

60 YEARS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The History of Kennedy Heights Community Council: Part 4

by John Bange

In the 1960's, Kennedy Heights civic leaders worked with local newspapers, TV, and radio to get positive stories and images out there about African American and white residents interacting in positive ways, "as an example of what is being done in the area of civil rights." But other national stories often took precedence: the Vietnam War, the assassinations of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Dr. King and race riots around the country: the 1965 Watts riot in Los Angeles, and those in Cincinnati in 1967 and 1968.

Education was a vital concern to the KHCC from the outset. The schools committee was among the first established and they began by developing liaisons with public and parochial schools serving Kennedy Heights children. They collaborated closely with school administrators and whenever questions arose concerning education the council invited principals from the schools to address KHCC meetings. The September 1966 KHCC Newsletter prominently featured the idea that "The world could be remade in one generation, if parents gave their best to their children and could bring them up free of their own prejudice." The KHCC gave considerable attention to educational activities outside of the schools. In conjunction with interested parents the council established a Parent Co-operative Nursery School for three- and four-year-old children. They developed a tutorial program for junior high school students and established a Teen Council to provide

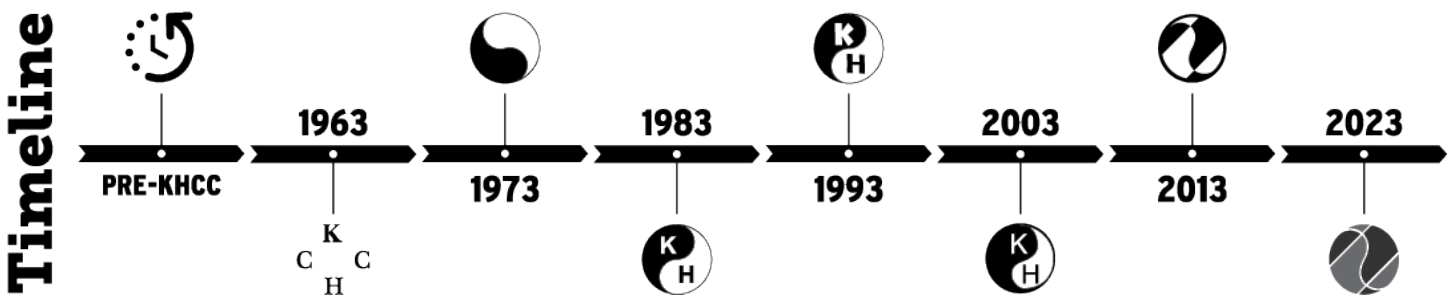
enrichment programs for teenagers. The Teen Council began with an ambitious program that included music, athletics, foreign languages and various hobbies and its mission statement called for the elimination of prejudice and the promotion of racial harmony.

In 1963 although Kennedy Heights had a great deal of park space, it had just one playfield adjacent to the Kennedy Heights Elementary School. Race relations on the playfield were a concern of the council and members began working with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to develop programs at the playfield. To fill the recreation void in the neighborhood the council tapped into popular and civic cultures to bridge the racial divide. Beginning in 1965 it sponsored an annual community parade and picnic on the Fourth of July holiday.

The council endorsed the Living Rooms Dialogue program sponsored by several religious denominations during the early 1960s, but by the end of the decade this program had become an annual event in May at the Presbyterian Church. Kennedy Heights residents also developed, with urging of the KHCC, block clubs to promote grassroots social interaction. They functioned with varying degrees of success throughout late 1960s and the decade of the 1970s.

Pleasant Ridge had a large recreation program. At the initiative of George Rowe, a group of Black parents from Kennedy Heights and adjacent Silverton met during the summer of 1967 to organize the Ken-Sil Athletic Association. That fall they began a pee-wee football program which during the next few years led

(continued on page 4)



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Sharifah Tafari

**A Letter
From Our President**

Greetings neighbors,

I hope that you're all enjoying these end-of-summer days. Play in the Park had a great season of fun, food, music and art. Your students are back in school. There are four-way stop signs at the intersection of Zinsle and Coleridge Avenues. And the excitement in our neighborhood doesn't stop there! The Kennedy Heights Community Council is celebrating our 60th Anniversary this year!!

The celebration will be on Saturday, October 7, 12pm-4pm at the Kennedy Heights Art Center's Lindner Annex on the corner of Montgomery Road and Kennedy Avenue. There will be activities inside and outside, such as live entertainment, food trucks, bouncy house, KHCC exhibit, presidents' wall-of-fame, historical walking trail and more. Do you have fond memories, photos or stories that you'd like to share? We would love to include them in the exhibit. Would you like to join the organizing team and/or volunteer at the event? Please contact Samara Ramudit, Events & Engagement committee chairperson, via email at samara@kennedyheights.org, call (513) 202-4345 and leave a message or chat with her at the next KHCC meeting.

