

# THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE



## *Katherine Ziff to speak about her book April 16*



We are honored this month to have Katherine Ziff, author of the just-released OU Press book, *Asylum on the Hill: History of the Healing Landscape*, to chat with us about her research and writing and to respond to questions we may have.

Because of Dr. Ziff's office schedule as an Athens city schools counselor, a meeting time of 4 p.m. is much better than her trying to make a noon Brown Bag

lunch date. Please note this time change and invite friends to hear this talk. Books will be on hand for signing, or anyone who has already gotten one may bring it for signing.

Dr. Ziff is an asylum scholar who has published in journals, including *History of Psychiatry*, *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*, *Chrysalis*, *Counselor Education and Supervision*, as well as others.

This meeting takes the place of our regular monthly Brown Bag lunch. We are trying new days and times to see what suits us best.

## **Mercer, Foster give advice at ODA meet**

Two representatives of the Athens Village (Director Patty Mercer and Secretary Sue Foster) were in Chillicothe on March 29 at the invitation of the Ohio Department of Aging to share their experiences in setting up and maintaining The Athens Village.

Other groups attending the meeting to find how to establish a village or to further one already established were from Cincinnati, Oxford, Bayley, Cleveland, Upper Arlington and Columbus' German Village.

"One of the guiding principles of the Ohio Department of Aging is that our elders should be active, engaged, and able to remain in their own homes, where many would prefer to stay for as long as they safely can," said Bonnie Kantor-Burman, ODA director. "We are happy to encourage grassroots efforts, such as the Village model, that enable Ohio elders not only to remain at home, but also to support one another and to give back to the community."

Athens is recognized as the first independent group of this sort in Ohio and the first "rural" one in the nation. Of the groups at Thursday's meeting, Athens was the only independent one, supported entirely by dues of its own members. Two other existing ones were founded by social

(continued on p. 2)

### **Calendar**

**Every Tuesday, 1 p.m.**, Informal lunch gathering of members & guests at Bob Evans Restaurant.

**Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.**, Yoga, ACVNA.

**Tu, Apr. 10, 10 a.m.**, Board meeting, **3 p.m.** Membership Committee, ACVNA.

**We, Apr. 11**, No second Wed. lunch. (See above.)

**Fr, Apr. 13, 10 a.m.-noon**, Last computer problem-solving session with Charron & Saniqua.

**Mo, Apr. 16, 4 p.m.**, Katherine Ziff speaking at our monthly meeting, ACVNA. (See story above.)

**Tu, May 1, 3 p.m.**, Visit Israel with Danny Yahini, including Power Point photos, ACVNA.

**Th, May 3, 3 p.m.**, VtV Research meeting, Cohn's.

**Sa, May 5. 11 a.m.-2:45 p.m.** CarFit, O'Bleness Hospital. (Appt. required. See p. 4 story.)



**Welcome to  
two new  
members:**

**Nada Kerr**

**and**

**Rieta Shoemaker**

**Now we are**

**98**



## The Athens Village Voice

is sent to you every month to catch you up on the who, what, when, where, why, and how of our Village. Your feedback is needed.

Dru Riley Evarts, editor. Contact 592-1231 or [evarts@ohio.edu](mailto:evarts@ohio.edu) with ideas or suggestions.

### For assistance, call

Patty Mercer, director, at ACVNA, 30 Herrold Ave., Athens, OH 45701, **594-8226, ext. 6** or 1-800-837-1112. (If no answer there, dial 0 and speak with an operator for assistance.)

**After hours** (4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m.), call the answering service at **594-6259** or (if away from Athens) **1-800-649-8027**.

