

# Community Matters

Delaware, Ohio  
April 2017  
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**Send info, articles, or comments to**  
**[delawarecommunitymatters@gmail.com](mailto:delawarecommunitymatters@gmail.com)**

## LOCAL EVENTS



### **Stratford Ecological Center (4/1)**

Stratford Ecological Center at 3083 Liberty Rd. celebrates a Spring Garden Day on Sat., April 1. The Spring Seed Swap from 10 am – 1 pm and a tour of the facility, its greenhouse, and barn animals are free. Visitors are encouraged to bring their seeds, plants, and catalogs to share. However, registration is required for the gardening workshops offered from 9-11 am and 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Visit [www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org](http://www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org) for more info.

### **William Street UMC Discusses Immigration (4/2)**

On Sun., April 2 (10:25 am), Walid Ali & Tyler Reeve will be guest speakers at the William Street United Methodist Church at 28 W. William St. The church has a long history of welcoming and caring for refugees & immigrants. *"God defends the cause of the orphan and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt."* (Deut. 10:18-19) The church is currently raising funds for the Community Refugee and Immigration Service (CRIS). To learn more, visit [cris.networkforgood.com](http://cris.networkforgood.com).

### **Scioto Valley Brass & Percussion (4/2) – \$**

Under the direction of Dr. Chris Hoch, the Scioto Valley Brass & Percussion Company will perform on Sun., April 2 (4 pm), in the Asbury United Methodist Church at 55 W. Lincoln Ave. This is part of the Asbury Arts Series.



### **Miller's Country Gardens Opens 4/3**

Miller's Country Gardens at 2488 State Rt. 37 W. opens for the season Mon., April 3. The family-owned farm and business is a beloved attraction in Delaware. Visit their Facebook page or their website at [www.millerscountrygardens.com](http://www.millerscountrygardens.com).

### **Genealogical Society Sponsors Lecture (4/4)**

Suzanne Allen of Sunbury will discuss "The Civil Defense Program in Delaware County and Nationwide" on Tues., April 4, at 7:30 pm in the Local History & Genealogical Room of the Main Library at 84 E. Winter St. Her presentation is free & open to the public. Aspects of the Civil Defense Program may sound hilarious today, but the Cold War period was a deadly serious time. Allen has interviewed local residents about their participation and collected their stories.

### **Author of "Good Bones" at OWU (4/5)**

OWU alumna Maggie Smith '99 will read & discuss her poem "Good Bones" on Wed., April 5. She will speak at 4:10 pm in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library. "Good Bones" was shared thousands of times via social media following the 2016 Pulse nightclub shootings in Orlando. It will be featured in an upcoming episode (April 9) of CBS's "Madam Secretary" starring Téa Leoni. Smith's visit is sponsored by OWU's Dept. of English. [Note: The poem in question can be found on the Internet and also appeared in the Feb. 2017 issue of "Community Matters."]

### **MTSO Lecture on Food Security (4/5)**

Brian Snyder, OSU, will address "Agricultural Sustainability, Food Security, and Spirituality: A Necessary Alignment" on Wed., April 5 (7:30 pm), in the Alford Centrum on the MTSO campus at 3081 Columbus Pike (US 23 S). Snyder will discuss the issue of Ohio households lacking reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. The Methodist Theological School in Ohio is a leader in the sustainability movement and produces most of its own food. The presentation is free & open to the public.

### **Native Americans & Keystone XL Pipeline (4/6)**

Learn about the Lakota (Sioux) Nation in S. Dakota, the Keystone XL Pipeline, and Standing Rock on Thurs., April 6 (4:30-5:30 pm) in Sturges Hall 106 on the OWU campus. Sturges is the 2<sup>nd</sup> building south of University Hall on S. Sandusky St. Her talk, "Pipelines and Poetry: Reading Native Literature as Context for Standing Rock," is sponsored by OWU's Student Honors Board. Dr. Poremski teaches indigenous Native-American literature in OWU's English Dept. and annually takes students to aid and interact with members of the Lakota Nation up north. The talk is free & open to the public.

### **Civil War Discussion with Abe Lincoln (4/6)**

An Abe Lincoln impersonator (John Cooper) will speak on Thurs., April 6 (7 pm) at The Barn at Stratford, 2690 Stratford Rd. He will look back at the Civil War and answer questions from the audience. The event is free & open to the public. To learn more, visit [www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org).



### **April First Friday (4/7)**

"Mascot Madness" is the theme for First Friday in April (4/7, 6-9 pm). Many of your favorite mascots can be seen wandering around Downtown Delaware. Be on the look-out for mascots from Wendy's (sponsor), Preservation Parks, Delaware Hayes, Buckeye Valley, Big Walnut, Delaware Christian, Village Academy, OWU, Jet's Pizza, DCB, the Columbus Zoo, and others. The mascots will meet for a mad dance-off at 6:30 pm.

### **"Blood Wedding" at OWU (4/6-9) – \$**

Ohio Wesleyan University will perform Federico García Lorca's play "Blood Wedding" on April 6-8 (8 pm) and on Sun., April 9 (2 pm). The venue is the Main Stage inside the Chappelle Drama Center (45 Rowland Ave.). Traditions, feuding, families, and irresistible passion intertwine in this powerful story of blood ties and desire. A new gender-reimagined adaptation by OWU faculty members Dr. Edward Kahn (director) & Dr. Eva Paris-Huesca unites contemporary questions with Lorca's surrealist tragedy. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for senior citizens, OWU employees, and non-OWU

students. Admission is free for OWU students with a valid student ID. To reserve tickets, call the box office at (740) 368-3855.

### **Great Decisions (4/7)**

The last lecture of the Great Decisions series takes place Fri., April 7 (12 pm) at William Street United Methodist Church (28 W. William St.). Retired Foreign Service officer Michael Houlahan will speak on "U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum." The event is free & open to the public.

### **Interested in Geocaching? (4/8)**

Preservation Parks will teach you the basics of geocaching on Sat., April 8 (10 am) at Deer Haven Park at 4183 Liberty Rd. Participants will learn how to use a GPS unit or mobile-phone app to hunt down caches on trails. The program is free and GPS units are provided, but pre-registration is necessary (by April 1). For more info, visit [www.preservationparks.com](http://www.preservationparks.com).

### **OWU's Choral Arts Society Concert (4/9)**

Conducted by Jason Hiester, OWU's Choral Arts Society will perform on Sun., April 9 (3:15 pm) in Gray Chapel inside University Hall (61 S. Sandusky St.). Composers include Buxtehude, Gluck, Granados, Mozart, and contemporary composer Paul John Stanbery. Several ensembles & soloists are part of the concert, which is free & open to the public.

### **OWU Chamber Orchestra (4/11)**

Conducted by Lucy Ginther, the OWU Chamber Orchestra will perform its spring 2017 concert on Tues., April 11 (8 pm) in Gray Chapel inside University Hall (61 S. Sandusky St.) on the OWU campus. On the program are Mozart, Ravel, Tchaikovsky, and Neruda (first half), and Sergey Prokofiev's satirical "Lieutenant Kije Suite" (second half). The concert, which includes guest conductors and soloists, is free & open to the public.

### **Meet Author / Illustrator Ryan Higgins (4/12)**

Fundamentals and DCDL are welcoming Ryan Higgins, bestselling author & illustrator of children's books, on Wed., April 12 (6:30-8 pm) for a presentation & book-signing at the Public / Main Library (84 E. Winter St.).

### **OWU Lecture on Central American Literature (4/13)**

On Thurs., April 13, Visiting Assistant Prof. Dr. Mirela Butnaru from Denison Univ. will visit OWU to give an English-language presentation on "Testimonial Literature from Central America" The lecture, which is free & open to the public, will be held at 4:10 pm in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library.

### **OWU Lecture on Judicial Personae (4/13)**

OWU alumna Susan Phillips Read '69, a former associate judge on the New York State Court of Appeals, discusses "Judicial Personae: Thoughts on the Wellsprings of Appellate Judging" on Thurs., April 13 (4:10 pm), in 301 Merrick Hall, 65 S. Sandusky St. Her presentation is part of the Benjamin F. Marsh Lecture Series on Public Affairs sponsored by OWU's Dept. of Politics & Government and its Arneson Institute for Practical Politics & Public Affairs. The event is free & open to the public. Merrick Hall is handicap-accessible and has an elevator.

### **Science Lecture on Rattlesnakes (4/13)**

A science lecture is planned for Thurs., April 13 (4:10-5 pm) in Room 163 of OWU's Schimmel / Conrades Science Center (SCSC). Ph.D. student Matthew Holding from OSU will discuss "Context-Dependent Coevolution of Rattlesnakes and Ground Squirrels." In California, ground squirrels have developed resistance against the venom of certain rattlesnakes, and Holding discusses the evolutionary and genetic implications of the phenomenon. The event is free & open to the public.

### **OWU Lecture on "Axis Sally" (4/13)**

OWU history professor Dr. Michael W. Flamm will present "Axis Sally: Ohio Wesleyan's Most Notorious and Least Understood Alum" on Thurs., April 13 (7:30 pm), in Benes B of HWCC (40 Rowland Ave.). During WW II, an American woman in Berlin broadcast Nazi

propaganda to Allied troops, who dubbed her "Axis Sally." Her real name was Mildred Gillars, and two decades earlier she had attended OWU. Three decades later, she returned to Delaware to receive her degree. Hear her tragic-but-true story from Flamm, author of several books on modern American history. His talk represents the 2017 Joseph & Edith Vogel Lecture sponsored by the Dept. of History. The event is free & open to the public. [Note: The Sept. 2016 issue of "Community Matters" contained an extensive article on Mildred Gillars.]

