Options include jewelry, pottery, fiber works, ornaments, cards, and more. The KHAC Art Shop & Holiday Art Market is open Tues. – Fri. 10am—5pm, and Sat. 11am—4pm, 11/6 through end of the year. More information at www.kennedyarts.org



On October 3, KHAC hosted “Fall Back to the ‘60’s.” The event was held on the lot of the KHAC Annex. The event featured live music, free “vintage” candies and snacks, opportunity for free photos and many other activities. It was a blast!



Photo by Kennedy Heights resident Laura Porter.



Photo by Matt Steffen






**Mon. & Tues., 10–8pm
Wed. thru Sat., 10–6pm**

The Library will be closed on these dates:
November 25
December 24-25
January 1

Available services:

- curbside service
- take & make activities
- browsing
- computer access (limited)
- assistance with faxing/copying/scanning & printing

Erik Brueggemann
 Library Customer Adviser, Pleasant Ridge
erik.brueggemann@cincinnati.library.org

For branch offerings and questions call us at 513-369-4488 or go to www.cincinnati.library.org

The Quality Theatrical Players

The Quality Theatrical Players award winning musical play, The Last Encore, was captured before a live audience at the Aronoff Center and is streaming on vimeo.com/on-demand/thelastencorelive. A copy of the musical drama is available for a three day rental or a downloaded purchase. For more information please contact 513-284-0094 or email: willwithaway@yahoo.com

Written by nationally published author, Willie James Jones, The Last Encore is a heart warming story about the pain and glory of the music business through the eyes of a talented young female singer. Set in 1970’s Detroit, it also focuses on a reunion visit between two entertainers one night that makes a sharp left turn into the unexpected.

Most of the Music and lyrics for The Last Encore were written by the Detroit song writing team of Barbara Bailey, Wilma Mathis-Wilmer and Deloris McMillan. It stars national recording artist, Mahogany Fleming, Bridget Schooler-Davis, Rich Rone, II, Kedrin Herron, Margaux Roberts, Angela Grayson and Heru Lasana.

The Last Encore became the first drama to be broadcast live through the studio facilities of what later became Media Bridges in Cincinnati. It is directed and executive produced by Willie James Jones, educator and writer, director and executive producer of the annual holiday film, Santa Goes Straight To The Hood.

The Quality Theatrical Players present the special Christmas morning broadcast on the Cincinnati network affiliate, Fox 19 WXIX, of an untold Christmas story entitled: Santa Goes Straight To The Hood. This special one hour telecast will air at 5:00am.

There will also be a director’s uncut on line streaming of the film on Christmas day. Go to: vimeo.com/on-demand/santagoestothood.

Written by Willie James Jones, Santa Goes Straight To The Hood, is a heart warming Christmas film set in a present day urban neighborhood in Detroit. It’s about a little blind girl that Santa forgot. God knows she didn’t want a lot. Through her letter to Santa, Nicey reveals her unselfish Christmas wishes. She also reveals other conflicting issues that reach a climatic end as she pursues the true reason for the Christmas season.

Introducing in the featured starring role is Wyoming Elementary School student, Laila Lear as Nicey Ramsey. Also featured is veteran actor, Heru Lasana as her grandfather, Lt. Colonel Ramsey, who is home for Christmas from Afghanistan. Veil Powel is featured as Aunt Malia, a social worker who plans a big holiday meal to bring the family together. The film also features experienced actress, Angelica Click as Aunt Noel, a doctor coming home from her new relocation to New York from Detroit. Tony Wynn is also featured as Uncle Sonny, who is home

from college, dealing with a relationship loss and casino gambling issues.

Santa Goes Straight To The Hood is written, directed and executive produced by Willie James Jones, M. ED, educator and author of the nationally published award winning musical play, The Last Encore.



Pictured: Noel & Nicey



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Find us at khcc@kennedyheights.org

COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER 16

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