**E-mail:** [pm Mercer@acvna.org](mailto:pm Mercer@acvna.org).

**Web site:** <http://theathensvillage.org> (use no spaces.)

### Board of Directors

Ellsworth Holden, president

Margaret (Peg) Cohn,  
vice president

Sue Foster, secretary

Cherie Gall, treasurer

Don Cooley

Dru Riley Evarts

George Weckman

## Opera for April

The Athena Grand will present the opera "Manon" live from the Met at 12 noon on April 7, with an encore on April 25; then "La Traviata" live on April 14, with an encore May 2. Admission for seniors is \$18. Refreshments served at intermission. See the complete story in the March issue of *The Village Voice*.

## William Beale to receive Patent Legacy Award

William Beale is to be honored by the State of Ohio on April 14, when he will receive the Ohio Patent Legacy Award for his 1971 patent for an improved free-piston Stirling engine. This statewide award from the Ohio Academy of Science recognizes the impact his inventions have made on worldwide energy concerns. In addition to the invention cited in the award, he has 26 other patents.

William was associated with Ohio University's College of Engineering before he founded Sunpower, which has become a world leader in energy-efficient, environmentally friendly machines for power generation and cooling. Sunpower has amassed 48 American patents and 111 international patents.

Both William and Carol Beale are founding members of our Village.

## Short Notes

**Computer help:** Got computer glitches or problems, or just want to learn how to do something better? Students Charron and Saniqua will be giving their last help session from 10 a.m. to noon, April 13, at ACVNA. Even new people are welcome.



**Equipment:** As a Village member, you may borrow, free of charge, durable bedside and mobility equipment when you have a temporary need. Call Patty Mercer if you would like to inquire about this benefit.



**Healthy U:** Learn how to take control of the symptoms and complications that may limit your activities., starting Monday, April. 23, and meeting every Monday 12:30-3 p.m. in Suite 101 of the Community Center. Joan Stroh and Susan Pitts are the teachers. Call 594-3535 to pre-register.

## Members to meet soon

Our Code of Regulations, as redesigned by a committee and reviewed by the Board at its last meeting, will be voted on by the Board on April 10. If the Board votes positively, it will choose a date for a membership meeting for final approval. You will be getting the Code and a proxy slip in the mail, along with directions.

## ODA meeting

(continued from p. 1)

service agencies, two were in the process of doing in-depth research to determine and fund an organizational plan, and two were at the "exploring" stage.

A major purpose of Thursday's gathering in Chillicothe was to clarify how the Ohio Department of Aging could be involved in the formation and nurturing of villages in Ohio. Various possibilities, such as seed-money funding or organizational guidance were discussed, but no definite conclusions were reached.



### *Alvi McWilliams and Pat Grean volunteer together and separately*

Anyone who has driven down East State Street (and who hasn't?), is treated to the beautiful work of Project Plant. Both Alvi McWilliams and Pat Grean are key figures in keeping that beauty going from the time the first perennials push out of the ground in the Spring until everything goes to sleep in late Fall. Project Plant's gardens can also be seen at the Mansfield House, the East State Street traffic island near the freeway overpass, and traffic island beds on Madison Avenue, and on Columbus Road near WATH.



Alvi was the main founder of Project Plant in 1984 and still works hard on it. For many years, she was the chair of the Athens Shade Tree Commission and continues to serve on it. She was a member of the Athens Foundation Board for many years and its secretary for one of those. Alvi and her late husband were founding members of the Near East Side Neighborhood Association.



Pat has worked along with Alvi since the beginning of Project Plant. Active in the Church of the Good Shepherd, where she is on the Altar Guild, she works on the preparation of communion materials and carries out other responsibilities. Once a month she also works on the church's well-attended Wednesday lunches (100 or so each week), which are served free to people in need. Pat was one of the early organizers of the church's lunch teams. She also works at the Athens County Library's monthly book sale and organizes the books during the month.



Project Plant weeds every Tuesday during gardening season in a truly down-to-earth effort to make Athens a more beautiful and welcoming place. Want to join in? Call Alvi at 593-3294.

### **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Calling can keep members safe, in touch**

The Village-to-Village Research Committee is studying what other villages are doing about a Neighbor-to-Neighbor Calling setup or Buddy System (or whatever we will call it in the end).

