Western Reserve Chapter of The Links
“Mardi Gras Meets Carnival”

The Western Reserve Chapter of The Links held its eighth masked Mardi Gras gala, “Mardi Gras Meets Carnival,” at The Avenue around the fountain in Tower City. The 350 guests danced the night away to the music of The Soul Rebels, a band from New Orleans, as well as the music of The Jacob Johnson Quartet and Samba Cleveland. New Orleans and Brazilian cuisine, prepared by the chefs at the Ritz-Carlton, was served at food stations. Vendors sold a variety of wares, from Mardi Gras masks to jewelry and clothing.

The Western Reserve Chapter of The Links is a nonprofit group of women volunteers working to enrich the lives of residents in Greater Cleveland. Each of the 45 chapter members commits to a minimum of 48 hours to develop community service programs in the areas of education, health and human services. This past year’s initiatives included the Growing Leaders program, now in its fifth year, to increase the number of African American young women transitioning from high school to college and into the workforce. It focuses on soft skills such as communication and interviewing, professionalism and work ethic, critical thinking, financial literacy, healthy behaviors and entrepreneurial skills. The chapter’s Community Baby Shower program addresses the serious infant mortality crisis in the community and, over a two-year period, has provided services to more than 1,650 mothers, fathers and children. STORY BY CYNTHIA SCHUSTER EAKIN/PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIC EAKIN

Stan Hywet opens for the 2020 season on April 1

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens opens for the season on April 1, 2020. The season’s theme, WINDS OF CHANGE, is an exploration of the expansive social transformation in America in the aftermath of World War I. In the gardens, a sculpture exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage; and in June, the refurbished Gate Lodge reopens with the new exhibit, “Henrietta Seiberling: A Spark for a Movement.” The full schedule of public programs includes the Father’s Day Car Show, Off the Vine, Molto Bella Auto Show, Shakespeare + Dinner (new), Ohio Mart and Deck the Hall.

The Manor House exhibit, WINDS OF CHANGE, immerses guests in a display that is both educational and thought-provoking. Through a lens of “then vs. now,” guests will learn about the changing social and political attitudes of the 1920s - suffrage, immigration, prohibition, technology & communication, fashion & hygiene and cost of living - and be able to compare these changes with today’s social and political climate. On display throughout the gardens is an exhibit of the same name featuring kinetic sculptures created solely by women artists, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, guaranteeing American women the right to vote. It opens on June 2.

“Henrietta Seiberling: A Spark for a Movement” opens in the Gate Lodge in early June just before Founders’ Day Weekend, June 12-14, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous there.

This exhibit recreates Henrietta Buckler Seiberling’s living space, with key rooms in the house furnished as they were in the 1930s when she lived there with her three children. The kitchen, previously off limits to visitors, is being restored to its appearance during that time, and is part of the exhibit.

In addition to Founders’ Day Weekend, the roster of public programs includes the 63rd annual FATHER’S DAY CAR SHOW on June 21, where the Inner Circle of Full Classics(r) features vehicles from the 1920s, in keeping with the season theme. The 2nd annual OFF THE VINE: AN EVENING PAIRING OF FOOD & WINE is July 24. The Manor House will be open for self-guided tours, and guests will be able to sample wines paired with “small bites,” while enjoying music in the historic gardens on a beautiful summer night. Another opportunity to enjoy the gardens at night is SHAKESPEARE + DINNER on July 10 (“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”) and August 7 (“Othello”). This new event combines a delicious buffet dinner with a performance during the Ohio Shakespeare Festival’s two summer productions on the estate.

The MOLTO BELLA AUTO returns on September 13, (rain date, September 20) after an auto auction of exotic automobiles on September 12. Molto Bella features rare classics, high-value automobiles, entertainment and food, as well as self-guided tours of the house and gardens.

OHIO MART, the popular artisan craft festival is October 1-4. The 2020 season concludes with DECK THE HALL in November and December in the Manor House and on the grounds, where Santa lights the Christmas tree, and the estate is illuminated with more than one million holiday lights.

Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio.

More details on all exhibits, events and hours of operation are available at stanhywet.org.