### **Easter Egg Hunt & Kite Festival (4/15)**

The YMCA at 1121 S. Houk Rd. has organized an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 1-9 on Sat., April 15 (11 am sharp). 10,000 eggs will be spread out among 5 age groups. The Kite Festival will start after the Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free, but bring your own basket and kite. In addition, there will be food trucks.

### **Yard-Waste Collection Resumes April 17**

Yard waste includes lawn trimmings, leaves, vines, brush, and garden waste. Bags, 32-gallon containers, and bundles weighing less than 50 pounds are acceptable. The City provides this curbside service at no extra charge on the scheduled refuse collection days from mid-April through mid-December. This year, the official starting date is Mon., April 17. It is quite possible, however, that you will see pick-up trucks collecting yard-waste bags even before that day.

### **Hydrant Flushing (4/17-21)**

Did you know that the City of Delaware has about 2,000 fire hydrants along its 350 miles of road. (That amounts to 5.7 hydrants per mile.) They will be flushed from April 17-21. Flushing helps maintain water quality and ensures the hydrants function reliably when needed. The work is typically done by contractors.

### **Green Week at OWU (4/17-22)**

Organized by the Environment & Wildlife Club and the Tree House, OWU celebrates "Green Week" with a series of events during the week of April 17-22. There will be daily information tables, workshops, and events. The second annual campus clean-up is scheduled for Fri., April 21 (4 pm). Participants meet on the JayWalk near the fountain; all equipment is provided. An Earth Day Concert is planned for Sat., April 22 (6-9 pm) at the amphitheater next to HWCC. Musicians from OWU and the local community will participate.

### **Taxes Are Due (3/18)**

Federal, state, and local tax forms are due Tues., April 18.

### **"Trees in Trouble" (4/20)**

As part of OWU's Green Week, the documentary "Trees in Trouble" will be shown on Thurs., April 20 (7 pm) at the Conrades / Schimmel Science Center (SCSC 163) on Henry St. The film, produced by Cincinnati filmmaker Andrea Torrice, describes the history of urban forests and the challenges they have faced due to invasive species and other threats. Delaware is a proud member of Tree City USA, and so this film should be of particular interest to the community. It is free & open to the public.

### **Ohio Latinx Conference (4/21-22)**

OWU is holding the Ohio Latinx Conference on Latin American culture on Fri. & Sat., April 21-22, in the Atrium of the Conrades / Schimmel Science Center (SCSC) at Henry St. Among the speakers are Sonia Manzano (Fri., April 21, 7 pm), an influential television personality. Copies of her children's books and autobiography will be available for purchase, and she will sign books after her talk. Angel Colon, a proud member of the Hispanic and the LGBT communities, will speak Sat., April 22 (time TBA). Events are free & open to the public. For updates, visit [www.owu.edu/latinx](http://www.owu.edu/latinx).

### **Family Fun Carnival (4/22)**

Delaware City Schools and the Second Ward Community Initiative (SWCI) will hold a family-fun carnival on Sat., April 22 (11 am - 2 pm). The theme is "Step Right Up," and the location is the SWCI community center and the adjacent Ross Street Park at 50-A Ross St., off S. Liberty St. The purpose of the event is community outreach and to allow families to enjoy an afternoon of clean fun. There will be

games, food, and prizes. The event is free & open to the public. The scheduled rain date is Sat., April 29.

### **Central Ohio Symphony Performs (4/22) – \$**

The fourth and last concert of the 38<sup>th</sup> season of the Central Ohio Symphony, entitled “Hear Ohio,” will be performed Sat., April 22, at 7:30 pm. Everything on the program was either written by Ohio composers or will be performed by Ohio guest artists. The concert will be held in Gray Chapel inside University Hall on the OWU campus, 61 S. Sandusky St. On the program are works by Clint Needham, Ernest Bloch, Antonio Vivaldi, and Paul John Stanberry. Various visiting ensembles will be part of the evening. The featured soloist is Ohio cellist Michael Carrera who will perform two works (Bloch and Vivaldi). Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$6 for students of all ages, and \$4 for children. For more info, visit [www.centralohiosymphony.org](http://www.centralohiosymphony.org).

### **Faculty Recital at OWU (4/23)**

Lucy Ginther, violin, and Dr. Frank Chiou, piano, will perform a faculty recital on Sun., Apr. 23 (7 pm) in Jemison Auditorium inside Sanborn Hall (23 Elizabeth St.) on the OWU campus. The concert is free & open to the public.

### **OWU Panel Discussion on Business Ethics (4/27)**

On Thurs., April 27 (7:30 pm), OWU’s annual Heisler Business Ethics Lecture features a panel of Central Ohio experts who will discuss “Ethics from the Eyes of Community Leaders: Character, Culture & Community,” in Benes B of HWCC, 40 Rowland Ave. The panel will be moderated by Kip Morse, CEO of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Central Ohio, and will feature Bryan Haviland of the public-relations firm FrazierHeiby; Lubna Najjar, owner of Lubna Designs (women’s clothing) & IL Moda (brand development); and David All, CEO of OneNineNinety (business communications). The Heisler Lecture is sponsored by OWU’s Woltemade Center for Economics, Business & Entrepreneurship. The event is free & open to the public.

### **YMCA Healthy Kids Day (4/29)**

The YMCA Healthy Kids Day is Sat., April 29 (8:30-11:30 am) this year. The purpose is to promote kids’ health, safety, and active lifestyle. Last year, between 500 & 600 people attended the free event at the YMCA at 1121 S. Houk Rd. Once again, there will be numerous activities, inflatables, and games for the kids as well as local businesses and organizations. Since parking may be a problem, consider walking or biking to the Y. (Tabling groups are asked to submit registration forms by April 10.)

### **Cleaning Up Downtown Delaware (4/29)**

Everyone is invited to a “Clean-Your Block Party” for Downtown Delaware from 9-11 on Sat., April 29. Main Street Delaware, the DGHD, and the City of Delaware are teaming up for this event. Volunteers will clean up sidewalks, parking lots, storm drains, alleys, etc. All supplies will be provided. Those interested in volunteering are asked to RSVP by April 17 by emailing Jenifer Way-Young at [jway-young@delawarehealth.org](mailto:jway-young@delawarehealth.org). Volunteers will gather for the clean-up at the office of Main Street Delaware, 20 E. Winter St.

## **CITY OF DELAWARE**

### **The City of Delaware in April**

April is a busy month for the City of Delaware. City Council meets Mon., April 10 & 24. April 10 is the day for a public hearing about the proposed Bike Plan 2025. Monthly committee meetings include Public Works & Public Utilities (Tues., April 4, 6 pm), the Planning Commission (Wed., April 5), the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (Tues., April 18), the Shade Tree Commission (Tues., April 25), and the Historic Preservation Commission (Wed., April 26). Other scheduled meetings are the Sister City Advisory Board (Tues., April 11), the Board of Zoning Appeals (Wed., April 12), and the Airport Commission (Thurs., April 20). (The Civil Service Commission meeting scheduled for April 5 has been canceled.) All meetings take place at 7 pm in City Hall (second floor) on 1 S. Sandusky St. unless otherwise noted. Agendas are normally available a few days before the meeting.

It is possible for meetings to be canceled due to a lack of agenda items or a quorum, so always check the City’s website beforehand: [www.delawareohio.net](http://www.delawareohio.net). The meetings are streamed live and can be watched in real time or later.

### **Joseph J. DiGenova (1945-2017)**

Third Ward Councilman Joseph J. (“Joe”) DiGenova passed away on Sun., March 19. At the March 13 meeting of City Council, Mayor Carolyn Riggle announced that she had received a good-bye and farewell letter from DiGenova indicating that he is resigning for health reasons. He died only a few days later, at the age of 71, and was buried at Oak Grove Cemetery. DiGenova served on the City Council for a total of 25 years, but in recent years he has struggled with cancer. (He frequently mentioned that fact at Council meetings, so no private information is being divulged here.) Mayor Riggle stated that Third Ward residents with concerns are free to contact the at-large members of City Council such as George Hellinger, herself, or Kent Shafer.

### **In Honor of Joseph DiGenova by Pat Tiberi in the Ohio House of Representatives March 2, 2017**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and neighbor, the Honorable Joseph DiGenova. Delaware, Ohio Councilman Joseph DiGenova has dedicated his life to quietly, but profoundly, serving his nation and community. As a young man, he answered his nation’s call, risking life and limb in service during the Vietnam War. Upon completing his military commitment, Joe returned home and devoted the next several decades to advocating for youth, veterans, local schools, and countless civic projects. For decades, he and his beloved wife, Vonie, invested themselves in their local school district, creating new programs and fighting for improved facilities. Of special note, Joe co-founded a Youth-in-Government program that has introduced students to local and state governance for more than twenty years. Further, they have campaigned actively for land acquisitions, levy and bond issues, and athletic boosters. As a result of his unwavering support for local schools and students, Joe received the 2014 Friend of the District Award from the Delaware City Schools. Knowing the value and challenges of military service firsthand, Joe selflessly sought new ways for Central Ohio to honor its truest patriots. He led the charge toward a permanent veteran memorial to recognize veterans from every era of our history. In addition, he partnered with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans Association to help fellow veterans receive the recognition, care, and benefits they so richly deserve. Joe’s tireless work ethic and humble attitude garnered him the highest admiration of his neighbors. They saw fit to elect him to public office repeatedly for more than twenty-five years. As a City Councilman in Delaware, he spearheaded efforts to modernize infrastructure and spur the local economy. The resurgence of a vibrant downtown area is in no small measure a reflection of his dedication to making Delaware a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Joe has long maintained an eye on what the future will bring to Delaware. Today, Joe and Vonie can look fondly on all he has accomplished. I am confident that his impact will be lasting and his efforts cherished for generations to come. I am deeply proud to recognize my dear friend and fellow Italian-American for his lasting friendship and innumerable contributions to Central Ohio. It is with great pride that today I recognize, on behalf of the residents of Ohio’s 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the Honorable Joseph DiGenova.

