

Chagrin Valley

Chagrin
Valley
and
beyond

- Auburn Township
- Bainbridge Township
- Bentleyville Village
- Chagrin Falls Township
- Chagrin Falls Village
- Chester Township
- Glenwillow Village
- Hunting Valley Village
- Moreland Hills Village
- Newbury Township
- Orange Village
- Pepper Pike City
- Reminderville Village
- Russell Township
- Solon City
- South Russell Village
- Woodmere Village





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Bainbridge offers the Tall Tree Trail development.

Chagrin Valley offers much to prospective residents

MICHAEL C. BUTZ
Staff Reporter

Orange resident Barbara Levine never saw herself living in the Chagrin Valley.

"I grew up in Shaker (Heights), and when I was a kid, I thought I'd always live in Shaker," she said. "But as an adult, I've always only lived out here."

Levine is a real estate agent with RE/MAX Traditions and works out of the Woodmere office. In her line of work, she's seen many others make moves to the Chagrin Valley similar to hers.

"I've been doing this for 34 years, and people who come from out of town – and who may not do so willingly – they never want to leave," she said. "I've had some people who've been transferred out (due to work) and said they'd come back – and they've come back."

Chagrin Falls

Other local real estate agents agree that the Chagrin Valley has much to offer to potential residents.

Paul Blumberg, an agent with Howard Hanna in the Lander Circle office in Pepper Pike, said the Valley's aesthetic appeal starts with what he calls the "gateway" to the Valley: Chagrin Falls.

"It's a gem – it's a New England town in the middle of Northeast Ohio," said Blumberg, a Pepper Pike resident. "It has a lot of what people want. It has great restaurants and a small-town feel."

Ryan Young, of the Keller Williams-affiliated Young Team, agreed, adding that he believes the diversity of the village's population as well as its inviting charm make it a desirable community.

"I was out on a Sunday morning and everyone was out walking their dogs," Young said. "It's a very open and friendly community."

"I try to drive through (Chagrin Falls) as much as I possibly can, even if it takes a little longer," he said. "Every time you drive through there, it just feels good."

Great outdoors

Another popular feature of the Chagrin Valley is its wealth of parks, said Dona Friedman of Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty in Beachwood.



"I've been doing this for 34 years, and people who come from out of town – and who may not do so willingly – they never want to leave."

Barbara Levine, RE/MAX Traditions

"The Valley itself is popular because it's a country lifestyle that isn't too far out. It's surrounded by major roads that will take you anywhere."

Paul Blumberg, Howard Hanna



"I love the (Cleveland) Metroparks. I go walking with my dog all the time in the Metroparks," she said. "It's just beautiful. Down (in South Chagrin Reservation in Bentleyville), we have Squaw Rock, and on a beautiful day, that's my favorite place to go."

Levine said, "You've got the Metroparks, and everyone loves going to Chagrin Falls and wandering around the falls. It's gorgeous."

Young said there's something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

"If you appreciate the outdoors at all, whether it's walking your dogs or you like to fish, it's a no-brainer," he said.

One can even appreciate the outdoors, so to speak, from the comfort of his or her car, Young said.

"Hunting Valley kind of sells itself," he said. "It has some of the most scenic drives. The drives down Shaker (Boulevard) or Chagrin River (Road) are just jaw-dropping."

Easy access

Another appealing aspect of the Valley is its proximity to the region's many cultural institutions and sports options.

"The Valley itself is popular because it's a country lifestyle that isn't too far out," Blumberg said. "It's surrounded by major roads that will take you anywhere."

Levine agreed, noting the area's variety of shopping choices.

"You've got some of the finest shopping and dining in the whole area around here, between Beachwood and Woodmere with Eton (Chagrin Boulevard) – and with Chagrin Falls' boutique shops," she said.

Young, who previously lived in Chicago, compared the convenience of the Chagrin Valley to the extra driving needed to navigate the Windy City.

"There's so much to do here that's accessible in a fair amount of time," Young said. "If you live in Chicago and want to go golfing, you have to drive 45 minutes out of the city. Here, you can be someplace within 10 minutes."

Good grades

An important decision for many when selecting a place to live is the quality of the school system, and Blumberg referred to the Valley's schools as the "backbone" of the area.

"When I moved to Cleveland 30 years ago, you wouldn't want to send your kids to Kenston or West G, but now those are highly rated schools," he said. "All the schools are good."

Levine agreed, adding that many Chagrin Valley districts rank among Ohio's best, according to state report cards issued by the Ohio Department of Education.

"Some of the best schools are in the general vicinity here," she said. "Chagrin Falls, Orange and Solon are always among the top, year to year."

Housing trends

In the end, deciding where to live has much to do with finding the right house.

"There are some really, really great century homes," Young said. "There's a lot of historical value to them, and the stories of the area are really cool."

REAL ESTATE



"Hunting Valley kind of sells itself. It has some of the most scenic drives. The drives down Shaker (Boulevard) or Chagrin River (Road) are just jaw-dropping."

Ryan Young, Keller Williams-affiliated Young Team



An aerial view of Stonebrook in Moreland Hills.

Young, 28, said he's noticed a number of people his age are interested in looking at those older homes instead of building new homes.

"Nowadays, they're not looking for something that's move-in ready today," he said. "They're looking for

something you're going to have to work with, and you're not going to find that with a new house. ... They're saying, 'Over the next five years, here's what we'll do with this (house) to make it ours.'"

Friedman agreed and said that regardless of age,

those in the market are increasingly looking at smaller houses.

"A few years ago, they were looking for huge homes, but there's a lot of interest now in homes that aren't as

REALTORS on page 36

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"I love the (Cleveland) Metroparks. I go walking with my dog all the time in the Metroparks. It's just beautiful."

Dona Friedman, Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty



Trees provide some privacy for residents of Fox Glen in Moreland Hills.

REALTORS from page 35

huge," she said. "Lots of times, in these big homes, you don't use all the space that you have. People now are looking for homes with more livable space."

Levine said some who are looking for ranch-style houses in the Chagrin Valley are having difficulty find-

ing them.

"When these ranches come on (the market), people seem to be jumping on them," she said.

Looking forward, Levine said she feels business in Northeast Ohio will "explode in the next couple of years" and that the Chagrin Valley stands to benefit.