"The name is not as important as the setting up of a system that will help assure the safety of every Villager," said Peggy Cohn, VtV Research chair. "If one of our members falls or is unable to get to or use a phone for any reason, we want to be sure somebody else will know about it and also know how to get into that house or direct first responders there to help."



Elise Sanford and Natsu Taylor had had such a system set up even before they became members of The Athens Village, and they are continuing it. One calls the other daily at an agreed-upon time to check. When either is going to be out of town, she lets the other know so no alarm will arise when a phone is unanswered.

Patty Mercer, wants to hear from you by phone, mail, or e-mail (see masthead) about whether you already have a checking system, whether you would like for her to help find a calling partner among the membership, or whether you have other protections (family in town, alarm system, etc.). One of TAV's promises is to help people live *safely* in their own homes. This campaign is part of furthering that safety net.

### **Norm Cohn concert open to Villagers, guests**



Norm Cohn, tenor, and George Weckman, pianist/organist, welcome Village members and their guests to a recital at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 15, at Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Mill St.

The program will include songs by Beethoven, Liszt, Poulenc, Weill, Lucy Simon, Edith Piaf, and others. A reception will follow the concert.



## CarFit free on May 5

This guy's helmet fits the color of his car. But does his body "fit" the car well for the safest ride? He needs CarFit, a free 15-minute examination of a driver and his or her car.



This includes checking blind spots, seat-belt use, steering-wheel position and pedal use. Participants go through a 12-point check list and any concerns are noted. Occupational therapists are available to offer advice and suggestions.

The program is sponsored by the O'Bleness Health System, Senior-BEAT, the American Automobile Association, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association. To schedule a 15-minute appointment between 11 a.m. and 2:45 p.m., call (740) 592-9300 and ask for a CarFit appointment. The rain date is Saturday, May 12. For further information contact Ed Baum, (740) 593-8675 or [baum@ohio.edu](mailto:baum@ohio.edu).

## High Society Jazz April 22

Pat Light and her High Society Jazz Band will be percolating from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, at Abrio's Brick Oven, 859 E. State St.

Member admissions are \$3 and guests (always welcome) are \$5. Abrio's is glad to serve anything from a free glass of water to a full meal. Your choice.



## Ann Holden memorial service April 21

A memorial service for Ann Holden will be held at 1 p.m. April 21 in the Ohio University Inn Ballroom. All Village members are welcome.

### *All officers re-elected to serve another term*

TAV's Board of Trustees has re-elected all officers to serve another term: Ellsworth Holden, president; Peg Cohn, vice president; Sue Foster, secretary; and Cherie Gall, treasurer. Congrats!

## Survey shows home maintenance satisfaction

by Kelsi Burkhardt, Intern

Over the past two months, I have called many members of The Athens Village to see what their thoughts are on the services provided by Lane Hoisington. I got wonderful feedback. Members said Lane does a great job, along with explaining things and answering questions. He is knowledgeable on almost everything.

Many members could not believe that not everyone takes advantage of this great service. Lane offers many things that some evidently do not realize. One such example is the free yearly home maintenance checkup, when he makes sure everything is fine and your home is safe to live in. All in all, almost all of the members who talked with me have been extremely happy with his services and will continue to use him in the future.

## Lane's Corner: a monthly list of helpful hints

This spring and past winter have brought very high winds and lots of rain. If you have not recently reviewed your homeowner's policy, it might be a good time to do so to make sure you understand, before an incident occurs, what your coverage is.

A hard rain can make storm drains back up and cause flooding in your basement. Also, our beautiful hillsides can mean ground slippage and falling rocks. A call about your insurance may assure that you have the needed coverage and peace of mind.



Before you turn on your air conditioner, check for leaves and debris. Make sure the exterior is not blocked by weeds, high grass, or other obstacles because this will affect the efficiency of your unit. You may want to have your unit checked by a qualified service technician. You may call the Athens Village office if you need help locating one.