### **Veterans Drive Renamed DiGenova Way**

At its March 27 meeting, City Council approved a resolution that renames Veterans Drive to DiGenova Way. A ceremony is planned for later in the spring, perhaps during the Memorial Day weekend. Veterans Drive is the short street that connects the YMCA with S. Houk Dr. Joe DiGenova played an instrumental role in creating Veterans Plaza at the Y. Given his decades-long deep commitment to veterans of foreign wars, it is an appropriate way to honor his memory.

### **What Happens Next?**

Joe DiGenova's term was to end Nov. 2019, but the Third Ward seat is now vacant. According to the Delaware Gazette (3/21/17), City Council "typically" looks to appoint rather than to elect a replacement. However, here is what the City Charter (Section 13) states: if any member of Council resigns or dies, "the remaining members of Council shall by the concurrence of at least four votes choose his/her successor, who shall qualify and serve during the remainder of the unexpired term OR until a successor shall be elected." Since the general elections are more than 90 days away, in this case a candidate or candidates MAY be nominated and elected at the next municipal elections (Nov. 7). If we understand the City Charter correctly, City Council can either choose whether to appoint a successor for the duration of the term OR arrange an election at the next opportunity. It might also be possible to fill the position with an appointed interim person and then proceed with elections in November. This is complicated legal stuff, complicated by filing deadlines and residency requirements. City lawyer Darren Shulman will have his hands full to sort it all out. It'll be interesting and informative to see how the City handles the issue. Our preference, however, is to see a democratically elected individual occupying the Third Ward seat after Nov. 7 and to serve through Nov. 2019.

### **City Joins Lawsuit against Senate Bill 331**

As reported in the March issue (under "Home Rule"), Ohio Senate Bill 331 is threatening the home-rule authority of municipalities under the Ohio Revised Code. It permits wireless service providers to attach micro-wireless equipment (such as antennas or boxes) to traffic lights, utility poles, and other structures in the public right-of-way without consent or regulation from local governments, creating a wild-west scenario. Alternatively, they may erect new signal towers up to 50 feet tall in the public right-of-way wherever they please. The law went into effect March 21. On March 20, a lawsuit was filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court by at least 50 cities and villages from around the state, including 14 in Central Ohio. 20 additional northeast Ohio cities and villages have filed a separate lawsuit seeking a preliminary injunction against unregulated small-cell technology. – An estimated 100,000 to 150,000 small cells will be deployed nationwide by 2018 and as many as 800,000 by 2026, according to the "Columbus Dispatch." Given the high volume, it is imperative to put common-sense rules and regulations in place to ensure traffic safety and the integrity of existing infrastructure.

### **City of Delaware Tax Filing**

All City of Delaware residents and part-year residents are required to file a tax return by Tues., April 18, 2017, even if no tax is due. Anyone who received a pre-printed form is on active status. Income Tax Office hours are Mon. – Fri., 8 am – 5 pm. Free walk-in tax assistance is available at City Hall (ground floor), 1 S. Sandusky St. The office will have extended hours on Sat., April 15 (9 am – 1 pm) and on Tues., April 18 (8 am – 7 pm). For questions, call 740-203-1225 or send an email to [incometax@delawareohio.net](mailto:incometax@delawareohio.net).

### **Downtown Parking Advisory Committee**

To help prioritize and implement the results of a recent "Downtown Parking Study," the City of Delaware has created a new Downtown Parking Advisory Committee. The selection of a representative cross-section of city businesses and residents is now complete, and no more applications will be taken. It has not yet been determined if this will be a temporary task force or if it may morph into a standing committee.

### **Delaware City Digest Radio Program**

Community Affairs Coordinator Lee Yoakum recently issued the following statement: "The City of Delaware has a half-hour radio program that airs live on Friday mornings from 9:30-10 am on WDLR 92.9 FM and 1550 AM. I host the show, along with City Attorney Darren Shulman. (...) The show re-airs on Sunday on the same stations at 9:30 am. We try each week to have some fun and to provide useful information. We sometimes succeed..."

### **Sakata Visit**

An official City delegation will travel to Delaware's sister city Sakata in Japan from April 14-22. Included are Mayor Carolyn Riggle, City Manager Tom Homan, OWU Provost Chuck Stinemetz, Delaware

City School teacher Jeanne Meyer, and Jeffrey Sprague from New Transport located in the city's industrial park. Sakata is a port city of roughly 100,000 on the west side of Honshu, Japan's largest island. In the fall of 2015, a five-member delegation from Sakata came to Delaware. The 2017 trip includes visits to government agencies, businesses, schools, and historic sites as well as a signing ceremony for the sister-city partnership. Sakata will pay for all expenses for the group while in Japan (transportation, lodging, and meals). At its March 13 meeting, City Council approved a resolution that declared that the upcoming visit to Sakata serves "a public purpose" and authorized the use of public funds to help pay for the flight to and from Tokyo. A similar resolution was defeated a few years ago, but Councilmember Lisa Keller stated that she has since changed her mind. There is "lots to be gained" through sister-city relationships and exchange programs, she stated, including the potential for new business opportunities. – By the way, the little "Friendship Tree" that was planted on 11/2/15 on the west side of City Hall is doing alright. It suffered some frost damage, but at last check there were enough healthy buds to ensure its survival.

### **Racial Profiling**

Under Public Comments, Delaware resident Mark Butler brought up the topic of racial bias and profiling at the Feb. 27 meeting of City Council. He stated that a black man in a white neighborhood (where he lives) is often targeted, stopped, and questioned by police officers solely or primarily because of his race and mentioned that it has happened to him. He would like to see a discussion on racial profiling, data collection, standards for police conduct, and measures to correct police misconduct in accordance with Governor Kasich's "Ohio Collaborative" task force. Pastor Michael Curtis from Delaware's Second Baptist Church did not contradict "Brother Butler," but noted that the Delaware Community Coalition (DCC) that he helped start last year is an attempt to bring together people of different backgrounds and help improve race relations in the community. He is hopeful that the DCC will one day be "a shining light in the dark." The DCC last met on March 21 and approved the following mission statement: "The coalition is a group of government, social, business, and faith-based organizations working together to seek unity, peace, and the well-being of the people of Delaware." – Police Chief Bruce Pijanowski, who was in the audience, was not asked to respond and did not make a statement.

### **New Basketball Courts at Blue Limestone**

More than \$500,000 remain of the original \$23 million park-and-recreation levy. In addition, some previously allocated monies will not be spent (e.g., \$286,000 for irrigation system on soccer fields). On Feb. 27, the Recreation Subcommittee met to discuss plans how to best allocate the left-over dollars. Following recommendations by the Parks & Natural Resources Director, Ted Miller, the Splash Pad at the YMCA will receive some necessary upgrades as will the facilities at Mingo Park. Some of the funds will be spent on new drinking fountains and uniform signage for all city parks. The Delaware Community Coalition, which has asked for regulation basketball courts, got its wish fulfilled. The subcommittee approved up to \$150,000 to install two new state-of-the-art basketball courts (incl. lighting) at Blue Limestone Park, but realistically they won't be ready until 2018.

### **Community Garden Plots Available**

The City of Delaware has community garden plots available for residents. The 20 x 20 plots are located at the entrance to Blue Limestone Park. The cost is \$20 per plot. The City will have rain barrels on site, and the Delaware Run is nearby. For more info or to reserve a plot, phone 740-203-1810.

### **Liberty Casting**

The "Delaware stench" originating from Liberty Casting on 550 Liberty Rd. is as potent and malodorous as ever. Every time the wind comes from the south, vast swaths of the city suffer from it. People have been complaining about accompanying headaches, dizziness, and nausea for decades. The hazardous smell was particularly offensive on Sat., March 25. In Dec. 2016, Liberty Casting announced it had received \$180,000 taxpayer money to install fume hoods for its emission units to capture the emissions and to reduce the odor. Either the filters have not yet been installed (the likely

explanation) or they are ineffective. Either way, the company needs to expedite the process to protect the health and well-being of Delaware's residents. The toxic and carcinogenic chemicals in the air are not just "a public nuisance," they are a clear and present danger for almost 40,000 people. It is our perception, however, that neither the metal foundry nor Delaware's authorities are taking the situation as seriously as they should. The company has a long history of violating existing laws (it's all on public record) and the powers that be value the company as "a good employer." They, along with the OEPA, have done much to keep the public in the dark. Despite local, state, and federal rules and regulations that prohibit the practice, Delaware has become a dumping ground for thousands of pounds of toxic and carcinogenic substances, including benzene, methanol, napoline, phenol, tuolene, trimethylbenzene, xylene, and other unknown chemicals. Nobody seems to know what exactly is emitted, how much is emitted, and what the associated risks are. That is not an acceptable situation. Liberty Casting must expedite the timeline and install the fume hoods now.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity is breaking ground for its 60<sup>th</sup> house in Delaware County later this spring. It will be occupied by Sara Hoover and her family. At a recent meeting of City Council it was announced that a home located at 48 High St., destroyed by fire, would be demolished and rebuilt by Habitat for Humanity. Most Habitat houses are built in the Second Ward because that is where the need is greatest.