And to all of our new neighbors, welcome to the best neighborhood in Cincinnati! Consider this your personal invitation to join us at the monthly KHCC meeting, which will be on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall at the Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church, by phone or virtually (see back page of newsletter).

We'll see you in the Heights!

Peace,

Sharifah



**60TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

DATE: SAT. OCT. 7
TIME: 12pm - 4pm
PLACE: KHAC ANNEX



Around the Corner: Redwood Market's Enduring Legacy

By Christina Miller

Parents, cover your ears. There was a time that children could go into a store and buy a pack of cigarettes for an adult. I was one of those kids. On any given day, my mother would wrap a note and money in an envelope, pin it to my clothing, and send me and my brother down the road to Redwood to get her a pack of Lucky Strikes. In the mid-60's, the owner would trade the envelope for the cigarettes and then, back up Woodford we would go tightly holding on to the package. Whether getting cigarettes or a dollar's worth of pickle loaf and American cheese or a Barq's orange, I spent a few days in my childhood walking to and forth to Redwood.

In early 1985, Clifton resident Jay Singh purchased Redwood Mart making it a Singh family legacy. Jay is now retired but still spends his days at Redwood—not at the register but in the back of the building. There, he has turned a rather abandoned part of the property into a beautiful garden filled with fruit trees surrounding a patio—a lovely place for a neighborhood beer garden which Jay says may happen when he's done with his tireless work.

Sons Peter and Basi (pronounced boss) take care of all things indoors. Both men graduated from Ohio State during the last great recession 2008-2012. Peter has a degree in actuarial sciences which makes him perfect for dealing with numbers in running the store. Basi's degree is in civil engineering/construction management. And while he is not building the bridges the opportunity which his degree would offer, it does help him in managing the

REDWOOD MAR

BEER • WINE • GROCERY •



Peter and Basi in front of the iconic Redwood Market sign & mural.

building and keeping it at its best. When asked why they weren't pursuing the degrees in more worldly ways, they responded that when they were younger they would come in and work at the store on the weekends. And while in college, they would spend holidays there. And so, it just seemed natural that after college they would come back to Redwood, their home away from home. Their mother Kuj (pronounced Koj) contributes to the success of Redwood in her own ways while not spending time day to day at the business.



Are You Thankful For Your Neighbors?

Do you have a particularly special Kennedy Heights neighbor that you're thankful for? If so, we'd love to feature your gratitude in our November/December 2023 newsletter issue. Just email communications@kennedyheights.org with a brief message of thanks, along with your first name and street name, and we'll include these messages in our next newsletter issue!



KHCC History (cont'd)

to a full-fledged program of baseball, basketball and football for boys of all age groups.

The year 1967 proved a turning point for the Kennedy Heights experiment and for Cincinnati as the city experienced the first of its two 1960s race riots. Although Kennedy Heights did not experience racial unrest during the June riots, later that summer D. D. Starr, the chair of the housing committee, reported a loss of interest in purchasing houses and that the requests they had for help was for rental property. The schools committee reported that the Kennedy Elementary School had numerous windows boarded up and that many more windows were vandalized than in previous summers. Much of the activity of the Teen Council that summer focused on job placement and seventy-five teenagers were placed in jobs.



Kennedy Elementary School, built in 1912

Searching for answers to the tensions being felt in race relations, the November council meeting focused on schools, jobs, and housing—the issues they believed most pressing. Within a few weeks the council convened a special meeting under the title “Our High Schools—Police Community Relations.” When Cincinnati mayor Eugene Ruehlman came to the February 20, 1968 KHCC meeting he heard complaints from the large interracial group in attendance that apartment owners were engaging in retaliatory evictions of people who complained about the lack of code enforcement, and that police and fire department personnel treated black citizens in a prejudicial manner. Residents also wanted to know what the city was doing to help people purchase homes in the city and what was the city doing to promote positive race relations.

The work of the schools committee also took on a

new urgency over the crowded conditions at Kennedy elementary and perceived problems at Schroder Junior High. The committee accelerated its pressure on school administrators for a new K-3 facility in the neighborhood and established a sub-committee to focus on Schroder. Concerned about the lack of books in the Kennedy school library, the members collected four thousand books suitable for an elementary school resource center.

Aggressive real estate practices combined with the need for housing in Cincinnati’s growing African American population further increased the speed of the process of demographic change in the neighborhood throughout the early 1960s. The KHCC stabilized and briefly slowed the racial transformation in the neighborhood, but after the riots of 1967 and 1968 white flight accelerated again. The aggressive real estate practices reappeared, and the large-scale real estate developers revisited the neighborhood. Another factor operating in the area was the projected opening in the early 1970s of the new I-71 highway through Columbia Township to the southeast of Kennedy Heights.