"I feel good things for Cleveland coming up. With all of this hospital expansion going on, a lot of that pushes our way to the East Side," she said, also mentioning the medical mart, casino and new Eaton headquarters in Beachwood. "I think that's going to be huge."

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Shaker Heights: \$210,000
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 3150SomersetDr.HowardHanna.com



Spring, summer activities heat up the Valley

MATT DEFAVERI
Staff Reporter

There's no shortage of food, retail or activities in the Chagrin Valley, especially in Chagrin Falls and the surrounding area, said Darci Spilman, executive director of the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"Generally, Chagrin Falls is the hub for the Chagrin Valley," said Spilman, who's in her sixth year with the chamber. "It's a little village. It's quaint. You can walk around and make an evening of shopping and dining and just enjoying the ambience of the small-town architecture."

In the summer, Spilman said there are free concerts at the triangle, an area in the middle of town, from 7 to 9 p.m. every Thursday.

Nine concerts are scheduled, starting June 14 and ending August

9. Each concert showcases a different genre, including New Orleans swing, easy rock, folk rock 'n' roll, blues and country.

Chagrin Falls also hosts "Art by the Falls," which brings more than 100 artists from around the country to Riverside Park. "It's very picturesque," Spilman said. "It's beautiful."

There's also plenty of outdoor dining and shops in the area, she said. "Almost all of the clothing stores and shops are unique," she said. "They're not chain stores. It's not 100%, but I think 95% of them are unique to us."

Residents or guests to the Valley looking for picnics can look outside of Chagrin Falls to the Emerald Necklace, a network of the Cleveland Metroparks. South Chagrin Reservation winds through Bentleyville, Moreland Hills and Solon.

Spilman also pointed out the

Metroparks Polo Field, located at the intersection of South Woodland and Chagrin River roads in Moreland Hills.

"It's horse country," Spilman said. "They do lots of horse shows. There's a very large one in July."

The July show is the Chagrin Valley Hunter Jumper Classic, which takes place from Friday, July 6, through Saturday, July 21.

Spilman said Chagrin Valley is a place with a lot of history and recommends the area to Ohioans looking for a change of scenery.

"It's a great place to raise a family, start a business," she said. "There are a lot of social and community organizations if you want to be involved. There's so many that it's hard for me to direct our chamber to keep up with everybody. This place is steeped in tradition. It's a great place to be active in the community."

mdefaveri@cjn.org

Summer fun in the Valley

Here's a sampling of some events this spring and summer in the Chagrin Valley:

April 28

27th annual Back the Rec, part of Chagrin Valley Rec Center's 75th anniversary, Chagrin Falls

May 19

34th annual Orange Jubilee, Pepper Pike

May 24-28

56th annual Blossom Time Festival, Chagrin Falls

July 6-21

Chagrin Valley Hunter Jumper Classic, Moreland Hills

July 26-28

Annual sidewalk sale, Chagrin Falls

July 26-29

Home Days, Solon

September 3

20th annual Totally Kosher Rib Burnoff, Pepper Pike

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BEACHWOOD:

Superb home offering a sprawling wide open design. Spacious great room second to none - great for entertaining. Soaring ceilings. 2 story entry, spectacular kitchen with center island. 1st floor office and laundry. Fabulous master suite with glamour bath. Finished lower level with rec room/play room. Beautiful landscaped yard. Ready to move in and enjoy! **\$695,000**



BEACHWOOD:

Fabulous home with wide open flowing floor plan with soaring ceilings. Spectacular great room with gas fireplace, formal dining room with access to screened porch. Updated white kitchen featuring center island with cook top, newer kitchen counters and Sub-zero refrigerator. Master retreat on first floor. **\$569,000**



BEACHWOOD:

Superbly charming and unique home on a spectacular lot offering privacy and serenity! Beautiful entry with curved stairway, fabulous living and dining room area with hardwood floor and fireplace, magnificent beamed ceiling family room with walls of windows and built-ins, updated kitchen with newer appliances. **\$329,900**



HIGHLAND HTS.:

Custom built with the finest quality and attention to detail, this Arts and Crafts inspired contemporary is truly special! A gorgeous interior filled with warm woods and stones has a Frank Lloyd Wright feel. The highlights of this home include a spectacular 1st floor master suite, gorgeous library with fireplace and built-ins, chef's dream kitchen opening into the magnificent family room. **\$899,900**



NOVELTY

Absolutely enchanting mini-estate sited on a magical private drive with pond, pasture, barn, and picnic area. Gorgeous Nantucket styled country house with fabulous Tony Paskevich addition. Unique front entry, gorgeous foyer opens into the elegant dining room with fireplace, and hardwood floors. An incredible center island gourmet kitchen opens to the magnificent vaulted and beamed great room. **\$699,900**



PEPPER PIKE:

New price! Custom contemporary home with incredible quality and dramatic floor plan, 1st floor master suite w/loft, incredible walk-out lower level, dramatic 2 story great room, fabulous dining rm w/gorgeous built-ins, magnificent setting with pool, one of a kind! **\$685,000**



SHAKER HTS.:

One of Shaker's finest! Truly elegant brick Georgian designed by renowned architect Clarence Mack. Exquisitely detailed and perfectly proportional rooms create the most harmonious and spectacular atmosphere. A grand foyer with sweeping staircase leads to the magnificent living room with floor to ceiling windows, banquet sized formal dining room, and library with fireplace. **\$879,000**



SHAKER HTS.:

A real gem, this stone and brick Georgian colonial is a beauty! Gleaming hardwood floors, a freshly updated interior, and beautifully landscaped grounds are highlights. Gracious formal living and dining room, a 1st floor library, charming screened porch, and updated gourmet kitchen with granite counters. **\$219,900**



SOLON:

Right out of the pages of Architectural Digest, this home will take your breath away! Total renovation and exquisite decor throughout. Wide open California contemporary ranch with walls of windows, soaring ceilings, slate and hardwood floors. Fabulous master suite with glamour bath and huge walk-in closet. **\$429,000**

8277

Chagrin Valley boasts selection of synagogues

MATT DEFAVERI
Staff Reporter

The Chagrin Valley has an abundance of synagogues – eight in all – that stretch across multiple branches of Judaism. Below is a roundup.