### **Arena Fair Theatre**

Delaware's Arena Fair Theatre has announced on its Facebook page that it will perform the musicals "Godspell" from July 14-16 in OWU's Chappelle Drama Center and "Hairspray" from Nov. 3-5 in its new home at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. (For further info on the musicals, go to Wikipedia where there are extensive entries on them.)

### **OWU's Alma Mater Song**

Ohio Wesleyan! Sweetly and strong  
Rises our hymn of praise for thee alone;  
Heaven re-echoes it, loud let it ring,  
"Ohio Wesleyan," loyal hearts sing.

Ohio Wesleyan! Proud is thy crown.  
Rarest of laurels e'er victory has known;  
Noblest achievements have hallowed thy name,  
Ohio Wesleyan! Deathless thy fame.

As you read or hear the quaint and bromidic words of Ohio Wesleyan's Alma Mater song, it is clear that they are completely devoid of any substantive value. Very much in the nationalist tradition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it demands uncritical praise and blind loyalty. Here is an innovative idea as OWU will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. How about a competition over the summer for a new Alma Mater song that reflects OWU's contemporary values such as curiosity and inquiry, knowledge and wisdom, competence and proficiency, character and diversity, honesty and compassion, ethics and aesthetics, community and society, and so on? OWU has many talented writers and musicians in its midst who might welcome such a challenge. It would also be an opportunity to collectively reflect upon the vision and mission of OWU. In the worst-case scenario, no winner will emerge and the college will keep its old song. However, it is quite possible that something new and exciting will emerge that inspires and guides OWU for the next 100 years. Why not give it a try?

### **Community Film Series**

OWU's "Community Film Series" continues throughout the month of April. Films are shown Tues. and Wed. nights at 9:30 pm at the Strand Theater (28 E. Winter St.). General admission is \$7; OWU students pay \$6. The movies are: "Nostalgia for the Light" (4/4-5), "Life, Above All" (4/11-12), "Like Father, Like Son" (4/18-19), and "Pride" (4/25-26).

### **French Film Series at OWU**

The Tournées Festival on the OWU Campus continues with "Chicken with Plums" (4/3), "May Allah Bless France" (4/7), "My Friend Victoria" (4/10), and "The Marquise of O." (4/12). All films will be shown at 7 pm in 301 Merrick Hall and have English subtitles. The film series is free & open to the public. For questions, contact French professor Dr. Ana Oancea at [aoancea@owu.edu](mailto:aoancea@owu.edu).

### **Jon Whitcomb (1906-1988)**

Jon Whitcomb was a world-famous illustrator, best known for his pictures of beautiful women and handsome men for magazine covers. Hundreds of his iconic images, intended for mass distribution, can be found on Google and/or Pinterest. Whitcomb was born in Oklahoma, but grew up in Wisconsin. We were therefore surprised to learn that he lived in Delaware at one point of his life and attended Ohio Wesleyan University. In his book "Delaware Then and Now" (1976), Ray Buckingham says (p. 354) that the young Whitcomb presided at the Wurlitzer pipe organ that was then used by the Strand Theater to accompany silent movies before talking movies made them obsolete. One biography we found on the Internet says he also played the organ for the Presbyterian Church. Apparently, however, "his church career came to an abrupt end one Sunday morning when he mistakenly played a rumba for the recessional." Alas, we have not been able to determine if this story is true or false and if it happened in Delaware or Columbus. So far we have been unable to learn more about Jon Whitcomb's years in Delaware. It is clear that he did attend OWU for a year or two, but ended up graduating with a major in English from Ohio State University. He is said to have started drawing illustrations for student publications while at OSU, but it is not inconceivable that he also drew and published images while at OWU. It would be a fun project to delve into the local archives to find out more about his formative years.



### **Meet Cameron Hewitt, OWU Alum of 1998**

German and other foreign languages have been taught at OWU since it was founded in 1842. Over the past 175 years, the German Program has produced many distinguished alumni. One of them is Cameron Hewitt, a 1998 alumnus with a major in German Studies and fluency in Spanish after having spent one semester abroad in Salamanca, Spain. His father is a retired professor at MTSO, C. M. Kempton Hewitt. Cameron was Phi Beta Kappa and helped OWU professors Conrad Kent and Thomas Wolber produce a book on German-Spanish cultural relations over the centuries, which appeared in 2000. In the same year, Cameron went to work for Rick Steves' famous travel company in Edmonds, Washington, where he has worked ever since. Today, he is Rick Steves' lead editor, co-author, and second hand. The two work "in tandem." He specializes in Eastern Europe, but has traveled to and written about more than 35 different European countries. On Amazon, you will find that Cameron is now the official co-author of numerous travel guides on Croatia & Slovenia, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, and Scotland as well as cities such as Athens, Budapest, Dubrovnik, Gdansk (Danzig), Helsinki, Krakow, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, and Warsaw. There are also two guidebooks on experiencing Europe by cruise ship. In addition, you can hear Cameron on radio programs and watch him on television shows. On his Facebook page and blog, he regularly reports on his travels through Central and Eastern Europe, including the German-speaking countries of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Ohio Wesleyan laid the broad and deep foundation for Cameron Hewitt's education by teaching him the requisite theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and liberal values to succeed in life. We are sure to hear more from this talented and hard-working man in the future.

### **National Library Week (April 9-15)**

National Library Week will be observed April 9-15 this year with the theme "Libraries Transform." From National Library Worker Day on Tues., April 11, to National Bookmobile Day on Wed., April 12, there are many chances to show your appreciation for the Delaware County District Library (DCDL). Please note, however, that the library

will be closed on Sun., April 16, for the Easter holiday. – National Library Week was first celebrated in 1958.

### **Howard Bryan (1920-2011) – Unknown Son of Delaware**

Howard Thornton Bryan was born on March 25, 1920 in Delaware, Ohio. His father, Howard Thornton Bryan, Sr., had an electrical repair shop and wrote a history column titled "Know Your Ohio" for the "Delaware Gazette." A few times, young Howard substituted a column for his dad. His mother was Alice Bryan, a pianist from whom the young Bryan got his appreciation for music. He attended OSU for a couple of years, but says he was kicked out for his grades. A history buff himself, he spent too much time in the history library reading about the frontier days. During WW II, he served in the Army, then began a career as a police reporter and journalist, writing for the "Cleveland Press" for two years. Later he worked, very successfully, for the "Albuquerque Tribune" from 1948 until his retirement in 1985. New Mexico became his adopted home, and for decades he wrote a history column, "Off the Beaten Path." He also published a total of seven books about New Mexico's past: "Tours for All Seasons," "Wildest of the Wild West," "Robbers, Rogues, and Ruffians," "Incredible Elfecho Baca," "True Tales of the American Southwest," "Albuquerque Remembered," and "Santa Fe Tales." Several of them won awards. Bryan died at the age of 91 in Albuquerque, N.M. due to an inoperable tumor and is buried in the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

### **Gallery 22 Exhibit (through 4/22)**

Gallery 22 at 22 E. Winter St. continues to exhibit colorful "Modern Primitive Acrylics" by Marion-based painter Annette Montis through April 22. The show opened March 3 with a reception. The painter calls her work "folk art," but it's more than that. The inspirational paintings are full of light, love, and dreams, and female figures, animals, and plants play a central role. "Anything is possible" is the title of a painting that shows a flying pig. Gallery hours are Fri. and Sat. from 6-8:30 pm; the gallery is closed during the rest of the week. For more info, visit [www.gallery22.net](http://www.gallery22.net).

### **MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm by Kelsey Desmond**

Join Seminary Hill Farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program! Seminary Hill Farm is a 5-acre certified-organic produce farm just south of Delaware, OH on the campus of MTSO. Our CSA program provides our members fresh, local fruits and vegetables every week grown on our farm. Over three seasons, you will discover the joy of eating seasonally with our farm. In Summer Session I, you will enjoy specialty salad mixes, strawberries, asparagus, and herbs. Summer Session II brings you tomatoes, zucchini, kale, eggplants, peppers, and more. Our Fall Session rounds out the year with canned goods, mushrooms, and root crops. You may even be treated to freshly baked breads from our dining hall and eggs from our free-range chickens. Supporting our CSA supports sustainable agriculture and young, aspiring farmers. Sign up today on our website, [www.seminaryhillfarm.org](http://www.seminaryhillfarm.org), for fresh fruits and vegetables every week this summer and fall.

