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A Giving Spirit

Amid Joy and Sorrow, the Barker Family Shared Their Good Fortunes With the Community

by William Halliar

*Editor's note
— Our series
continues explor-
ing the his-
tory behind key
locations along
Michigan City's
North End.*



Barker Mansion as seen in 1948.

Isat enthralled, chin in hand, listening intently to the stories. Tales of the past, of inventions, of robber barons, of railroads, of life lived in grand style and the sadness of illness, death and loss.

Mary Kintzele calls herself the “executive housekeeper.” She runs the everyday “nuts and bolts” of Barker Mansion and has played an intimate role in the day-to-day running of Michigan City’s venerable old landmark for the last 23 years.

Mary is a storyteller. In the time she has been involved with the historic mansion, she has steeped herself in the history of the building and the Barker family who called it home. She has led many tour groups through the ornately decorated rooms and related intimate details of family life in the Victorian era.

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Mary Kintzele stands by the sink in the "butler's kitchen."
 The sink was made of German silver.

Mary has studied manuscripts left behind by the family, and cared for furniture and artifacts used daily by the Barker family and left in the mansion after their deaths. She has stood quietly in the rooms, breathed in the dusty air, even climbed to the rooftop to gain perspective on what the house can teach future generations and how best to preserve and tell the story of one of Michigan City's founding families.

Barker Mansion at 631 Washington St. embodies a moment frozen in time, a wonderfully preserved example of the opulence of the late 1890s, the home of a prosperous rail industry tycoon and benefactor to the community for many years passed and years still to come.

When you sit with Mary and listen to her stories, history comes to life. She tells of young John Barker, who first established himself in business here in 1832, and of his son, John Henry, who, instead of taking over his father's business by stepping in at the top, took a lower job and worked his way up to president. Stories of Catherine, who was left an orphan at 14 and inherited the family fortune, and of her children who still bear the weight and privilege of responsibility to our community.

An article from "Indiana Biography," found at Michigan City Public Library's Indiana Room, states on Page 308 that "*The late John Barker was*

of an old New England family and possessed the best characteristics of the liberalized Puritans. These are the traits that have made the sturdy natives of New England an important factor in developing the resources of the great west."

One of these "best characteristics" might be what Max Weber called the Puritan, or Protestant, work ethic. This is a social concept that says hard work, frugality and diligence, in one's life work, are a constant display of a person's Christian faith. Add to this a social conciseness that benefits society creating a lasting legacy and impact on history.

The Barker family may have accumulated great wealth, but judging by their legacy of giving back to the community, they also held in high regard a responsibility to their fellow citizens. Their lives were lived in opulence in the late 1890s and early 20th century, but as in all life journeys, theirs was not without difficulty and occasional sorrow.

John Barker was born Dec. 14, 1814, in Andover, Mass., the youngest son of a family of 11, and a family of some influence in the region. His formal education was meager, but he must have been taught well the lessons of hard work and diligence passed on by his Puritan parents. In those days, business was best learned by doing rather than from a textbook. John took clerk positions in local stores to learn the trade of a merchant.



John Barker.

Again from "Indiana Biography," "*His education was entirely rudimentary, but in rudiments he was what might be called, even at this later day, a well-educated man, because what he knew he knew well and it formed a strong foundation for the hard, common sense which he was known to process by all who knew him.*"

He left home at 18, taking clerking positions in several shops and, according to contemporary sources, began to make his fortune without outside financial assistance.

He was a self-reliant man.

By 22, John was ready to set up on his own, so he took off across the country to seek his fortune in

business, landing in the pioneer town of Michigan City, where he set up shop in partnership with his cousin, Jacob Carter. It can only be imagined that the young John Barker had his eyes open for further opportunity because he soon left the mercantile business and established himself as a grain broker.

He constructed a grain elevator and built a pier into Lake Michigan. Farmers from all around the region would harvest their grain and bring it to Michigan City, where it would be purchased by grain brokers. The brokers would, in turn, sell the grain to a larger market and ship it all over the United States and the world via sailing ships on Lake Michigan.

John Barker must have been a restless man, always seeking opportunities, because it was not long before he recognized the potential of the growing railroad industry and bought an interest in a factory to produce railroad freight cars, as well as other heavy machinery. In 1855, a partnership between John Barker and Frederick Haskell was formed.

Mary Kintzele relates a tale of John Barker's early philanthropic mindset. Freight cars of the mid-1800s were constructed almost entirely of wood. During this time, homes were heated by wood stoves and food was cooked over wood fires. There was always plenty of scrap wood left after a day of freight car manufacture, and the workers at the Haskell and Barker plant were allowed to take scraps home to help keep their families warm on cold Michigan City winter nights.



Marble statues of John Henry Barker (left) and his daughter, Catherine Barker, as a child are displayed inside the mansion.

John Barker married local girl Cordilla and had two children, who would survive him. In those days, many children did not live into adulthood. His two surviving children were Anna and John Henry. In 1857, he began construction of a home adjacent to his freight car factory. This building, after much reconstruction, would eventually become Barker Mansion as we know it today.