In recent years KHCC has been active in supporting things that are good for our residents and therefore our community. The Aging in Community initiative is intended to make sure folks have the assistance they need to be able to stay in their homes as they age vs. moving away. Continued support of our parks is important, as well as the programs hosted such as Play In The Park. The KH Arts Center and the Lindner Annex provide opportunities to residents and people from around the city to enjoy arts, crafts, classes, exhibits, concerts, and gatherings of all types. Events such as The Sap Run or a parade brings many together. Organizations such as The Caring Place located in Kennedy Heights and staffed by employees and volunteers from the neighborhood provide a variety of services to residents who are in need of food, clothing, furniture, rent and utility assistance and other support. KHCC will continue working diligently for all residents, resolving issues and continuing to improve our community into the future.

This completes the 4-part series about the 60-year history of The Kennedy Heights Community Council. This is an overview. For a more-detailed version go to the Kennedy Heights website kennedyheights.org/history and look for the document “Creating an Intentional Multiracial Community in Post-World War II Cincinnati: Kennedy Heights” by Jim Cebula, UC History Professor and Kennedy Heights resident of 38 years.

Senior Home Repair Program

By Amber Ziegler

We would like to introduce Rodney Thompson, the new Project Manager for the Senior Home Repair Program. Rodney joins KHDC with a 15+ year background in general contracting and construction management, and he will be scheduling home repairs throughout the summer and fall.



Rodney Thompson

If you are a Senior, Veteran, or living with a disability, and you have a home repair need, you can email homerepair@kennedyheights.org or call Rodney at 513-658-9383.

During the summer and fall of 2023, we will be scheduling home repair projects every other Saturday at 9 am (beginning on July 29) and will need volunteers. There will also be other volunteer opportunities available throughout the week. Tools and supplies will be provided. If you would like to offer your skills, please call or email Rodney.

Get Ready to Vote (Again) This November!

by Amber Ziegler



Even though we just had an election here in Ohio this past August, we have another one coming up in November. Election Day is November 7, 2023. On the ballot will be a slate of Hamilton County judges, tax levies for the library and zoo, all nine City Council seats, as well as a statewide issue to enshrine reproductive freedom in the Ohio Constitution. The deadline to

register to vote, or to update your registration, is October 10, 2023. Early voting will begin on October 11, 2023. As a reminder, voting in Ohio now requires a photo ID such as a valid driver's license, state ID card, US passport, US military or National Guard ID, or a US Department of Veterans Affairs ID. Get ready to make your voice heard this November!

Election Day also presents an opportunity to make a little extra cash! Poll workers are needed for every election. In order to become a poll worker, you must be at least 17 years old, a US citizen and registered voter in Hamilton County, and NOT a candidate or convicted felon. Contact the Hamilton County Board of Elections to apply!

Hamilton County
cincinnati
public
library

6233 Montgomery Rd.

www.chpl.org

Mon & Tue, 10am - 8pm

Wed - Sat, 10am - 6pm

(Closed Labor Day 9/4)

Customer Appreciation Day

9/18 All Day. A celebration of our customers and our neighborhoods.

Storytime

Every Tue @ 10:30 (toddler) and 11:15 (preschool). Craftivity @ 11 (all ages)

Family Day: Camp Out!

9/2 11a-4p. All ages.

Twins Create

9/5 - Wish bracelets, 10/2 - Halloween mason jar luminaries. 3:30p

Branch Book Club

9/14 The Warmth of Other Subs by Isabel Wilkerson. 10/12 TBD. 2p.

Meet the Author: Emily Jane

On Earth As It Is On Television. 9/23 2p

Genealogy for Beginners

9/26. 6:30PM. Adults

Fantasmagoria Book Club

9/27, 10/25 7p @ The Fermatorium

Tales to Tails with Myrtle

9/28, 10/26. 3p. Youth

Mary S. Stern Lecture

Isabel Wilkerson @ The Arnoff 10/5

Sequel to The Sad, Sinister Side of Cincinnati

10/9 6:30p. Adults

Paint Café

10/13. 6p. Teens

For branch offerings and questions call at 513-369-4488, or email Erik Brueggemann, Library Customer Adviser, Pleasant Ridge Branch at erik.brueggemann@chpl.org



KHCC LANDSCAPE AWARDS

By Michele Dragga

Here are your 2023 Landscape Award winners! Celebrate the exceptional yards that captivated our community. Stroll through our neighborhood to view these remarkable outdoor havens. For high-resolution photos and more information on the winners, visit kennedyheights.org/landscape. Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination! I'd also like to thank my team of judges: Carolyn Thompson, Diane Magill, and Jane and Charlie Patty. The beautiful landscapes make our job a pleasure.