### **The Greenwood Lake Property**

As reported in the March issue of "Community Matters," the Greenwood Lake property on 340 Lake St. in Delaware's northeast quadrant is now for sale. It used to be a popular summer resort and recreational area before it was bought by the Salvation Army decades ago. The Robert Weiler Company in Columbus has now produced a 15-page brochure that describes the property in some detail and provides accompanying maps and images. (You will find it on their website if you conduct a ZIP-Code search for 43015.) The brochure also has historical value, among other things. According to the information in it, the property encompasses a total of 47.48 acres, including the 10.69-acre lake. The parcel is for sale for \$2.55 million (\$53,706.82 per acre). It is currently zoned A-1 (agricultural) except for a small sliver of 3.97 acres on the east side that is zoned R-3 (residential). The description reads in part, the parcel "is wooded with trails, athletic sports courts and a pool with bath house. There are currently 8 cabins,

1 lodge, 1 single family guest house, chapel and more." In addition, the pictures indicate the presence of a conference center, a park shelter, a boat house, a maintenance shed, an outdoor auditorium (amphitheater), a playground, and other structures and features. Delaware's largest community garden is also located there, something that the real-estate agency conveniently ignores. Of particular importance may be the presence of an ODNR-inspected dam, which according to Ohio law must be monitored, maintained, and safely operated by the owner. The cost for that is not available except that there is an annual fee involved. – Originally a farm, the area has been used for recreational purposes for almost 150 years. The Robert Weiler Company touts the "endless potential" of the parcel, including "redevelopment for other uses." However, it would be a shame if the lake were to be drained and this very unique property to be rezoned and redeveloped for purposes other than serving as a green space, a living laboratory, and an educational center for nature studies. Delaware does not have many natural areas left at this point. Entities such as the City of Delaware, Preservation Parks, Ohio Wesleyan University, or the Nature Conservancy should seriously look at preserving Greenwood Lake and its watershed, perhaps with grants from the Ohio/EPA or ODNR. – Update: A prospective buyer has emerged who intends to leave the natural features of the property intact. However, the non-profit organization is worried about the unknown costs to repair the dam at Lake St.

## **COUNTY & CENTRAL OHIO**

### **Central Ohio Keeps Growing**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Central Ohio keeps growing. For the first time in history, the population of Columbus and Franklin County (1.26 million) is greater than that of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County (1.25 million). That is, in part, due to the loss of manufacturing jobs in the northeast and the growth of healthcare and education jobs in Central Ohio. 60 Ohio counties lost people, but 28 gained people. Among them are the Central Ohio counties of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Pickaway, and Union. Union was the state's fastest-growing county in terms of percentage (2.1%), followed by Delaware (1.85%). Delaware County added 3,579 residents to its population last year and has now a total of 196,000 people. At the going rate, the county is on track to reach the 200,000 mark in 2018.



### **DATA Bus**

According to information provided by Delaware County Transit Agency, which provides "public transportation for all," DATA provided 82,000+ trips to residents and visitors of Delaware County last year. The agency has a fleet of 21 vehicles and employs 45 individuals (32 of them drivers) who are in the Public Employees Retirement System. DATA offers fixed routes in all directions. The base fare for them is \$1.00. People 18 and under, seniors 65 and over, and people on disability pay \$0.50. In addition, DATA offers Paratransit Service for individuals with disabilities as well as On-Demand Rides. For details, visit [www.ridedata.com](http://www.ridedata.com). Paper copies of schedules are available at the Public Library and elsewhere. You may also stop by at DATA's headquarters at 119 Henderson Ct., which is off London Rd.

### **DGHD Is Ohio's Healthiest District**

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, the Delaware General Health District (DGHD) is the healthiest of Ohio's 88 counties. The ranking is based on the following 9 factors: smoking, obesity, food environment, physical activity, exercise opportunities, alcohol & alcohol-related deaths, sexually transmitted diseases, and teen births. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation does not seem to factor in social and environmental conditions such as poverty, race relations, and pollution, which can also negatively impact human health. However, issues such as access to healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, and environmental health are addressed in the Community Health Improvement Plan of the DGHD.

## **DGHD Annual Report 2016**

The Delaware General Health District (DGHD) has issued its 2016 Annual Report and sent it to every household. According to the data, Clinic Services included 2055 childhood immunizations, 413 adult immunizations, 2017 flu immunizations, and 1407 communicable-diseases investigations. Community Services included car-seat safety checks (551), home-safety checks (63), birth certificates (2417), and death certificates (2701). It's interesting to see that in Delaware County the number of deaths (639) is twice as high compared to the number of births (317). Of course, the county is still growing rather than shrinking due to the influx of people who move to Central Ohio. Licensing Services included food-service inspections (2014), pool inspections (577), residential plumbing inspections (3473), and others. A 4-minute "Annual Report Video" is available on the website ([www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org)) and includes the same data. It also takes a look at year 2 of the Community Health Improvement Plan. It briefly mentions transportation options, substance abuse, mental health, suicide prevention, obesity, food insecurity, environmental health, litter prevention, etc. – Only a few years ago, the DGHD issued 12-page brochures several times a year that contained detailed and useful information about health, diseases, services, and events. These days, reports are short, 1-page statements that are issued only once a year. Maybe people don't read as much anymore, maybe the costs were too high, and maybe some of the information is now available on websites. But we lament the fact that the amount of knowledge is reduced to a handful of bullet points compared to lengthy, substantive reports only a few years ago. Hopefully the promised "new & improved website" that is "coming soon" will help remedy the situation.

## **Delaware County Bank**

First Commonwealth Financial Corp. (Indiana, Penn.) announced last year that it was buying DCB Financial Bank, the parent of Delaware County Bank, in an acquisition valued at \$106 million. Last month, the shareholders of DCB formally approved the sale. The deal is expected to close April 3, and the 13 Delaware County Bank offices will switch over to First Commonwealth in May of 2017.

## **Lisa Courtice – United Way's New President**

United Way of Central Ohio announced in March that Dr. Lisa Courtice, 54, will replace President and CEO Janet Jackson, 64, who is retiring after 14 years at the helm of the agency. Courtice, a trained psychologist, has held many local and regional leadership positions over the years, incl. 13 years overseeing community research and grants management at the Columbus Foundation. Her annual compensation is to be \$265,000. Lisa Schweitzer Courtice is the wife of Tom Courtice who served as 14<sup>th</sup> President of Ohio Wesleyan University from 1994 to 2004. She will be in charge of implementing United Way's new focus on poverty reduction in Central Ohio.

## **Looking for a Trusted Tree & Landscaping Service?**

The (slightly edited) text below was recently sent to us by the ***Stratford Ecological Center***, located at 3083 Liberty Rd.: "Stratford has benefitted numerous times from the experience of ***Spring Berry Landscaping & Tree Service***. Thank you, Ray & Calvin! If you need help in designing & building landscapes and hardscapes (rock walls, patios), tree maintenance or removal, Stratford can vouch for the quality of their workmanship! Check out this local, full-service business at [www.springberrylandscaping.com](http://www.springberrylandscaping.com)."

## **Powell Discusses Chickens Again**

Powell's City Council will once again discuss chickens at its April 4 meeting after the Planning & Zoning Commission approved backyard chickens within city limits on March 8 under the following conditions: a maximum of 6 animals; inspection of chicken coops; approval by Powell's Board of Zoning Appeals; and a one-time charge of \$400. – While some conditions sound reasonable, the charge of \$400 is excessive. For an affluent family, \$400 is pocket change, but for struggling low-and-moderate-income families \$400 is a lot of money. Powell should create incentives for food-insecure families to keep egg-producing chickens, not disincentives. The current proposal favors the rich and discriminates against the poor. City councils should be bodies that represent constituents fairly and equally.

## **Ohioana Book Festival (4/8)**

This year's Ohioana Book Festival is scheduled for Sat., April 8 (10:30 am – 5 pm) and will be held at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capital Square in Downtown Columbus (75 E. State St.). The festival features about 120 Ohio authors and illustrators, panel discussions, activities for children & teenagers, a book fair, book signings, and food trucks. Admission is free. Last year, more than 3,000 people attended the festival. For more info and a complete list of the authors (from Adams to Zurcher) & their new titles, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

## **"Hillbilly Elegy" Author Has Returned to Ohio**

In the Feb. issue of "Community Matters," it was reported that the author of the current bestseller "Hillbilly Elegy," J. D. (James David) Vance, would return to Ohio soon. In a recent op-ed piece in the New York Times (3/16/17) Vance has confirmed that he is now settled in Columbus where he will start "an organization to combat Ohio's opioid epidemic." In his essay, he laments the fact that some companies are blind to the real struggles of ordinary folks and consider Ohio as a "fly-over country" not worth their attention. Vance states that businesses do have a "civic responsibility" to help their home communities and society's least fortunate families. He explains, "What many communities need most is not just financial support, but talent and energy and committed citizens to build viable businesses and other civic institutions." – Vance, a registered Republican, grew up in Kentucky (Jackson) and southwestern Ohio (Middletown), and has degrees from OSU and Yale. Until recently, he and his wife resided in California. Now that he lives in Central Ohio, there is an increased chance that we might see him in Delaware some day. "Hillbilly Elegy" is OWU's book-club selection for the spring 2017 semester.

## **Children's Book Author Troy Cummings (5/7)**

Children's author and illustrator Troy Cummings is best known for the 12 books of his "horrorlarious" series "Notebook of Doom." He has written and illustrated other books as well (e.g., "Giddy-Up, Daddy!") and created illustrations for companies, products, book, newspapers, magazines, posters, websites, hospital rooms, greeting cards, puzzles, games, and so on. To learn more about him, visit [www.troycummings.net](http://www.troycummings.net). He will be speaking at the Orange Branch Library on Sun., May 7 at 2 pm. He'll discuss writing and drawing monsters and will be available for book signing afterwards. Friends of the Delaware County District Library have received a \$6,000 grant from the Robert F. Beard Foundation to bring this popular Scholastic author to Delaware County. – Friends of the Delaware Library are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year. For more info, visit [www.delawarelibraryfriends.org](http://www.delawarelibraryfriends.org).