John Barker retired in 1869. His son, John Henry, left a successful business career in Chicago to work at the Michigan City car works as general manager. John Henry learned much about hard work, self-sufficiency and business from his father. By 1883,

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he was named president of the plant. The Michigan City car works continued to grow, under John Henry's watchful eye. By 1910, the plant had an annual output of 15,000 freight cars. The Barker estate had grown to an estimated \$50 to \$60 million.

John Henry became one of the great captains of industry and finance at the turn of the 20th century, and was the foremost freight car builder of the era. But even as his business grew, he retained the love of community taught by his father. No worthwhile public service project went unconsidered. The Barker family contributed to many worthwhile projects in the early years of the century, including the public library, YMCA, St. Anthony Hospital and the peristyle that once graced Washington Park.



St. Anthony Hospital circa 1907.

John Henry loved music and especially opera, often making the trip to Chicago with his family to enjoy performances in a private rail car. He contributed heavily to the Ames Band, which became known as one of the finest musical organizations of the Midwest in that era.

As successful as his life was, John Henry was not immune to tragedy. Even as his business and fame grew, he lost three children in infancy and eventually his beloved wife, Gena. Barker Hall, which is part of Trinity Episcopal Church, was constructed, using funds contributed by the family in memory of his three lost children.



Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church.

In 1893, John Henry married Katherine Fitz-Gerald, who was at the time they met a teacher at the Episcopal school. Their only child, Catherine, was born in 1893. At the time, the home at 631 Washington St. was remodeled and expanded to meet the family's growing needs, its status in the community and, indeed, the world.



A view of the new Barker family residence in 1906.

The home, finished in 1905, was the work of Chicago architect Frederick Perkins. The design was copied after an English manor house and the proportions were sumptuous: 38 rooms, seven hand-carved marble fireplaces and 10 bathrooms served the occupants, which included a staff of up to 12 servants and a live-in teacher for Catherine.

The home had a central vacuum system, an intercom system and air ducts to cool it in the summer — all of the most modern amenities of the time.

The Barkers loved to travel and collected fine furnishings, tapestries, sculptures and works of art from all over Europe. The grand entry hall is graced by a fireplace taken from a castle in Normandy, France.

The Barker family enjoyed their new home and life together for all of five years, when tragedy struck, once again. On May 24, 1910, John Henry's wife died while he was on a business trip to Europe. Then, on Dec. 3 of that year, John Henry fell ill and died. This left young Catherine alone in the world at the age of 14. At the time, she was considered one of the wealthiest women in the world.

The Haskell and Barker car works were taken over by a board of trustees and a president and eventually sold to a group of eastern investors. In 1922, it became a part of Pullman-Standard.

The grand Barker Mansion was maintained by servants while Catherine attended boarding schools, until she reached adulthood. Like her father and grandfather before her, Catherine continued in the spirit of public service passed down to her.



PNC students seen doing homework in the back porch area in the 1950s.

Mary Kintzele learned from speaking with grandchildren that Catherine was never happy at the mansion after losing her parents so early in her life. She met her husband, Charles Hickox, in New York and settled there, spending her life administering

the estate of her family.

In 1924, Catherine established the Barker Annuity Fund to provide pensions for Haskell and Barker employees not covered under the Pullman retirement plan. For this kindness, she was respected and loved by the community.

According to writings at the time of Catherine's death, although she was born to great wealth, she treated the privilege with a sense of obligation and responsibility, thus reflecting her grandfather's and father's Puritan beliefs and background.

Barker Mansion was used by Purdue University-North Central as a learning annex beginning in 1948 and continuing for 20 years. Imagine learning in such a grand and opulent setting. In 1968, ownership of the mansion reverted back to the Barker Foundation, of which

Catherine was president, and the foundation presented the home to Michigan City to be used as a community center.

As Catherine's health declined, and in spite of al-

Continued on Page 6

Last-minute gift ideas await you at Al's.

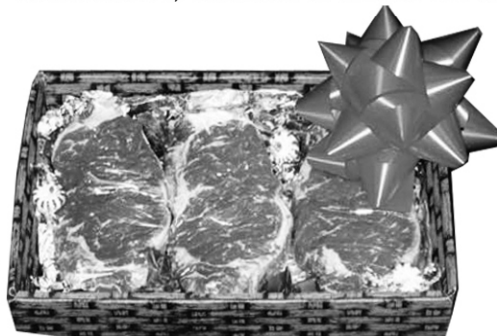
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The Barker Mansion kitchen decorated for Christmas.

most total blindness near the end of her life, she was concerned with the restoration of the home, with the future of the community center and her family legacy. Through the Barker Welfare Foundation, money was provided for the restoration and maintenance of the building.

During her lifetime, Catherine personally saw to the direction of large sums of money, researching and contributing to many different charities. When the purpose of the original Barker Annuity Fund was fulfilled, the balance was transferred to the



Frank Lloyd Wright windows inside the mansion.