Teri Tatum
5835 Pointer Lane

Terri's garden features a collection of hostas given to her by many friends over the years. These are accented with a colorful assortment of coleus and other annuals. Tucked in throughout are sculptures and other artwork that give the garden character. The majestic oak tree in the backyard provides comfort as well as a home for the wildlife that Teri enjoys.



Patricia Posey
6607 Coleridge Avenue

In 2005, Patricia moved into the house where she grew up. Her mother had already had a garden there, but Patricia wanted to give it her own touch. She replaced groundcovers that had taken over with colorful flowering annuals and perennials and added a retaining wall along the hill to show them off. She's always on the lookout for new plants that don't need a lot of maintenance.



Laura Lennon and Abbott Smith
6536 Iris Avenue

Laura and Abbott moved here from Seattle in 2016. Since moving in, Laura has collected divisions of plants from neighbors and friends and propagated many more plants from seeds and cuttings. The result is a garden packed with annuals, perennials, and shrubs that provide color all season and attract a variety of wildlife.



Josh & Adrienne Ritter
6503 Glen Avenue

A focus of Josh and Adrienne's garden is to provide habitat for pollinators. To that end, they replaced their lawn with low-growing clover. The lawn is bordered by a retaining wall that supports a formal bed of colorful perennials that is a favorite of butterflies. The formality of the flower bed is a pleasing contrast to the more wild look of the lawn, and both are a haven for native pollinators.



Dennis and Marie McNeal
3800 Congreve Avenue

Dennis and Marie have traditionally used small pots of mixed annuals as accents among their borders of perennials and shrubs. This year, however, they planted two very large pots of bright red angel-wing begonias that have become the focal point of the garden. They like to sit on their front patio and enjoy their neatly groomed yard as they watch the comings and goings of the neighborhood.

**HONORABLE
MENTION:**

Sary Eaton and Abigail Rowold
6709 Kennedy Avenue



Kennedy
Heights
Arts
Center

6546 Montgomery Rd.

Gallery Hours:

Tue & Fri, 10am - 5pm

Sat, 11am - 4pm

www.kennedyarts.org

Wish You Were Here

August 26 - October 28, Kennedy Gallery

A juried photography exhibit displaying local artists' most loved vacation photograph and the story behind why it's important to them. View 60 photographs by 45 different local artists that take you on a celebratory journey of experiencing different places, traveling to discover, and exploring and sharing our large world.

MALDOROR: Surrealist Drawings and Prints

September 1 - September 28, Lindner Gallery

The exhibit consists of B&W drawings and color etchings by renowned Czech artist Karel Demel. They represent his surrealist illustrations of the seminal book "Songs of Maldoror" written in the 1860's.

Surrealist Poetry Reading

Saturday, September 9 from 1 - 4 PM

Enjoy a short presentation of the exhibit and the book, followed by readings by local poets of their own surrealist poems and/or of some of their favorite surrealist poems by other poets.

Local Talent - Community Art Show

October 14 - December 24

Call to Artists! Talented artists are all around us in our local community, and this Fall and Winter we want to celebrate all the diverse artists and creatives that live in our community with a neighborhood art exhibition. This non-juried show will be installed in the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex's Lindner Gallery. The official Call to Artists with information on how to submit your artwork and more information can be found on our website www.kennedyarts.org or by calling 513-631-4278.

Fall Classes for Youth and Adults!

Nurture your creativity, develop skills, reconnect with community, and learn from professional artists! Register now for a variety of classes for adults – including drawing, watercolor, collage, open studio, ceramics, and a brand new traveling "Art in the Park" class!

Community Dinner

Thursday, October 12, 6 to 7:30 PM

CHH partnering with All Saints Episcopal Church to host Community Dinner for our entire neighborhood.

Pleasant Ridge Tour of Home

Saturday, October 14, 1 to 5 PM

The tour begins at Community Happens Here, and takes participants through homes in our neighborhood.

Community
HAPPENS HERE

6233 Montgomery Rd.

Sidewalk Hospitality:

Tue & Sat, 11am - 1pm

communityhappenshere.org



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

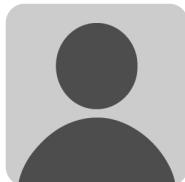
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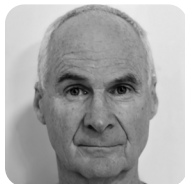


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Members-at-Large



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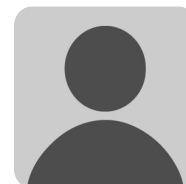
Steve Grieser



Brandon Nixon



Amber Ziegler



Jan Lane

COUNCIL MEETINGS

In person at Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church, 6312 Kennedy Avenue 45213
 Join by computer at: meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq
 Join by phone: Call +1 574-241-1036 and then follow the prompts. PIN: 453 185 950#

**Find us at kennedyheights.org or check us out
 on the Kennedy Heights Community Council Facebook page.**