## **All Sides with Ann Fisher**

"All Sides with Ann Fisher" is a radio program that airs every morning at 10 and 11 a.m. on WOSU (89.7 FM) and is repeated the same night at 8 and 9 pm. Ann Fisher, a former "Columbus Dispatch" reporter, invites experts to her show to explore a wide variety of topics such as politics, education, health & wellness, gardening, social justice, technology, or the environment. The audience has a chance to call or write in and ask questions and make comments. Many local people have been on her show over the years, incl. several OWU professors. Unlike some conservative talk-show hosts (Rush Limbaugh comes to mind), Ann Fisher's informative show is mainstream and strives to be non-partisan and non-ideological.

## **Cozy Cat Cottage in Powell**

Cozy Cat Cottage is an adoption center for cats and kittens located at 62 Village Pointe Dr. in Powell. Since opening in 1998, Cozy Cat has rescued and found homes for nearly 5,500 kittens and cats, according to their brochure. The no-kill shelter is open every day, 365 days a year. The adoption fee is \$100 or less, depending on the age of the cat, and includes spaying/neutering and vaccinations. Microchipping is available for a small additional registration fee. Volunteers and temporary foster homes are always needed as are monetary and in-kind donations such as food or cleaning materials. Visit their website at [www.cozycatcottage.org](http://www.cozycatcottage.org) or send an email to [adopt@cozycatcottage.com](mailto:adopt@cozycatcottage.com).

## **Osprey Homecoming (4/30)**

Preservation Parks of Delaware County celebrates the annual return of the osprey from their winter grounds in South America on Sun., April 30 (1-4 pm) at Hogback Ridge Park (2656 Hofdback Rd.) and the Alum Creek Reservoir Hogback Rd. parking area. Drop in to view osprey through spotting scopes, enjoy crafts and refreshments, and learn about the successful recovery of this once endangered Ohio bird. The program is suitable for all ages.



### **State of the State Address**

Governor John Kasich will deliver his 7<sup>th</sup> State of the State Address on Tues., April 4 (7 pm) in Sandusky on the shore of Lake Erie. Multiple things ail Ohio, and the state is at the bottom of the barrel in many respects. For example, Ohio's opioid epidemic is the worst in the nation. Job losses, wage stagnation, mass incarceration, poverty and food insecurity, white suicide, air pollution, and toxic algae are also in full bloom. The governor is required to annually communicate "the condition of the state" to Ohio's 132 legislators. However, don't expect an unbiased, honest picture from Kasich. Politicians tend to tout their accomplishments and turn a blind eye to the rest, and Kasich is unfortunately no exception.

### **Who Will Be Ohio's Next Governor?**

John Kasich is term-limited and cannot serve again, which explains why quite a few people have declared their intention to run for Governor in 2018. On the Democratic side, there are now three official candidates: Connie Pillich, Joe Schiavoni, and Betty Sutton. Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley is also considered a potential candidate. On the Republican side, the field is equally crowded with Mike DeWine, Jon Husted, Jim Renacci, and Mary Taylor. In addition, there is an attempt to recruit former Ohio Attorney General and Treasurer Richard Cordray who is currently Director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Trump Administration is eager to oust him.

### **Sherrod Brown's Plan for Workers**

Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, a Democrat, has revealed a very detailed 77-page plan aimed at improving the conditions for working Ohioans. He notes that the nation has "failed" many of its workers and the middle class. The plan envisions giving companies a tax break when they stay in America, when they hire American workers, and when they pay employees a living wage and good benefits. Specifically, he wants businesses to offer up to 7 paid sick-leave days, up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, and overtime pay for workers making less than \$47,500 a year. The plan also mentions better retirement options. In addition, Brown's bill addresses the criminal practice of wage theft and stealing workers' tips. Finally, he wants to rein in the practice of low-paying companies (such as Walmart and McDonald's) to direct their employees to federal-assistance programs. If that happens, companies should reimburse taxpayers. – Brown is up for reelection next year. His opponent, Josh Mandel, has not submitted a similar plan for improving people's lives. Mandel, a Republican, is opposed to raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

### **Ohio's Clean-Energy Standards**

Republicans are once again trying to kill Ohio's clean-energy mandate. House Bill 114, introduced 3/7/17, removes required annual benchmarks and replaces them with voluntary goals. It also allows businesses to opt out of clean-energy programs. Although the bill is supported by every single Republican and is being expedited, the real question is whether there will be a two-thirds majority in both chambers to override another veto by Gov. John Kasich. Environmentalists (such as the Ohio Environmental Council) are opposed to House Bill 114, which they call "a solution in search of a problem." They want Ohio to be a leader in the clean-energy revolution, not a hindrance. The National Resources Defense Council says clean energy is "an industry that employs 100,000 Ohioans and saves money for

families and businesses." High-tech companies such as Amazon and Google believe strongly in clean-energy investments.

### **Meet Charleta B. Tavares, Ohio State Senator**

By all accounts, Charleta B(ell) Tavares is a remarkable woman with an extensive public-service career. Born in Columbus in 1955, she attended Spelman College, the nation's top-ranked historically black women's college in Atlanta, and OSU. From 1993 to 1998, she served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from the 22nd district and became the first African American woman ever to hold a leadership position in the Ohio General Assembly. After serving a 10-year term on the Columbus City Council (1999-2009), she was elected in 2010 with 72.8% of the vote to the Ohio Senate from the 15th district. She was reelected in 2014 with 76.39% of the vote. Tavares' legislative priorities include K-12 education, healthcare, workers' rights, criminal-justice reform, infrastructure investment, consumer protection, and family policies. She is known as a strong advocate for keeping Ohio's children safe and healthy and has introduced bills to that effect. Both within and without the Senate, Tavares serves in a number of capacities. Over the years, she has occupied many leadership positions in the non-profit sector as well. The League of Women Voters has produced a profile of her that lists dozens of such positions and mentions numerous honors and awards. – Charleta B. Tavares deserves to be better known. It's not easy being a Democrat in a state that is dominated by Republicans. Conservative media don't seem to be interested in her either. And yet, Tavares embodies many of the values that liberal-arts colleges represent and would be a good role model for both women and minorities. Those who have met her describe her as being "wonderful with students": "She went around the table and personally introduced herself to each one of them before she sat down, then held a deep dialogue of thoughtful and meaty conversation with us." More places should consider listening to her life experiences. Delaware, which has only recently started a conversation about diversity, inclusion, and community relations, needs to hear her story. Some day, she should be invited to give a presentation at OWU that is free and open to the public. It is also possible to envision her as a candidate for an honorary degree some day, as a commencement speaker, and/or as a member of a board of trustees at a Central Ohio college or university.

### **Toxic Algae Now Responsibility of Health Departments**

A legal opinion by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine assigns responsibility for toxic-algae monitoring to each of Ohio's 88 health departments, blindsiding them. Health departments, especially smaller ones, have tight bottom lines. They do not have the experience, training, funding, personnel, and equipment to monitor for harmful algae. This will lead to no or inadequate monitoring and no or inadequate plans for a state-wide solution of the perennial algae problem. This is the equivalent of saying that HIV, Zika, or Ebola is not the responsibility of the federal or state governments anymore, but of local health districts. It is not surprising that the State of Ohio would abdicate its duty to ensure public health and safety in this manner, but it is disappointing. It also ensures that big agricultural polluters will continue to dump manure (containing phosphorus and nitrogen) on fields because which local health department in conservative counties can afford to take on multi-million-dollar factory farms raising chickens, hogs, or cattle? This is one area where "home rule" makes no sense. The State of Ohio has shown an increasing and disturbing tendency to take rights away from local entities while at the same time saddling them more and more duties and costs. There is an Association of Ohio Health Commissioners. They, along with county commissioners, should reject the new unfunded mandate for which they are not prepared. -- In Delaware County, I have seen thick algae blooms in small creeks and ponds, but not yet in Delaware Lake or Alum Creek Lake. However, residents of Franklin County frequently complain about their drinking water (from Hoover Reservoir) being discolored and bad-tasting. Officials say it is because of the presence of algae in the watershed.

### **"The Death and Life of the Great Lakes"**

Thanks to "Book Page," a free publication available at the Public Library, we became aware of Dan Egan's landmark study "The Death and Life of the Great Lakes" (Norton 2017, 383 pp., \$27.95).