Barker Welfare Foundation started in 1934. That foundation continues to be an effective instrument for charity and giving.

Although Catherine Barker Hickox died on Nov. 18, 1970, the foundation she established continues to this day. Her children and many grandchildren are active in the foundation's distribution process.

Today, Barker Mansion is open to the public. All are welcome and invited to experience the grandeur of an age gone by, and to contemplate the family's giving spirit, a legacy that lives on today.

The Beacher would like to thank
Mike Fleming for providing some of the
historical photos used with this article.

A Tribute to Cecilia Ann Zubler: A Woman of Many Talents

by Jan Van Ausdal

Was Cecilia Zubler a dedicated person, one who put her all into everything?

Yes!

During her life, she had many roles. Let's begin with her early years. With siblings and parents, she had a typical childhood. She was a student who got good grades. Her eyes and hair were brown. She was your friend.

She married Chester Zubler. They had two sons and half a dozen or so grandchildren. When her sons were younger, she was a Cub Scout leader. Many of us have "been there, done that." Later, she graduated from college, becoming a teacher.

When she lived in Michigan City, she first worked at Barker Mansion as a staff member, but then became executive director. When we spoke on various occasions, she'd let her hair down about the responsibilities and joys of her job. I wrote down what she was saying to practice my shorthand. "Oh," she would say, apprehensively. "Don't print *that* in *The Beacher*." I would assure her of my discretion.

The guests were arriving, the weather looked cloudy (would the tea have to be moved inside if it rained or stormed?) — always problems for the person in charge. And always, here was Cecilia, who had to make spur-of-the moment decisions. But things always turned out well, and the staff could relax for a bit.

She was a friend of mine, even though we didn't see one another often. When we got together, however, we spent a large part of the day at Barker Mansion. Every year, much happens. In 2014, alone, there were two teas. Also, there was a summer tour, a concert in the gardens and finally "The Spirit of Christmas" display. From the beginning of December through the middle of January, many people visit to see the holiday decorations, with recorded



music and live music on the mansion's third floor.

Planning for this year's tour began back in the early summer. There is always brainstorming led by Cecilia and participated in by housekeeper Mary Kintzele, Ann Jankowski, Sarah Moon, Donna Allen — all of the employees. "The Spirit of Christmas" (Cecilia's suggestion) was selected for the 2014 Christmas tour. Each employee chose several rooms to decorate. On the first floor is the foyer, library, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, gift shop and back exit to the patio/garden area. What a house! The circular, carpeted staircase leads the way to the second

floor (mostly bedrooms and bathrooms) and the third floor, which has a massive ballroom with a piano and extra rooms. How many Christmas trees are there for National Honor Society members to assemble so they can be decorated by the staff? I don't know.

But back to Cecilia. From her hospital bed, she carried on conversations with Mary about the progress of the decorating. She planned, as always, to be at the mansion to finalize the tour preparations. But her plan was not to be realized, because Cecilia Ann Zubler died early one November morning. Her loyal employees had to finish their tasks alone.

Cecilia, your family, fellow employees at the mansion and many others will certainly miss you in the days ahead. But if you look down, we know you're happy to see that your life's work at Barker Mansion is being carried out successfully. We'll shiver if a little breeze whips our hair, as it often whipped yours. We admire you. We'll think of you often when we drive by Barker Mansion.

And, please, relax and enjoy what you helped create. You've earned it.



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“Christmas at The Acorn” Celebrates 10th Anniversary

by Andrew Tallackson

When “Christmas at The Acorn” debuted 10 years ago, Robert Swan had no lofty ambitions of creating an annual event.

“My plan was just to throw a bunch of wonderful opera singers on the stage, singing beautiful Christmas songs, and see if anyone would come,” Swan said, chuckling.

To his surprise, the audience packed the place. So, during the performance, Swan asked the crowd if they liked what they saw. Yes, they enthusiastically shouted back. Swan, smiling, boomed back, “OK, we’ll do it, but you have to show up.”

And show up, they have. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the holiday show presented by Harbor Country Opera. In 2013, it moved to the Performing Arts Center at New Buffalo High School. Doing so, according to Swan, helped secure an even larger following...but he missed the intimacy of The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

Returning to The Acorn, particularly with 2014 marking the show’s 10th anniversary, brings everything full circle.

“It’s charming. It’s wonderful,” Swan said of The Acorn. “It’s where we started, so it seemed appropriate to have the Christmas show there for our 10th anniversary.”

To celebrate the milestone, Swan has amassed a slate of talent familiar to “Christmas at the Acorn” audiences. Joining him on stage will be



Martha Cares (left) and Bob Swan perform together during “Santa Baby.”

Ramona Kim on harp, Nate Herman on guitar, Anatoliy Torchinskiy on piano, soprano Christine Steyer, bass Paul Geiger, baritone Warren Moulton, soprano Martha Cares, soprano Emmanuella Lo and tenor John Concepcion.