Conservative

Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria of **B'nai Jeshurun Congregation**, 27501 Fairmount Blvd. in Pepper Pike, said his congregation offers a warm and engaging community with diverse programming for synagogue goers.

“We have activities that range from classes for newborns to our active seniors group, called Hazak,” he said. “We have weekly study sessions, religious school, groups from every age in between, from young families to young professionals to baby boomers.”

Shul staff and congregants said they believe B'nai Jeshurun is one big family, according to Rudin-Luria. “Everyone cares about the other person and welcomes them in. It’s the same for the professionals, the clergy, and the other professional staff members. We have a

new motto, which is ‘Big enough to make a difference, small enough to care.’”

The shul’s “Inspire Weekend” begins Thursday, May 17, with a Zumba class. Avivah Zornberg, a Bible scholar from Israel, will speak during Inspire weekend.

Park Synagogue East, 27500 Shaker Blvd. in Pepper Pike, with its main branch in Cleveland Heights, brings services and programming close to congregants who reside in the Valley.

The synagogue, led by Rabbi Joshua Skoff and Rabbi Sharon Marcus, will host a continuing educational series with Ilana Horowitz Ratner at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, at Park East in Room 149. The event is free and open to the community.

Independent

The Shul, 30799 Pinetree Road, No. 401, in Pepper Pike, suffers from mislabeling, Rabbi Eddie Sukol said.

“I’m a Reform rabbi by training,” he said. “We’re definitely in the progressive Jewish camp. We are also influenced by Chasidism, just in terms of trying to capture an element of joy and the life and fervor of the worship experience.”

Sukol said he tells people The Shul is

“intentionally nondenominational.”

The Shul hosts Shabbat potlucks once a month, opts for a song leader over a cantor at services, and stresses adult education and Jewish learning as one of its messages.

“It’s sophisticated, serious learning but also entry level learning for people who feel like they didn’t learn enough when they went to Hebrew school,” Sukol said. “The people that come to these sessions are people with high levels of secular education, professional and graduate degrees. They’re thinkers, intellectuals.”

The Shul has ongoing study groups, called “Toast & Torah,” at Corky & Lenny’s in Woodmere Thursdays at 7:30 a.m..

Orthodox

Although **Solon Chabad** is sometimes thought of as an Orthodox congregation, Miriam Greenberg, director of Hebrew school and programming, said that’s a misnomer.

“We’re not here serving an Orthodox community,” she said. “Our goal is to help every single Jew be a part of Judaism any way they wish.”

One way to reach that goal is keeping the shul open to everyone.

“It’s not about how much the pages are turning, but it’s about loving Judaism,” she said. “Our goal is children should love coming here. Children should love being Jewish. That’s our mission here.”

“Our goal is to service Jews in any way they want to be served.”

Solon Chabad’s opening for its new swimming pool on its new campground is at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 10. There will be inflatables, picnic items and other entertainment. The event is free and open to the community.

Reconstructionist

Rabbi Steve Segar at **Kol HaLev**, which has services and programming at The Ratner School, 27575 Shaker Blvd. in Pepper Pike and offices in University Heights, said his congregation is one that relies on the participation of its members, taking a “philosophical and a pragmatic” approach to programming and services because of its small staff.

Kol HaLev will hold “Shabbat in the Park” at the North Chagrin Reservation in Mayfield Village over Memorial Day weekend, with a family service at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 26. Games, activities and a

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Ryan Terry Jeff



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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS—2448 Channing
OPEN SUN. 1-4
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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS—Pretty 3 BR, 1.1 BA Brick Renovated in 2003. Hardwood Floors. LR & DR. 1st. Eat-in Kitchen w/Maple Cabinets. Finished LL with rec rm and office. **\$169,900**



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PEPPER PIKE—Exciting Ernst Payer designed 5 BR, 4.1 BA. Oversized LR & DR. Fam rm w/FP. **\$367,500**



BEACHWOOD—Renovated Ranch, 3 Br, 2.1 Ba, Wow kitchen, Granite and Stainless, Move In Ready **\$309,900**



OHIO CITY—Fab Penthouse Condo, 2 Brs, 2 Ba, Granite and Stainless, Roof Top Deck **\$234,900**



ORANGE—181 Stonebrooke.
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potluck lunch will follow.

"In our community, just as often as I might lead a service alone, I might co-lead a service with a member," Segar said. "In terms of Shabbat services, we offer a very creative integration of Jewish tradition and contemporary creativity. We use a prayer book which has all the traditional sections of the Shabbat service in it, but there's a lot of poetry, there's a lot of commentary, and people often say that they learn a lot just from reading the commentary in the prayer book."

Reform

The Reform synagogues include **Temple Emanu El** in Orange Village, **Congregation Kol Chadash** in Solon, and **Congregation Shir Shalom** in Bainbridge. Each shul offers something different.

"We're in a convenient location in the center of Solon," said Kol Chadash Rabbi Estelle Mills. "Our religious school is open to nonmembers who are looking for a religious education for their children but not ready to join a synagogue at this time.

"We are very welcoming and inclusive to interfaith families and have a fairly large percentage of members who are in interfaith marriages. We're growing very rapidly with lots of young families from the southeast suburbs."

Mills said many congregants come from Aurora, Bainbridge and Twinsburg.

Kol Chadash also just started its "Barrels of Fun" preschool service. The next service is at 6:30 p.m. today (April 27). This will be a Shabbat service in celebration of Israeli Independence Day, with singing and dancing for children 6 and under.

Rabbi Steven Denker has been with Temple Emanu

El for about eight years and said his synagogue is a "full-service Reform synagogue" that serves everyone from 18 months and older.

"We have an excellent preschool that is almost totally booked up," Denker said. "We have an excellent youth program. We regularly turn out more students to youth events than congregations that are frankly two or three more times larger than ours."

Denker also praised the temple's adult education programming. "Our adult programming attracts people of all different types," he said. "We also have extraordinarily active empty nesters. ... We've got a very broad spectrum of activities."

The temple will have a "family day" at Progressive Field on Sunday, June 3, for the 3 p.m. ballgame.

Shir Shalom, the only synagogue in Geauga County, meets at New Life Fellowship Church in Bainbridge.

Founding spiritual leader Dr. Kiva Shtull said the environment at Shir Shalom is informal, but it offers a high-quality service with little financial pressure.