The Great Lakes represent about 20% of the world's fresh water and are the source of drinking water for some 45 million people, but they also face tremendous challenges such as industrial pollution, invasive species, and toxic algae. Egan's compelling study chronicles the slow destruction of one of America's greatest assets, but he also suggests policies that would ensure the future of the Great Lakes. Unfortunately, the current administration in Washington, D.C. has proposed gutting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



### **The Izaak Walton League**

There are numerous hunting and fishing associations in the U.S. But the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) is special, and we have been meaning to write about them for some time. The association recently caught our eye again after the Trump Administration announced that it would cancel EPA efforts to protect small upstream waters (such as small streams and wetlands) from industrial and agricultural pollution and destruction. While the Republican-dominated State of Ohio supports the rollback, IWLA criticized the move. The league and other sports groups fear (quite correctly, in our view) that the end of federal protections puts in jeopardy numerous fish and bird species and reduces biodiversity. – IWLA was founded as a national conservation organization in 1922 and named after the 17<sup>th</sup>-century author of "The Compleat Angler," a famous fly-fishing classic. From its start, the league had two main objectives: 1. to promote hunting and fishing and 2. to conserve outdoor America for future generations. The league illustrates that hunting & fishing and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive goals. Over the decades, IWLA had many accomplishments. For example, it helped pass the Clean Water Act of 1972, save the bighorn sheep, and fight against clear-cut logging. At the last national conference members asked the question, "What do we want the league to stand for?" The answer was "clean water" for all Americans. Little and big "Ikes" are now focusing their efforts on stream and water monitoring and legislative efforts to preserve water quality. Even if you are not a fisherman or hunter yourself, you are welcome to join the league as a volunteer or member. Chapters do exist in Ohio. The Central Ohio Chapter seems quite active, judging from their Facebook page. Several members live in Delaware County. For the past few years, IWLA representatives have participated in the Northern Olentangy Watershed (NOW) festival, and this year may be no exception. We encourage you to check them out. For more information, visit their website at [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org).

### **Dr. Carlo Croce and The Ohio State University**

The case of Dr. Carlo Croce, a prestigious scientist at OSU, has recently emerged as an example of a researcher who seems more interested in money, power, and prestige than in the academic integrity of his work. In Dr. Croce's own words, he has received a total of more than \$86 million in federal research grants (\$29.1 while at OSU) for his research in genetics, an amount that does not include funding from private industry. That makes him an untouchable star in the eyes of the OSU administration. However, a tide of accusations has surfaced in recent years that Dr. Croce has exaggerated the potential benefit of his work, committed plagiarism, deliberately falsified data, and committed systemic fraud. Over thirty of the papers he and his collaborators have published have since been retracted. Surprisingly, however, Dr. Croce has never faced any consequences for his misconduct at OSU. As is quite typical in such cases, OSU seemed to place a higher value on revenue than on academic honesty and decided "to bury it all," according to the New York Times. When interviewed, OSU officials voiced surprise at the accusations and indicated they were unaware. They also stated that independent experts have found no evidence that the university's protocols deviate from national standards. The statement did not say whether the experts were actually looking for and investigating such evidence or if they chose to look the other way. Besides, it could well be the case that the guidelines in place are indeed in compliance with generally accepted principles but that the actual practice differs. OSU does have

an "integrity officer," but that person faces a tremendous conflict of interest and could easily lose his or her job if performing the assigned task too vigorously. The Columbus Dispatch has since reported that OSU is notorious for shielding unflattering data from public scrutiny by delaying or denying requests for information, in violation of Ohio's Public Records Law. OSU has a \$6.2 billion budget and employs an army of lawyers to protect its interests by suppressing negative publicity about crime, rape, drug use, violence, fraud, corruption, and the like. One clever way of doing so is by not collecting data on such things, allowing the institution to confidently claim that no record and no evidence exists that would substantiate any accusations. – When greedy individuals such as Dr. Croce and institutions such as OSU work in cahoots, taxpayer money is wasted, trust is violated, and the search for truth is compromised. The damage to science is incalculable.

## **NATION**

### **March for Science (April 22)**

Scientists are usually found working in the lab or in the field. They are rarely seen in the political arena. But on Sat., April 22, there will be an unprecedented gathering of scientists in Washington, D.C. They are meeting and marching in response to those anti-vexxers and climate-change deniers who have declared war on science and have elevated alternative facts over empirical data. The march is intended as a reaffirmation and celebration of science in an age where its role and value is under attack. President Trump in particular has shown no interest in scientific matters. His administration has demoted and devaluated science. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which guided previous presidents, has been abandoned. Recent White House decisions and actions were made without the input of scientists and engineers. – A number of local high-school and university teachers plan to be in attendance and will hopefully report back to us upon their return.

### **Republicans Criminalize Protests**

Faced with mass demonstrations and unrest, Republicans and the Trump Administration are looking for new ways to quell dissent and to criminalize protests. As reported by the press, Republicans in at least 16 states have introduced legislation that would toughen penalties. Additional Republican-controlled states have indicated that they plan to do the same. The bills are in line with "a general trend toward tougher treatment of protesters," according to the "New York Times." Some states want to make the blocking of sidewalks, streets, and the obstruction of economic activity a felony, punishable by prison and/or steep fines. Other legislators want to make it illegal to heckle, threaten, intimidate, or retaliate against state officials (although conservatives themselves did that for eight years during the Obama administration). Some states intend to criminalize the wearing of masks and hoods during protests. Others want to be able to recoup the costs of policing political events. Some bills also try to make it easier to call in out-of-state police and the National Guard to assist local police. As usual, non-whites are the primary target. In North Dakota, where members of the Lakota (Sioux) attempted to halt the construction of an oil pipeline through their ancestral land and burial grounds, Gov. Doug Burgum wasted no time and signed into law four bills that will make it easier to curb protests in the future. Critics of such measures speak of deliberate attempts to quell dissent and create a political climate that has a chilling effect on constitutionally protected free speech. In addition, such legislation puts law-enforcement agencies in the antagonistic position of having to fight protesters who stand up for American values. The distrust and even enmity between the police and large swaths of the population is already high, and the deployment of police officers against demonstrators is not going to help the situation.

### **Millions of Unfilled Jobs**

Millions of jobs are left unfilled because workers don't have the skills that employers require. Pretty much every job, including in manufacturing, is a high-tech job these days, and employers say that too many prospective workers don't meet their expectations. What the U.S. needs is not more jobs – the jobs are already in place, waiting to be filled. What the U.S. needs is better qualified personnel that can handle math, science, and technology. Government programs are

called for that help workers upgrade their skills to the next level. In the 221<sup>st</sup> century, lifelong learning is the key. America already lags behind internationally, and President Trump's war on science and healthcare, the arts and humanities will ensure that the nation drops lower still. Grandstanding, know-nothingism, and fake facts contribute to a nation's decline. Knowledge is power, and education is the path to making a country great and prosperous.

### **Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)**

On Feb. 27, guest speaker Richard Ranck from Eventide Asset Management spoke to a group of economics and business students at OWU about socially responsible investment (SRI), also called "impact" or "issues investing." Eventide's philosophy is rooted in the belief that companies that serve humanity prosper best in the long run, according to their website ([www.eventidefunds.com](http://www.eventidefunds.com)). SRI is a vast topic, and Mr. Ranck's presentation contained dozens of slides, so only a few points can be discussed here. There are many reasons why people look for opportunities to invest their assets in socially or environmentally responsible ways. Their values may include religion, fair trade, the environment, minorities, etc. Other investors choose to avoid companies dealing with alcohol, conflict minerals, fossil fuels, gambling, guns, tobacco, or other "sin stocks." Biblically responsible investors sometimes shy away from abortion, LGBT, or pornography. Interest in SRI has skyrocketed in recent years and has now entered mainstream America. It is especially high in women and younger generations (as high as 85% in millennials). Many people have a strong proclivity toward making the world a better place and are looking for ways to make a positive impact. Major investment companies have made it part of their philosophy to either include or exclude certain things from their portfolio. Many banks now offer opportunities for SRI. Mr. Ranck emphasized that SRI does not mean that investors give up on performance. While it is true that "sin stocks" sometimes have higher yield rates, you also have to consider risk factors such as frequent litigation, boycotts, and reputational loss. Drawbacks of SRI disappear once you take a holistic view. Mr. Ranck seemed confident that "social capitalism" is the next frontier and the way of the future. [Please note that this brief summary is intended to create awareness of SRI in general, but it should not be misconstrued as an endorsement of Eventide.]

### **Pedestrian Deaths Spike in 2016**

There were more than 40,200 traffic deaths in the U.S. last year, and nearly 6,000 of them involved pedestrians. Pedestrian deaths as a share of total motor vehicle crash deaths increased from 11% in 2006 to 15% in 2016. It is not clear what caused the increase. It could be a combination of factors such as increased driving due to lower gas prices and an improved economy; more walking and jogging for exercise or for environmental reasons; and more distractions for motorists and pedestrians from cellphones or other electronic devices. What is clear, however, is that communities should pay close attention to these statistics. There are steps they can take to reduce these alarming numbers – educate the public, construct sidewalks or multi-purpose trails, improve signage and lighting, install traffic-calming measures, and the like.

### **Travel to the U.S. Declines**

Travel agencies around the nation and the world report declining interest in searches, bookings, and flights to the United States. Many overseas customers are choosing other travel destinations. Trump's "America First" rhetoric, his travel bans, and domestic hate crimes against foreign-born individuals have created the perception that international visitors are no longer welcome in America where they face inhospitality and hostility: "The U.S. has put an unwelcome mat at our front door," a travel analyst said recently. Foreign tourism is a \$250 billion-a-year business in the U.S. Total tourism-related output was \$1.56 trillion in 2015, and tourism created 7.6 million jobs that year. Travel experts also believe it is possible that boycotts may happen on a larger scale and that America may find itself disqualified from holding international sports events such as the Olympic Games. On the other hand, "white supremacists have felt more welcome than any time in recent memory," according to the "New York Times."