The first half of the program features beloved classics such as “O Holy Night,” “Joy to the World,” “Gesù Bambino,” “Carol of the Bells”

and “We Three Kings.” The second half embraces a lighter tone...and with plenty of laughs.

“After you see Paul (Geiger) do ‘You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,’ well, only he can do it,” Swan said with a laugh.

Cares stirs up the audience with the crowd-pleasing “Santa Baby,” while Swan will perform one of his favorites, “The Christmas Song.” Concepcion’s version of “I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus,” Swan said, is particularly funny.

Lo, a local teen, will present a piece she wrote, “Night of Our Lives.”

Helping set the tone of the evening will be chestnuts actually roasting on an open fire outside The

Acorn, as well as chocolates prepared by Janet Musikan-tow and treats from David’s Deli. Cares also will highlight her work involving rescue dogs and cats.

“The first half (of the show) has as much beauty as we can cram into it,” Swan said. “The second half changes things up a bit. It’s a lot of fun.”

If You Go

“Christmas at The Acorn” is at 8 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

Tickets, which cost \$25, are available at harborcountryopera.org or by calling (269) 231-0027, or at acorntheater.com or by calling (269) 756-3879.

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Michigan City Area Schools held its annual holiday concert, featuring more than 1,000 music students in grades six through 12, on Dec. 4 at Michigan City High School. Some of the photos are by Richard Warner.



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Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage includes Lake MI private Association Beach Rights. The two main floor bedrooms share a bath with whirlpool tub. Great room has light knotty pine for eating or relaxing. A private rear sunroom with vaulted ceilings. Upstairs provides a third bedroom and the downstairs is kids playroom and laundry.

2001 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach



1920 Spanish Colonial reincarnated on 80' of Lakeshore Drive. Living room with wood burning hearth boasts 20' vaulted barrel ceiling opposing wood floors. New kitchen with Bosch 5 burner, pantry, SS and granite offers breakfast room and leads to formal dining room. 5 BRs & 2.5 BAs join main floor sun room. Storage, laundry & sauna finish basement.

1528 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach



1951 solid brick 2 story home offers 4 BRs and 4 BAs. Premier lakeside living with 2 story decks, gardens, patios and lakefront gazebo. Living areas include new kitchen, great dining room, spacious living room and sunroom. Walk-out basement level offers recreation room with wet bar, laundry, bath and storage. 2 car garage and parking for many!

1806-A Ridgemoor Drive, Long Beach



Lake views dune-top 1+ acre site, gardens, waterfall, pond, wooded privacy. Over 7,000 sq ft, 6 BRs, 4 BAs, 3 fireplaces, 2 elevators, hot tub in spa house, 4 car garage, 2 wet bars, banquet-size kitchen, cherry-paneled dining room with Czechoslovakian 7' cut crystal chandelier and English Amdega conservatory. Close to sandy Lake MI beach.

2002 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach



Lake Michigan! Sandy shoreline to the North and plenty of parking street-side. Main floor BR and BA joins upper 4 BRs (2 with lake views) sharing 2 BAs. Main floor den converts to 6th BR. Living room w/ fireplace & dining room have lake views. Beach access second kitchen with dining, rec room, 4th bath, laundry and storage complete lower level.

2221 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach



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JANUARY 1

All City New Year's Day Mass @ 9:00 a.m.

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Saturday @ 4:00 p.m. • Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

"Heritage Barns of Indiana"

The Midwest Museum of American Art is presents the next chapter of a project Fort Wayne artist Gwen Gutwein started in 2002.

"Heritage Barns of Indiana: An Artist's Passion," which runs through March 1, features 60 recent paintings created by the artist in her quest to capture two historic barn structures in all of Indiana's 92 counties.

In 2011, the museum entered into a collaboration with the Fort Wayne Museum of Art to showcase Gutwein's first 50 barn paintings. Since then, she has completed the project of 184 works and received statewide recognition.



Gwen Gutwein's depiction of the Yoder Prough Round Barn in La Grange, Ind.

The exhibit also serves to highlight recent legislation that will help preserve barn structures older than 1950. The Indiana legislature passed House Bill 1046 put forth by Rep. Robert Cherry, Greenfield, Ind., whereby a barn owner no longer will be taxed on the barn's footprint. The legislation takes effect in 2015.

Gutwein and Carolyn Rahe of Bourbon, Ind., have created the non-profit Indiana Barns Foundation, which will develop programs that educate a younger generation on the importance of historic barns. In addition, tours of barns are being developed so the general public can appreciate them.

Gutwein's style of realist painting is akin to an updated form of Regionalism with impressionistic tendencies.

The museum, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All times are Eastern. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. Family admission is \$10 for three or more. Sunday is Free Family Admission Day.

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2001 Melrose Drive, Long Beach

Santa can leave a key or use the keyless entry. The elves are leaving the furnishings and you can move right in. This home near Stop 20 beach has an open main floor plan, a lower level family room and three baths. The best part may be the 100' site adjoining Nature Conservancy and Town dunes. Loads of parking, decks on both sides, plenty of room to play or enjoy an evening fire. Right across from Long Beach town park.