"They're just really pleasant, comfortable services," he said. "No high-brow sermons. Mostly, we have discussions and/or Bible studies. And for people out in that area who don't want to travel to the core, which is becoming an increasing shlep ... we're very easily accessible on (State Route) 422."

Shtull said there's essentially "no infrastructure" within the shul, but that setup has worked for Shir Shalom in the past. "There are no committees to go through. It's not like getting an act of Congress passed," he said. "We're a congregation that runs on autopilot, and we've done it that way successfully for 13 years."

mdefaveri@cjn.org



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Arts, culture paint pretty picture in Chagrin Valley

ARLENE FINE
Senior Staff Reporter

The arts and culture scene offers something for everyone in the Chagrin Valley, where residents and visitors can see a play, attend a concert, enjoy an art exhibit, or take pottery lessons. Here are some of the arts and culture venues and an assortment of upcoming events:

Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra

40 River St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440-247-8955

www.chagrinstudioorchestra.com

A volunteer-driven orchestra that presents studio arrangements and the classics that inspired them.

Upcoming: The "Mikado" at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 11, and Saturday, May 12.

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

40 River St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440-247-8955 / www.cvltr.org

An 81-year-old volunteer organization that exists to enrich the cultural life of the Chagrin Valley and Northeast Ohio through the production of live theater and related programming. Audiences enjoy standard theater fare as well as offbeat, edgy performances. Local playwrights are often showcased.

Upcoming: "A Night in Provence" at 8 p.m., Friday, June 1, though Saturday, June 23.


Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture

88 N. Main St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440-247-9700 / www.chagrinarts.org

The foundation, under executive director Rachel Lappen, collaborates with local, regional and national organizations to present inspiring programs. It serves as a leader, catalyst and resource for the arts and encourages partnerships between public and private sectors. The foundation also invests in cultural institutions and supports programs that enrich the region.

Upcoming: Apollo's Fire and the Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 3-6, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, 76 Bell St.



Upcoming: The sixth annual Chautauqua-in-Cha-



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216-215-0952
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Jody Saks
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Cindi Sobol
216-406-0068

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Rochelle Golenberg
216-401-9076
rmgolenberg@gmail.com

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REAL ESTATE

The Valley

Once so far away, but now so close

KATHY URDANG MULCAHY



Mulcahy

As a teenager growing up in Shaker Heights in the '60s and '70s, the Chagrin Valley was a destination my friends and I would visit frequently. Back then, it felt like we were taking a long ride far out into the country. As soon as the water tower on Chagrin Boulevard came into view, we would begin to feel like we had arrived in the countryside. Though much has changed around Richmond and Chagrin roads

through development and population shifts, our sought-after destination of Chagrin Falls and its surrounding communities remain as beautiful today as it was 40 years ago.

The picturesque beauty of the Valley, surrounded by the Cleveland Metroparks and the Chagrin River, helped establish it as a scenic designation in Ohio. It encompasses many activities, such as hiking trails, fishing, biking, horseback riding, and many more outdoor recreational options.

For those who prefer indoor activities, there is a wide assortment of shopping and dining choices for every age and every budget throughout the Valley, including family-owned and -operated businesses unique to the area. There are art centers, libraries and theaters

within easy reach of all parts of the Valley. Local festivals, craft fairs and musical performances are well-attended, and there are even parades and fireworks scheduled throughout the summer. Downtown Chagrin Falls is a great place for walking, people watching and ice cream, especially on warm weekend evenings.

I chose to move to the Chagrin Valley, specifically Orange Village, in 1978 to raise my family. Our excellent school district is shared by many of the Chagrin Valley communities. I began to recognize how truly special the Chagrin Valley area is when viewed from an adult's perspective.

There are housing options for everyone – from starter homes to luxury, custom-built houses and condominiums. With large-lot zoning, every homeowner has a piece of the natural beauty that has made the Chagrin Valley such a desirable location to settle. The many communities that make up the Chagrin Valley are well-managed, and each one has its special and unique characteristics. Quality services are provided to every resident, ranging from waste collection and branch chipping to specialized children activities and senior centers.

The Chagrin Valley communities offer a lifestyle that uniquely blends outdoor beauty and a "country feeling" with a sophisticated choice of services and recreational opportunities..

Kathy Urdang Mulcahy has been mayor of Orange Village for 16 years and is a fourth-generation Jewish Clevelander.



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REAL ESTATE

Solon

A gem beyond the Chagrin Valley

NANCY TRAUM

When Money magazine named Solon the third best place to live in 2011, it had good reasons for its decision. The city of Solon has managed to blend beautiful residential areas, a nationally recognized school system, arts and recreation opportunities, and an industrial area that ranks among the top 10 in the state of Ohio in terms of jobs.

Because of its success, Solon continues to be one of the most desirable communities for families and businesses in Northeast Ohio. Solon has reached such acclaim that it even showed up as the answer to a question on the "Jeopardy!" television show in relation to its best place to live ranking.

Each year, families are drawn to Solon because of its outstanding school system. Having achieved the No. 1 ranking in the state in recent years, the Solon City Schools are committed to producing academically successful and well-rounded students through their "every student, every day" philosophy.

PHOTO / ROB HOWARD



The gazebo is one of Solon's most recognizable landmarks.

Numerous extracurricular activities are available to students who continually rank among the state's best in music and science competitions.

Recreational opportunities abound in Solon, including a state-of-the-art community center. The Solon Center for the Arts offers programs for all ages and is home to the Solon Philharmonic Orchestra. That's quite an accomplishment for a city of 24,000 residents. An annual Home Days celebration is just one of the many opportunities residents have to celebrate their community. This year's theme, Mardi Gras, promises to draw families for an event-filled weekend from July 26 to 29 at Solon Community Park.

Solon is proud of its diverse population that lives in harmony in a community offering cultural and religious amenities. Repeatedly ranked as outstanding by residents and businesses, Solon's services, including police and fire, make Solon a safe and easily acces-

SOLON on page 44

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REAL ESTATE

Falling in love with the Chagrin Valley

RICHARD BAIN



Bain

The communities of the Chagrin Valley provide a diverse opportunity for living in cities, villages and townships that offer homeowners a wide choice of culture, home styles and experience. The concept of the Valley is very broad and is challenging to define. It is hardly monolithic, and the area described ranges from manicured residential yards, to large lots and sprawling estates. There are established and newer developments, historic to modern design.