### **Enrollment of International Students Falls**

Many colleges and universities across the U.S. are reporting that they have received fewer applications from international students. Not surprisingly, the biggest decline is in applications from students from the Middle East. OSU is also seeing a drop in enrollment numbers, incl. an 8.4% decrease in international applicants to its graduate programs. The fear is that many additional students who applied and were accepted will either decline the offer by April 15 or not show up in the fall. While global economic factors may also play a role, the biggest factor is the "Trump effect," which has created a chilling effect everywhere in the world. – About 1 million international students bring more than \$32 billion a year into the U.S. Many pursue the STEM sciences, which American students are less interested in and have limited aptitude for. The "Columbus Dispatch" recently reported about a shortage of doctors in local hospitals. Shortages of doctors, engineers, and computer experts will be the norm in the future when fewer international students come to America.

### **Chelsea Clinton Publishes Children's Book**

Chelsea Clinton will release a children's picture book (ages 4-8) on inspirational American women on May 30. The book, entitled "She Persisted," will share the stories of 13 women who pursued their goals despite obstacles and opposition. It features Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, Nellie Bly, Maria Tallchief, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Bridges, Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, Oprah Winfrey, Sonia Sotomayor, and one special cameo. The book is vividly illustrated by Alexandra Boiger, costs \$17.99 (list price), and is published by Philomel Books.

### **Eco-Friendly Feminine Hygiene Products**

"USA Today" had an interesting article in its 3/28 issue, entitled "Why feminine hygiene products are newest consumer battlefield." The average woman spends \$150 to \$300 a year on feminine hygiene disposables and menstruates for over 30 years of her life. Feminine hygiene products thus represent a \$5.9 billion industry in the U.S. and \$35.4 billion worldwide. Upstart companies are now attempting to capture some of the market by offering more natural, eco-friendly options. Besides Thinx menstrual underwear and Lunette menstrual cups, there are Lunapads, DivaCups, GladRags, Dear Kate and Flex, which sell menstrual cups, reusable period underwear, and cloth pads. Some companies also sell yoga pants, menstrual-cup cleanser, carrying cases for fresh and used pads, absorbent and waterproof blankets to protect linen and mattresses, dancewear, and pad soaking containers.

### **The Use of Lead in Hunting and Fishing**

It is an incontrovertible scientific fact that the use of lead in hunting and fishing has contributed to the decline of numerous bird species and other wildlife. Vultures, condors, ravens, eagles, and dozens of additional birds and other scavengers eat the carcasses of animals that are riddled with lead ammunition and die a slow death due to lead poisoning. People, too, often eat small projectile fragments contained in game, endangering their long-term health. Birds also ingest lost fishing gear as food. Environmentalists have long thought that the time was right to phase out lead in hunting and fishing and to replace it with less toxic options such as copper, iron, or tungsten. Among the groups that support a ban are the American Bird Conservatory, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Sierra Club. More than half of the U.S. states already require the use of non-toxic ammunition for some game and/or on some lands. – But what did the newly appointed Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, do after he showed up at work on a horse and wearing a cowboy hat? It was one of his first steps to overturn the Fish and Wildlife Service ban of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on all FWS wildlife areas that allow hunting and fishing. He called the ban an "attack" against the American hunting and fishing heritage and stated that "science" does not support it. Conservatives, gun-rights advocates, and some sportsmen's groups were jubilant, as was to be expected. But more thoughtful people were disappointed. Athan Manuel, a spokesperson for Sierra Club, said in a statement, "Non-lead options are available, effective, cost-competitive and, most importantly, safer. Overturning the lead ammunition ban may win political points with a few special interests, but it could cost the lives of millions of birds and the health of families that rely on game to feed their families."

## **Consider the Aloha State**

People disillusioned with the ugly politics in Ohio and the American capital may wish to move to Hawaii, the Aloha State. According to a recent article by the Wall Street Journal (3/24/17), no Republican holds statewide office or a congressional seat there, and not one is left in the 25-member Senate. Hawaii has effectively become a one-party state, as both voters and elected officials have fled the GOP. Only about 30% of the voters cast ballots for Donald Trump. Of course, that makes for pretty dull and predictable legislative debates. But considering the overall quality of life in Hawaii, that would be a small price to pay...

# **WORLD**

## **A Song of Solomon**

Doing a bit of research for the next concert by the Central Ohio Symphony on April 22, we looked into the ancient king of Israel and his 40-year reign (970-930 BC / BCE). Ernest Bloch's Hebrew rhapsody "Schelomo" for cello and orchestra is based on King Solomon as depicted in the Old Testament. 1. Solomon is generally considered a man of honor and integrity and a great and wise leader. When he was young, God is said to have appeared to him and asked, "What shall I give thee?" Solomon asked for an understanding and compassionate heart to judge the people of Israel as well as the ability to tell good from evil and truth from lies. 2. Solomon's proverbs and his "Song of Songs" demonstrate a deep knowledge of and appreciation for the environment, including animals and plants, and for human nature. They also reveal a capable speaker and writer whose enduring words of wisdom still ring true almost three thousand years later. 3. Solomon was also the first to appreciate the value of international trade. He entered into numerous trade agreements with other nations, including with the empire ruled by the Queen of Sheba. His ships and overland caravans traveled as far as Spain to the west and Ethiopia to the south and contributed to Israel's material wealth. 4. Lastly, he was also a man who seemed to have pondered epistemological questions deeply and understood the difference between knowledge and wisdom and human folly and vanity. He knew of the fragility of his own existence and that of nations, which rise and fall. – If you dare to compare and contrast the life and work of Solomon with the life and work of the current American potentate, you cannot help but see the difference between a true leader (although Solomon was not without faults) and a flawed leader (although Trump is not without virtues).

## **What Are the Jemez Principles?**

When the topic came up at a recent meeting, not everyone in the room knew what the "Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing" were. So, here is a brief explanation and summary. The Jemez Principles have their origin in a 1996 conference in Jemez, New Mexico. The meeting included people from different genders, races, cultures, languages, and politics, but it was important that they learned to overcome their differences and to work together. The six principles are: 1. Be inclusive: Organizers must strive to be inclusive and diverse on every level, even if it delays the achievement of other important goals. 2. Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing: Organizers must build a grassroots movement, not a top-down "astroturf" system. 3. Let People Speak for Themselves: Every stakeholder has the right to speak and to be heard. No voice shall be silenced. 4. Work Together in Solidarity and Mutuality: Groups with a similar vision and mission should work together and share resources, not compete against one another. 5. Build Just Relationships among Ourselves: People must treat each other with justice and respect, both within the country and across borders. 6. Commitment to Self-Transformation: Organizers and organizations must lead the way and model the values they preach – community, peace, and justice. If we could, we would add another principle. 7. In a democratic society, joint decisions must be reached in open debate and in a transparent manner, not behind closed doors in executive sessions. – In our view, the Jemez Principles have value far beyond the local level. They could and should apply to many democratic institutions – school and work, families and society, government and business. Every voice counts and should be heard, and no voice or vote should be ignored.

## **"The Age of Consequences" (2016)**

A new film, "The Age of Consequences" by Jared P. Scott, looks at the impact of climate change through the lens of the military. Climate change is not only an environmental issue, but also a national and international security problem. It is, in fact, one of eight top strategic risks, alongside terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, according to security experts. For example, 65.3 million people were displaced worldwide in 2015, in part because of droughts, famines, diseases, and wars caused by climate change. This creates an enormous potential for instability and unrest that could one day engulf the nation and other parts of the world. The inexorable sea-level rise will exacerbate the problem for the foreseeable future. The film intentionally presents climate change as an existential problem, not a political issue. – Jared P. Scott, 36, grew up in Upper Arlington. The award-winning filmmaker now lives and works in New York City.

## **The Happiest Country in the World?**

The happiest country in the world is Norway, according to the 2017 World Happiness Report, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Sweden. The authors of the report focused on 6 factors: GDP, life expectancy, social support, absence of corruption, freedom, and generosity. Of course, statistics and polls of this nature are often incomplete and/or misleading. The rate of depression, alcoholism, and suicide is not lower in Norway than elsewhere; the Norwegian writer Karl Ove Knausgaard is not a happy man; and the mass murder of 77 children committed by Anders Behring Breivik has not been forgotten. Income equity and living standard are indeed high in the Scandinavian countries, but it is also true that the statistics might be warped by the fact that people there are reluctant to admit societal flaws. According to the report, the least happy countries are all in poverty-ridden Sub-Saharan Africa or in war-torn Middle East (Syria and Yemen).

## **Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1872-1906)**

Below is a famous poem by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, an African-American author who was born in Dayton, Ohio, and died there at the age of 34. A new film by Frederick Lewis, "Paul Lawrence Dunbar: Beyond the Mask," is now available and reminds us that Dunbar went to school with the Wright Brothers who later gave him a bicycle and printed some of his publications. "Sympathy" is a good description of how Native Americans, Black folks, Hispanics, and other minorities feel in America even today..

### **Paul Lawrence Dunbar Sympathy**

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!  
When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;  
When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,  
And the river flows like a stream of glass;  
When the first bird sings and the first bud opes,  
And the faint perfume from its chalice steals –  
I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats his wing  
Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;  
For he must fly back to his perch and cling  
When he fain would be on the bough a-swing;  
And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars  
And they pulse again with a keener sting –  
I know why he beats his wing!

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,  
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,  
When he beats his bars and he would be free;  
It is not a carol of joy or glee,  
But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,  
But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings –  
I know why the caged bird sings!