2813 Elbridge Way, Long Beach

Santa already stopped here! He left a big package with three fireplaces, one in the master suite, which has his n' her dressing sinks. On the way back to the chimney, he sprinkled the kitchen with granite, stainless appliances, a wine cooler and opened it all to the living and dining areas. He took most of the maintenance and left 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, just a few hundred feet from Stop 28.



2919 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach

All I want for Christmas is privacy, spectacular views of Lake Michigan, EZ access to the best beach in Long Beach and 100' of frontage on the hillside of Lakeshore Drive. Yikes, Virginia, that is quite a list...but Santa is listening and you've been a good girl. Take a look at this home high on the hill with drive and parking behind on Ridge Rd. and room to expand or divide the site.



2502 Lakeshore Drive-Lakeside Lot, Long Beach

This unique build site has 60' of Lake Michigan beach frontage, with a nature conservancy to the west and a private beach club to the east. Enjoy the view and privacy. Two 60' frontages that were built for spec nearby sold for an average of \$2.2M in 2014. What are your plans for 2015? Ask Santa for a dune to build your brand new home.

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Book Signing



Local author and journalist David Hoppe will sign copies of his latest book, "Personal Indianapolis: Thirteen Years of Observing, Exhorting and Satirizing the Hoosier Capital," from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Book Warehouse at Lighthouse Place.

Hoppe, a former Michigan City Public Library assistant director, writes a weekly column for NUVO, the alternative news weekly in Indianapolis. He has received nine awards from the Indiana Society of Professional Journalists, and is the author of "Food For Thought: An Indiana Harvest," about the burgeoning food scene here.

His essays have been included in the collections "Falling Toward Grace" and "Home Again." His play, "After Paul McCartney," has been produced at the Edinburgh International Fringe Festival in Scotland, Butler University and by the Indiana Repertory Theatre. A second play, "Our Experiences During the First Days of Alligators," has been produced by NoExit Performance in Indianapolis.

He lives in Long Beach with his wife, choreographer and movement teacher Melli Hoppe.

Indoor Flea Markets

New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road, again will host its indoor flea markets the last two Saturdays of each month through March, with the next round set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 20 and 27.

Admission is free. Past markets included tools, housewares, antiques, photography, jewelry, crafts and books. The center also features the Homeroom Store, which sells used furniture, housewares and books.

Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds from space rentals and Homeroom sales benefit the center, an all volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy. Vendor spaces are still available at \$10 per table. Contact Janna at (773) 375-1514 or janna@jannariley.com for information.

Miro Focus of Art Classes

Jennifer Martin is showcasing Joan Miro as the December artist in children's classes at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The children are doing paintings and sculptures styled after Miro's colorful, surrealist artwork. In January, the theme will be papier mache and include influences from Picasso's animal sketches.

Children 3-16 are welcome to participate. Visit www.chestertonart.com or call (219) 926-4711 for more information.

Christmas Magic Show

Magician Matt Kalita will present his La Porte County Sheriff's Office Annual Children's Christmas Magic Show at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at La Porte High School's auditorium, 602 F St.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. The show lasts about an hour, followed by a visit with Santa.

The cost is a free-will donation.

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Family Still the Focus as Swingbelly's Opens at New Location

by Andrew Tallackson

Swingbelly's has been a fixture along Lake Michigan's shores for more than 30 years. Comfort food in a cozy setting, the secret to its success is its family approach. Servers have worked there for years. They know you, and they know what you like to eat, whether it be a hearty, juicy burger or generous helping of lake perch.

The restaurant has been with the Werner family since its inception in 1983. Nothing's changed. Now, as it opens in a new location — the former Ye Olde Benny's at 3101 E. U.S. 12 — Mark Werner is still the owner, but his son, M.J., is the operations manager who one day will take over the business started by his grandfather, Gil.

"We're keeping this in the family," said M.J., just one day before the restaurant's official reopening



Swingbelly's is located in the former Ye Olde Benny's at 3101 E. U.S. 12.

to the public last week. "When the time comes, I will pass this down (to the next generation)."

Swingbelly's debuted in 1983 on South Lake Avenue, or Stop 2 as locals know it. In 2002, it relocated to the historic train building, 100 Washington St., that overlooks Michigan City's harbor.

For the past few years, M.J. said, the family has been considering a move to the former Ye Olde Benny's site, awaiting the

right opportunity. Now, they've converted the space into an establishment that not only preserves much of the menu residents and visitors adore, but also pays tribute to the community that has embraced it.

Upon entering the restaurant, a waiting area with tables and plush benches allows customers to view a collage of old copies of *The Billows* and *Long Beach*, whose staff wrote about the Long Beach community for years. A large dining area is blanketed by pictures and posters celebrating Michigan City's history. A third area, which contains a bar — Swingbelly's now has a three-way license to serve beer, wine and liquor — takes on a Chicago feel, with a view that looks north toward the beach.