Each community is unique with its own character and demographics. While the communities are

diverse, they offer great value to their residents. In order to continue to do so, each of the communities is looking to work together to cooperatively better serve their residents and find ways to achieve economies of scale in delivering services.

I grew up in University Heights. The Chagrin Valley – as much as that concept even existed as a cohesive description of a place – was where we could drive on a weekend afternoon or summer evening. Our lives centered much more around the area in which we lived, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District, Cedar Center, Shaker Heights, downtown Cleveland.

Beachwood was where my cousins lived, but was about as far away as I knew how to get to. Generally, the Chagrin Valley and its communities would have meant a trip to get ice cream in Chagrin Falls or to

SOLON from page 43

sible place to live and work.

Much of Solon's success relates to its large tax base, thanks to major employers like Nestlé, Swagelok, and over 800 other businesses. Nestlé continues to recognize the importance of its Solon location by the recent transfer of its Lean Pockets brand to Solon and its plans to construct a new research and development facility.

The city will soon see a long-awaited renovation to the Solar Shopping Center, including a new and expanded Giant Eagle grocery store. The Solon Chamber of Commerce is a large and active organization that serves as an advocate for its members while offering informative programs and opportunities to build relationships. Following the chamber's successful trip to China in 2011, everyone is invited to travel to Tuscany, Italy, with the chamber in 2012.

Nancy Traum is president and CEO of the Solon Chamber of Commerce.

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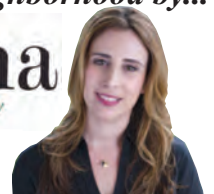
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hike at South Chagrin Reservation.

I remember sitting in the backseat always being lost as to how we got to wherever we were going, but generally feeling we were now out in the "country." Even the western portions of the Chagrin Valley, including the city where I now live, were foreign.

Pepper Pike was a place I heard of but really knew nothing about, including how to really even get there. It and Orange Village, where my future wife lived (and owned a horse she would ride down Lander Road), were places where they still had brick streets and flashing street signals, and which when I reached them clued me that I was pretty far from home.

Obviously, much of that has changed. These communities and others of the Valley are now as familiar to many of us as the Heights region used to be. The brick streets are mostly gone, but many of the reasons for living beyond the inner-ring suburbs where I grew up remain. The Jewish community, along with other inner-ring residents, has consistently drifted eastward.

My wife and I moved to Pepper Pike 22 years ago in order for our children to attend the great Orange school system, which is comprised of five of the Cha-

grin Valley communities. It was a great move for us. My neighborhood in Pepper Pike captured much of the atmosphere of growing up I had experienced and which I wanted my children to benefit from.

The added benefit of large, wooded lots; moderate taxes; and quiet, safe streets certainly added to the mix. The schools remain a premier reason to live in the community. Both of my children attended and graduated from Orange High School and went on to wonderful college opportunities. They benefited from very high-quality public educations without a private school price tag. Not surprisingly, other Chagrin Valley school systems have also responded with developing equally fine programs to service their communities.

I encourage you to consider the communities of the Chagrin Valley in your future home ownership and business plans. The affordability and high-quality lifestyle are hard to duplicate anywhere in the region.

Richard Bain was elected mayor of Pepper Pike in November 2011. A 22-year resident of the city, he is a former member of the regional board of the ADL and a member of the ADL civil rights committee.

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From A (Auburn) to W (Woodmere)

Chagrin Valley and beyond has something for everyone

BOB JACOB
Managing Editor

The completion of Interstate 271 in the late 1960s made the Chagrin Valley more accessible to thousands of people on a daily basis. People who may have never heard of the Chagrin Valley now make frequent trips to the eastern edges of Cuyahoga County and western fringes of Geauga County.

The Chagrin Valley stretches from Woodmere Village – with its bevy of shopping – in Cuyahoga County to Auburn Township – with its magnificent landscape – in Geauga County.

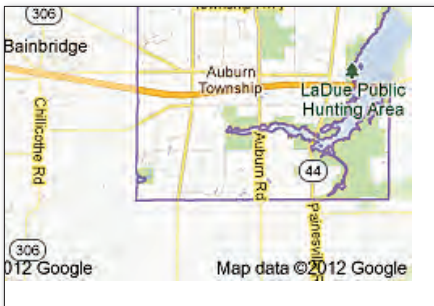
The Chagrin Valley is defined by beautiful cities, villages and townships – which offer different forms of governments – located close to or along the scenic Chagrin River that winds through the area.

The area offers housing from century-old structures to bustling new subdivisions, with prices ranging from

less than \$200,000 into the millions. Some of Ohio's most exclusive homes are located in the Chagrin Valley.

Some people have relocated from the Beachwood, the Heights and Hillcrest areas to escape the congestion of living close to a downtown. They enjoy excellent school systems, top-notch health facilities, 12 Jewish institutions, abundant land, small retail stores, and larger shopping centers.

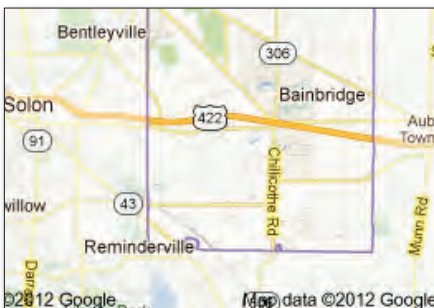
bjacob@cjn.org



Auburn Township

The township is a semirural community, embracing country-style living but offering a balance of residential, commercial and industrial growth. The township's 5 square miles house about 6,400 residents. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Auburn had the highest rate of growth of all 16 Geauga County townships.

Trustees: Patrick J. Cavanagh,
Michael S. Troyan, John A. Eberly
11010 East Washington St.
Auburn Township, OH 44023
440-543-7028
www.auburntownship.com



Bainbridge Township

The township offers easy access to the Cleveland metropolitan area via Route 422, while retaining a semirural character for its approximately 11,000 residents. In its 25.9 square miles, there are subdivisions, township parks, and working farms. It's also home to the only synagogue in Geauga County, Congregation Shir Shalom (Reform/Traditional), and to the Weils, which is owned and operated by Montefiore.