M.J., who turns 23 in February, says Swingbelly's always has been part of his life. As a child, he helped stock napkins or stack chairs. As he grew older, he helped out in the kitchen.

Now, he's ensuring that the legacy begun by his grandfather and cultivated by his father thrives.

"When I was 18, I knew I wanted to do this full time," he said. "The chaos that I love about restaurants, everything, I knew I wanted to do it."



M.J. Werner stands in one of the dining areas at Swingbelly's new location.

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Westchester Public Library's virtual library for kids from Overdrive has about 300 titles available.

Overdrive is the library's online collection of e-books and audiobooks available for digital download. Patrons who are township residents can check out and download e-books and audiobooks directly to devices. Originally available only to adults, the library expanded its offerings a while back to include young adult and juvenile titles. Depending on the title, books will be available in either e-book or audiobook format or both.

Access Westchester Public Library for Kids by going to wpl.lib.overdrive.com, or visit the library's homepage – wpl.lib.in.us – and click on the virtual library link. Click the button for the digital collection for kids and find 270 e-books for pre-kindergarten to grade 12, as well as 30 audiobooks.

Check out up to 10 books at a time for a week or two for listening or reading. The book files become unplayable after the loan period expires, so there are no late fees. A WPL library card is required for checkout, and the library account must be in good standing.

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FESTIVAL OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE



Before the official lighting of Washington Park's holiday decorations commenced Dec. 6, a parade marched past the Senior Center and into Fedder's Alley. Horse and wagon rides, along with refreshments, were part of the festivities.



Photos by Maureen Rice





What's Cooking

by Jim LaRocco

Sitting at my desk, writing my last *Beacher* column for 2014, got me thinking about how busy this year has been.

My wife, Sue, and I are getting ready to start our third year on radio station WIMS AM 1420 with our "Miscellany" show on Sunday nights. I filled in the afternoon shift at WHFB 1060 AM from September through October. My third season ended as the play-by-play announcer on WIMS for The Duneland Conference Football Game of the Week.

I was thinking back to how I got started here at *The Beacher*. Never in my wildest imagination did I think I would be writing for a paper, but thanks to Tom Montgomery, Janet Baines and Drew Tallackson, it happened. I suppose I should give the food posts I made on facebook and those who liked them some props, too.

The end of another year means one thing to the LaRocco family: a Marx Brothers movie marathon on New Year's Eve. This tradition started years ago when my son, Jim, was around 8. TNT used to run Marx Brothers movies all night long. Now, I have them all on DVD and we have our own marathon.

The Marx Brothers are timeless, and I am fortunate enough to have a wife who thinks they are hilarious. Everyone has their favorite movies and scenes and can recite them word for word.

What is a New Year's Eve party without food? I usually make what I call my Sicilian Sliders, a homemade Italian Sausage sandwich topped with some sauce, fresh mozzarella and a basil leaf on a mini ciabatta roll.

We always have some pasta on New Year's Eve, so I usually plate three Sicilian Sliders with a side of angel hair pasta.

Sometime, we have mini canollis for dessert. Sue's favorite are the toffee crunch ones. Other times, Sue will make some of her great brownies: chocolate, lemon or orange. I top them with homemade vanilla bean or the corresponding sherbet.

My son and grandkids like the special punch I make for them. Jim remembers it from when my mother made it for all the kids at holiday time. It is a simple mixture of 50/50 or Squirt, Canada Dry ginger ale, orange juice and orange sherbet. I pour some orange juice in a Jell-O mold, freeze it and place it in the punch bowl.

There are plenty of snacks, cheeses, crackers and some homemade carmel corn to get us through the rest of the year.

To make the Sicilian Sliders, take two ounces of Italian sausage and press into a patty. I usually bake them, but you can fry them in a pan. Figure out how much sausage you need for your party.

I grill the ciabatta rolls and place the slider on it, add some marinara sauce on the top, with a slice of fresh mozzarella and a fresh basil leaf.

At midnight, a Sicilian tradition: You eat a piece of sausage and it is supposed to bring you luck in the new year.

A kiss from my lovely wife tops off the evening.

Here's hoping your 2015 is the best year ever.

Until next year, enjoy.

Contact Jim LaRocco at jim@jimlarocco.com



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MQT Freshmen in Indiana Elite



Pictured in the back row are Stacey Barron (left) and Mackenzie Marovich. The front row is Lauren McConnell (left) and Michaela Jennings.

Marquette Catholic High School announced four freshman Lady Blazers have been selected to participate in the Fourth Annual Indiana Elite North vs. South All-Star Girls Basketball Event.

One of the Midwest's largest all-star events, it's set for March 14 at Lebanon High School. The students are: Stacey Barron, Michaela Jennings, Mackenzie Marovich and Lauren McConnell.