Trustees: Christopher Horn,
Jeffery S. Markley, Lorrie Sass Benza
17826 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440-543-9871
www.bainbridgetownship.com



Bentleyville Village

Nestled between Solon and Chagrin Falls, the 2.6-square-mile village has nearly 900 residents.

Mayor: Leonard Spremulli
6253 Chagrin River Road
Bentleyville, OH 44022
440-247-5055
www.villageofbentleyville.com



Chagrin Falls Township

The township contains two distinct governmental units. The incorporated part is the Village of Chagrin Falls, and the unincorporated, northern part is Chagrin Falls Township. Together, the two units form Chagrin Falls Township. The township is located within Chagrin Falls Village. The 0.5-square-mile township is home to about 40 families.

TRUSTEES: Tom Florkiewicz,
John Finley, Mike Wise
83 N. Main St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440-247-8422
www.chagrinfallstowship.org



Chagrin Falls Village

The most well-known of the Chagrin Valley communities, this one-time village known for its mills is a destination place year-round for young and old. From a stroll along Main Street, to observing a picturesque view of the falls, to a sweet-smelling bag of popcorn or mouth-watering ice-cream cone from the Popcorn Shop, the quaint village has it all. Local restaurants, local merchants, and local cultural spots dot the downtown streets. The village caught the eye of President George W. Bush during a visit in 2004. About 4,100 residents call the 2.1 square miles home. Jewish Academy Award-winning film director Lee Unkrich ("Toy Story 3") grew up in Chagrin Falls.

Mayor: Thomas Brick
21 Washington St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440-247-5050
www.chagrin-falls.org

Chester Township

The township of about 11,000 residents in nearly 25 square miles is commonly referred to by its mailing address – Chesterland – maybe because it's one of five Chester Townships in Ohio. The township is within easy reach of Mayfield Road, just minutes from Gates Mills and Mayfield Village. Hawken School is located there.



Trustees: Clay Lawrence, Mike Joyce,
Judith Caputo
12701 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
440-729-7058
www.chestertwp.net



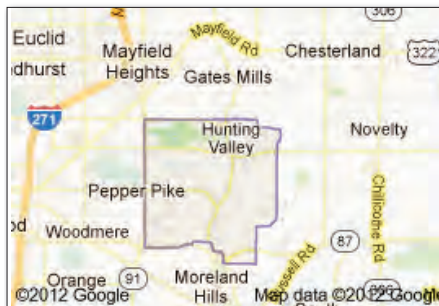
Glenwillow Village

The village was synonymous with the Austin Powder Co. until the 1980s. Now, it is becoming known for its Village Center Project, which rehabilitated and expanded what remained of the company town of 18 structures, including the General Store, into attractive shops, businesses and restaurants. The village has about 1,000 residents in 2.9 square miles.

Mayor: Mark A. Cegelka
29995 Pettibone Road
Glenwillow, OH 44039
440-232-8788
www.glenwillow-oh.gov

Hunting Valley Village

The Village was developed around gracious homes with well-tended flower and vegetable gardens in 8 square miles of forest, rolling hills, and steep river gorges. Some of Cleveland's

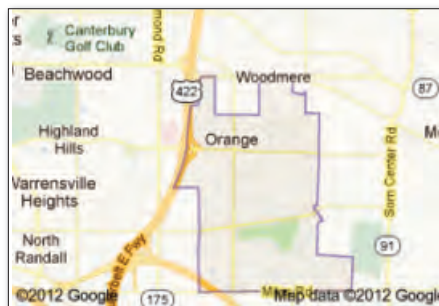


out 25 square miles. The well-manicured Punderson State Park offers Punderson Manor, recreational activities, and a scenic lake – the largest of many in the township. State Routes 87 and 44 provide for the transportation of goods, customers and services from Newbury to Middlefield to the east, Cleveland to the west, Chardon to the north and Akron to the south – and back again. The township features the 88-acre Oberland Park.

Trustees: Jason Blair, William Skomrock Jr., Glen Quigley
 14899 Auburn Road
 Newbury, OH 44065
 440-564-5997
www.newburyohio.com

prominent families are among the 750 residents who live on country estates. There are hiking trails, polo fields and bridle paths, providing life in a peaceful setting. The village was ranked the sixth highest-income place in the United States, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. University School's upper campus is located there.

Mayor: Richard R. Hollington Jr.
 38251 Fairmount Blvd.
 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
 440-247-6106
www.huntingvalley.net



Orange Village

Jewish Mayor Kathy Urdang Mulcahy won her fifth four-year term last November to guide a village that other communities look toward. Some 3,300 residents live in nearly 4 square miles. The village is home to Temple Emanu El.

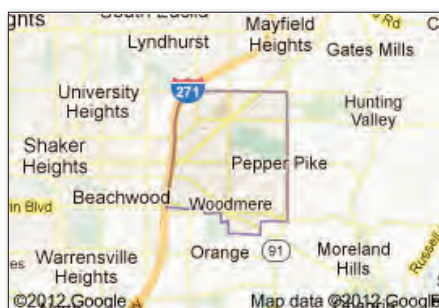
Mayor: Kathy U. Mulcahy
 4600 Lander Road
 Orange Village, OH 44022
 440-498-4400
www.orangevillage.com



Moreland Hills Village

The village is home to Hiram House, the country's second oldest settlement house. President James A. Garfield was born in Orange Township, which is now Moreland Hills. A newer shopping center developed at Chagrin Boulevard and SOM Center Road has provided residents and visitors with an option to stay close to home. Some 3,200 residents call the 7.2-square-mile village home.

Mayor: Susan Renda
 4350 SOM Center Road
 Moreland Hills, OH 44022
 440-248-1188
www.morelandhills.com



Pepper Pike City

About 6,000 residents live in the approximately 7-square-mile city. The city is home to B'nai Jeshurun Congregation (Conservative), The Friendship Circle, Gross Schechter Day School, Kol HaLev (Reconstructionist), The Park Synagogue East (Conservative), The Lillian and Betty Ratner School, and The Shul (Independent).

Mayor: Richard Bain
 28000 Shaker Blvd.
 Pepper Pike, OH 44124
 440-831-1424
www.pepperpike.org



Newbury Township

The township of about 5,500 residents has horse, dairy, sheep and alpaca farms through-



Reminderville Village

Some 2,000 people call this Summit County community of 2 square miles home. It's located near Solon in Cuyahoga County and near Bainbridge in Geauga County.