According to www.maxpreps.com, the four student athletes also are listed in the top 25 scorers in the state in Class 1A: No. 5 — Barron, No. 12 — Marovich, No. 19 — McConnell, and No. 21 — Jennings.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are available at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Niles Area Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 20.**

Contact Wendy Jones at Fernwood about how to participate in the 52nd Annual Niles Area Christmas Bird Count.

• **Family holiday activities Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20-21.**

View the holiday train exhibit, complete with landmark buildings made of natural materials, in the Fern Conservatory.

Children can make a holiday craft from 1 to 4 p.m. both days. Storyteller Miss Cindy will share Christmas stories from 1 to 2 p.m. Cocoa will be available for purchase from 1 to 4 p.m. All times are Eastern, and events are free with paid Fernwood admission.

• **Dave Baker exhibit, "Sentinels," through Sunday, Jan. 25, in Fernwood's gallery.**

The show by the St. Joseph, Mich., artist features 27 works in watercolor, charcoal and oil.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information.

PNC Chancellor Book Signing

Purdue University-North Central Chancellor Jim Dworkin will host a signing of his children's book, "The Dog and The Dolphin," from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18.

Books will be available for purchase in the lower level of the Library-Student-Faculty Building, just outside the PNC Campus Shop. Light refreshments will be served. Dworkin also will sign previously purchased books.

A portion of the proceeds from book sales goes toward programs and scholarships in the PNC Early Childhood Education program.

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Foundation Teams Up With Unity

The Tanber-Blair Golf Scholarship Foundation Inc. is teaming up with Unity Foundation of La Porte County.

Tanber-Blair was created by a group of avid golfers in 2001 to honor Larry Tanber and the late Bob Blair. Over the years, successful golf events were held, raising funds for college scholarships to high school golfers. Proceeds recently were transferred to the Unity Foundation and recognized during a small gathering at Larry and Gwen Tanber's home.



Unity Foundation President Maggi Spartz (from left) thanks Larry Tanber and Mat Blair for their dedication to supporting young golfers through the Tanber-Blair Golf Scholarship Fund.

The Unity Foundation will take over managing the investments and accounting, as well as overseeing the scholarship selection process.

Tanber is an amateur golfer who spent most of his life promoting and playing golf

with many of the great names in amateur and professional ranks. He also introduced and mentored many young people, several of whom were or are active in the PGA. He grew up in Michigan City and, except for his military service, has lived here his entire life. He won 16 county championships and 14 Michigan City championships, as well as the Indiana Amateur championship in 1965.

Blair lost his battle with cancer on Sept. 16, 2001. He served as sheriff and as a child-abuse investigator, instituting anti-drug and gang education in area schools. One of his last requests was for the continued support of the newly created scholarship fund. His son, Mat, coaches women's golf at Valparaiso University and has supported the Tanber-Blair Scholarship Fund since its inception.

High school seniors graduating from a La Porte County school who played on a high school golf team for all four years are eligible to apply. Applications are available at www.ulf.net. Donations to the fund may be tax deductible and made online on Unity's website, or by sending a check to P.O. Box 527, Michigan City, IN 46361.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Dec. 20

• **10 a.m. — Winter Snakes Alive.**

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium to learn more about “resident snakes.” The program is suitable even for those uncomfortable around snakes.

• **2 p.m. — Holiday Nature Crafts.**

Meet in the Nature Center for a holiday themed nature craft while watching birds in the bird room.

Sunday, Dec. 21

• **9:30 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

Meet a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

• **10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. — Holiday Wire Wrapping Jewelry Workshops.**

Register for one of two 90-minute workshops to make beach glass or stone jewelry. Space is limited for the workshops held in the Nature Center Auditorium. The cost is a \$5 per person workshop fee. Register by calling (219) 926-1390.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

The Nature Center closes at 2 p.m.

• **10 a.m. — Seventh Annual Christmas Eve Shopping Stroll.**

Join a guest naturalist for the traditional Christmas Eve one-hour stroll through the dune forests. The trek culminates with a warm fire, hot cocoa and other holiday snacks in the Wilson Shelter. Meet at the Nature Center.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

“Water, Water, Everywhere: Partnerships and Quality!” is the topic of the next Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meeting, which is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

The speaker is Natalie Johnson, ambassador to the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership housed at Purdue University-Calumet. Her role is to coordinate federal, state and community partnerships while engaging college students in regional water quality, quantity and access efforts.

During her program, Johnson will provide a snapshot of Northwest Indiana’s waters, and discuss efforts across the region to improve impaired waters and generate community appreciation.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meetings are supported by 219 GreenConnect and sponsored by Save the Dunes. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call (219) 874-4076 for more information.



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• **Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs using a variety of musical instruments, including guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **The free Junior Ranger Program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center.**

A variety of Junior Ranger programs exist, from a short Beachcombers Activity Page to an extensive Junior Rangers Booklet. Complete a program and earn a prize. Stop by the Visitor Center or Douglas Center to pick up a free program booklet.

• **"Park in Focus" from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Park staff will host special programs focusing on park resources, hot topics in research, new environmental films or guest speakers.