Mayor: Sam Alonso
 3382 Glenwood Blvd.
 Reminderville, OH 44202
 330-562-1234
www.reminderville.com



Russell Township

Russell Township was the last township settled in Geauga County. Most of the 5,500 residents in the 20 square miles tell people they live in Novelty – because of the mailing address. Laurel School's Butler campus moved there years ago.

Trustees: James Dickinson, Justin Madden, James Mueller.
 P.O. Box 522
 Novelty, OH 44072
 440-338-8912
www.twp.russell.oh.us

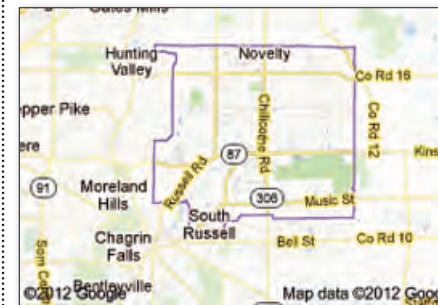


Solon City

The city of about 23,000 – once the fastest growing Jewish community in the area – has few places to grow in its nearly 21 square miles. Instead, it is looking at redeveloping older areas, such as the Solar Shopping Center

at Aurora and SOM Center roads in the heart of downtown. It boasts of being home to Chabad Jewish Center of Solon (Orthodox) and its mikvahs and to Congregation Kol Chadash (Reform).

Mayor: Susan A. Drucker
 34200 Bainbridge Road
 Solon, OH 44039
 440-248-1155
www.solonohio.org



South Russell Village

Located east of adjacent Chagrin Falls, Chillicothe Road is home to some popular restaurants, which many visitors think are located in Chagrin Falls Village. Some 4,000 residents call the nearly 4 square miles home.

Mayor: Matthew E. Brett
 5205 Chillicothe Road
 South Russell, OH 44022
 440-338-7843
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Woodmere Village

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Chagrin Valley schools recognized for excellence

CLASS NOTES



Sue Hoffman

National Blue Ribbon awards, National Merit scholarships, high-ranking sports and academic teams and nearly perfect graduation rates describe many schools in the Chagrin Valley.

Among the public schools, the Chagrin Falls, Kenston, Orange, Solon and West Geauga districts have long lists of achievements.

Private schools adding to the Valley's educational reputation include Hawken School's upper school in Chester, University School's upper school in Hunting Valley, Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Gross Schechter Day School in Pepper Pike, and Laurel School's Butler campus in Russell.

Among the districts' accomplishments, the Chagrin Falls School District is one of three Ohio school systems to receive the "excellent with distinction" title all 12 years that the Ohio Department of Education has issued the rating. All four schools in the district have been named National Blue Ribbon schools. The high school was ranked among the 100 best high schools by national magazines. One hundred percent of Chagrin students have graduated in three of the last four senior classes.

Consistent achievement of the "Excellent with Distinction" rating also belongs to the Orange district, which serves Hunting Valley, Moreland Hills, Orange Village, Pepper Pike, Woodmere and part of Solon. The

district has been recognized nationally for its programming, College Board's Advanced Placement honor-roll status, and record number of AP Scholars. Teaching students skills to become lifelong learners and helping students develop socially and emotionally are among the district's goals.

Solon has been rated among Ohio's top five school districts for state report cards every year. ACT has recognized Solon High School for students' rising ACT scores with its Red Quill Award for five consecutive years. Solon is the only Ohio school to achieve this honor. Both the Solon High School and Solon Middle School Science Olympiad teams won the 2011 national championship. A record 40 Solon students were recognized in the National Merit Scholar program this year.

For the 11th year in a row, Kenston schools have achieved all outcomes on the Ohio Report Card. In addition to strong academics, athletics and extracurricular activities, Kenston is exploring renewable wind and solar power to save the district and taxpayers money. The district has also integrated fitness, nutrition education and kinesthetic movement in classrooms to increase student wellness and improve achievement. Timmons Elementary School was named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School.

West Geauga Local Schools earned an excellent with distinction rating on the state report card for 10 consecutive years. The high school's symphonic band achieved superior distinction at Ohio Music Education Association competition. West Geauga High School in

Chester Township was one of 18 U.S. schools to be named as finalists by Intel Corporation in the 2010 Intel Schools of Distinction Awards.

University School, a boys' school with grades nine to 12 located in Hunting Valley, boasts an understanding of how boys learn best and a developmentally appropriate curriculum and school culture. Recent U.S. milestones include a fourth consecutive state swimming title. A US sophomore won The City Club High School Debate championship, and a junior won first place in music composition in the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs in his age category.

In addition to its Chester campus for grades nine to 12, Hawken, a coeducational college-preparatory school, has an urban extension center for experiential and service learning at University Circle in Cleveland. Last year, the upper school implemented an innovative schedule enhancing in-depth learning. This year's girls' swim team won its 14th consecutive Division II state championship and 22nd state championships overall to break the record for the most consecutive state titles of any sport in Ohio.

Laurel School, a girls' school with its main campus in Shaker Heights, has a 140-acre Butler campus in Russell that includes the 12,000-square-foot Alice Lehmann Butler Center for Fitness and Wellness, 15 acres of athletic fields, eight tennis courts, a quarter mile all-weather track, 1,800 square feet of lodge space, a 3,200-square-foot covered pavilion, a 2,600-square-foot residence, a fully accessible treehouse, and an adven-



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REAL ESTATE



Orange High School junior Hallie Israel is author of the 360-page book "Dear Mr. President," about a girl pursuing political aspirations.



Solon High School senior Andrew Branstetter is one of 15 students to win The Ohio State University's Presidential Scholarship.

ture course.

Gross Schechter Day School, a Jewish school for preschool to grade eight, is making strides in becoming a 21st-century school, with new technology, professional development and new opportunities from an updated website. The school recently started a program for 2-year-olds, introduced a new system to assess Hebrew fluency, and received a U.S. Department of Agriculture gold medal for its health and nutrition programming.

Gilmour Academy, a Catholic co-educational school for preschool to grade 12 on 144 acres, welcomes students from a variety of cultures, faiths and backgrounds. Its extracurricular offerings include a nationally recognized speech and debate program and

opportunities for students to explore interests from the arts to the environment to leadership and service. The athletic program offers 23 varsity sports, including a girls' prep hockey team.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE: Now in its ninth year, Friendship Circle brings together some 250 teenage volunteers and 130 children with special needs for fun and friendship. It is located in the former Congregation Bethaynu building on Gates Mills Boulevard in Pepper Pike. A variety of programming takes place each week, from Sunday Circle, which pairs children and volunteers for social fun, to martial arts, dance and moms' get-togethers. Another program is Teen

Scene, in which teen boys and girls create separate, themed dinners in Friendship Circle's kitchen. Rabbi Yossi Marozov is director.

MODEL STUDENTS: Among shining examples of Chagrin Valley students is Orange High School junior Hallie Israel, author of the 360-page book "Dear Mr. President," which follows a young girl with a passion for politics. With her father's help, Hallie self-published the book, available on the Barnes & Noble website. Hallie, who began writing the book at age 9, is editor of her school newspaper and creative arts magazine and on the mock trial, Academic Challenge, debate, and field hockey teams.

Chagrin Falls High School junior Ryan Ludwig, a competitive skier now training to be a pilot, spent a semester in Israel through the competitive Eisendrath International Exchange Program last year. Ryan, who has had lead roles with the Mandel JCC's Playmakers Youth Theater, is also a teacher's assistant at The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beachwood. He has refurbished numerous computers for charities and plays percussion in his high school's concert and marching bands.

Solon High School senior Andrew Branstetter, a varsity tennis player and volunteer tutor, has received one of 15 Presidential Scholarships at The Ohio State University, which provides full tuition, room and board, as well as admission to the Honors Collegium. Andrew is one of about 20 freshmen to be admitted to the OSU College of Medicine as a biomedical science major. He is treasurer of Solon's chapter of National Honor Society and a member of Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple.

CLASS NOTES on page 50

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Mayfield Heights: "Woodhawk" Sharp 2-story loft condo w/2 story great rm., updated kit., master suite w/walk-in closet + bath. Utility room in-suite, end unit. Gated community w/recreation. **\$125,000**

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Russell: Hillbrook Lane North townhouse w/3BR, 2.1 BA. Liv. Rm. w/FRPL, Din. Rm, updated kit. Master suite w/built-ins + dress rm. In-suite laundry, 2 indoor garage spaces. Gas costs included in maintenance. Beautiful! **\$169,900**

Bainbridge: Canyon Lakes. 5BR, 4.1 BA Col. on gorgeous lot! 4,300 SF includes 1st flr. study, sitting rm. and exercise rm. off master. Newer finished basement w/BR + BA, theater, kit., play areas. **\$569,000**

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REAL ESTATE

CLASS NOTES from page 49

MAZEL TOV: Alexander Chaitoff, a junior at The Ohio State University and graduate of Solon High School, is the only student in Ohio and one of 54 in the nation to be awarded a Harry S. Truman Scholarship in 2012. Each scholarship provides up to \$30,000 for graduate study. The scholarship is given to students who have demonstrated a commitment to a career in public policy or public service.

OSU president Gordon Gee surprised Chaitoff in class to deliver the news. "We really appreciate the work you have done academically to make all this happen but more importantly, the fact that you carry Ohio State's flag so very high," Gee said.

Chaitoff is pursuing a double major in microbiology and political science. A Presidential Scholar and a member of the Honors Collegium, he is conducting research in the College of Public Health, studying racial disparities in seeking treatment for mental illness. He is co-founder and director of research for the Pure Water Access Project, studying the implementation of water filters in developing nations.

Alex plans to obtain a medical degree and master's degree of public health before pursuing a career as a cardiologist and researcher of minority health disparities.

•**Leor Shtull-Leber** has been selected as a senior speaker for Brown University's May commencement. Shtull-Leber, from Ann Arbor, Michigan, has been active with the Brown Hillel, serving as president. She is the daughter of Dr. Steven Leber and Dina Shtull-Leber; and granddaughter of Rita Shtull and the late Rabbi Jacob Shtull and Pauline and Sam Leber.

•Hillel at Miami University of Ohio has elected new



Chagrin Falls High School junior Ryan Ludwig reflects on his four months in Israel last year through the Eisendrath International Exchange program.



Beachwood High School and Ohio State University graduate Allysa Axelband, now a teacher at Harlem Success Academy, is listed in "100 Buckeyes You Should Know."

members from the Cleveland area to its leadership council. They are treasurer **Ari Frum** of University Heights, engagement coordinator **Molly Rzepka** of Solon, and marketing coordinator **Matt Friedman** of Shaker Heights. Hillel also appointed two local students to its engagement team: **Rachael Silver** of Beachwood and **Amanda Schachtel** of Shaker Heights.

•**Allysa Axelband** is included in "100 Buckeyes You Should Know" by The Ohio State University Alumni Association. A graduate of Beachwood High School and a member of The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beach-

wood, Axelband graduated from OSU in 2005 with a bachelor of science degree in human ecology and received her master's degree from Pace University in 2007. She is a lead teacher at Harlem Success Academy, a high-achieving New York City school that has been featured in movies such as "Waiting for Superman" and "The Lottery."

Axelband has had her current post for two years, following three years teaching at P.S. 178 in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from OSU, she joined Teach for America in New York.

PRESCHOOL EVENT: The Mandel Jewish Community Center is hosting 90 minutes of food, fun and fundraising with its fourth annual "Sing into Spring" early childhood fundraiser from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sunday, May 6. The event, which takes place in Stonehill Auditorium, features activities for families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Participants will enjoy a cereal buffet, face painting, and arts and crafts, along with dancing to music from children's disc jockey Atomic Entertainment. There is also a silent auction, with prizes ranging from dinner for six to resort stays.

Ticket prices are \$20 for a family pass or \$25 for an extended family pass, which includes grandparents. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Proceeds benefit the Mandel JCC's early childhood education programs. Contact Kathy Newman at 216-831-0700, ext. 1375, or knewman@mandeljcc.org.

To submit news for this column, send to shoffman@cjn.org (put "Class Notes" in the subject line), fax to 216-454-8200, or mail to 23880 Commerce Park, Suite 1, Beachwood, OH 44122.

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