• **"Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Brauer Museum Closed

The Brauer Museum of Art will be closed through Jan. 4 for Valparaiso University's holiday break.

Swanson Center Unveils New Home

Swanson Center held a ribbon cutting and open house Dec. 3 that showcased its new facility at 7224 W. County Road 400 North.

Swanson Center has been a fixture in the Marquette Mall office building, 450 St. John Road, since 1978, where it occupied multiple floors and provided mental health and substance-abuse treatment services to La Porte County residents.



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer (from left), IN Council CEO Matt Brooks, Swanson Center CEO Matthew Burden, Swanson Center Board President Shaw Friedman, John Wernert, Family and Social Services Administration secretary, and Kevin Moore, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services director.

The new 20,000 square-foot facility just off Johnson Road has newly renovated offices and a floor plan designed to meet the needs of a modern community mental health center.

Client services making the move are Adult Long-Term Care, Assertive Community Treatment, Child and Adolescent Services, Community Support Services, Michigan City Outpatient Services, Passages Addictions Services and Psychiatric Services. New will be the inclusion of Primary Care for clients.

Swanson Center will continue to provide outpatient services at its La Porte location on Indiana 2. Visit www.SwansonCenter.org for more information.



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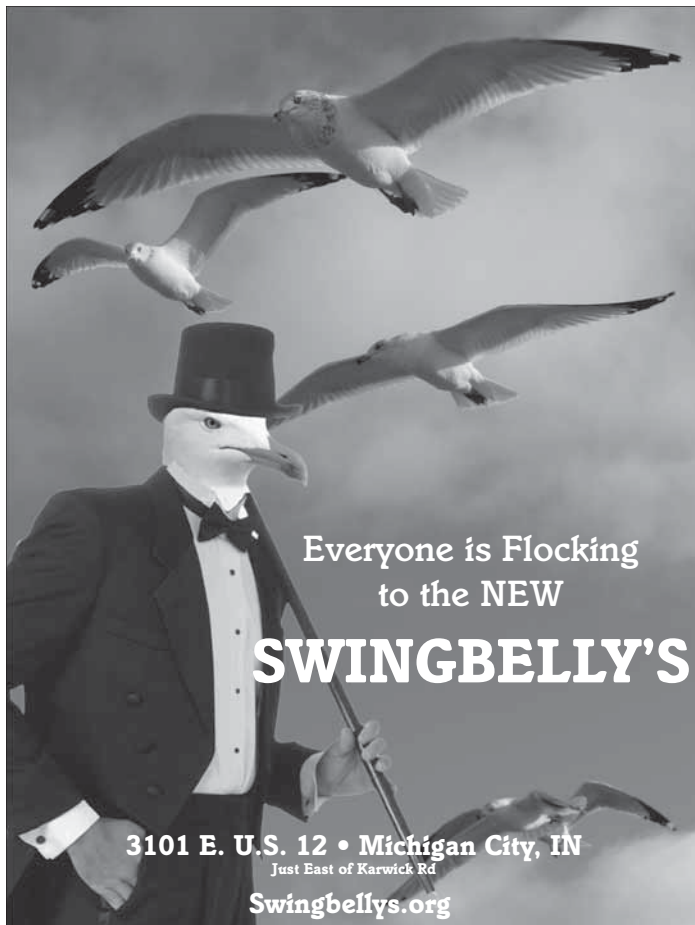
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December 18 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meeting, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5/\$2 for students. Info: (219) 874-4076.

December 18 — Jim Dworkin book signing, "The Dog and The Dolphin," 1-2:30 p.m., lower level of Purdue University-North Central LSF Building.

December 19 — Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre, "Christmas Revels," Barker Hall at Trinity Church, 600 Franklin Square. Hors d'oeuvres/6:30 p.m., show/7:30 p.m. Advance online tickets: adults/\$15, children 10 & younger/\$5, @barkerhall.com. At door: \$20/adults, children/\$10.

December 19 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

December 19-22 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Whiplash." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Rosewater." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri., 3 & 9 p.m. Sat. and 3 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

December 20 — Book signing by local author/journalist David Hoppe, 1-3 p.m., Book Warehouse at Lighthouse Place.

December 20 — La Porte County Sheriff's Office Annual Children's Christmas Magic Show, 10 a.m., La Porte High School's auditorium, 602 F St. Cost: free-will donation.

December 20 — Saturday Movies at Hageman, "Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever," 2 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

December 20 — "Christmas at The Acorn," 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: harborcountryopera.org, (269) 231-0027, acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

December 20 — Taltree Holiday Express, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Cost: \$15 for child & adult. Info: Taltree.org, (219) 462-0025.

December 20-21 — Handel's "Messiah," First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Times: Dec. 20/9 a.m.-noon, Dec. 21/3 p.m. Reservations: (219) 879-4501.

December 21 — Holiday Classics with Stephen Kowalczyk, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

December 24 — Seventh Annual Christmas Eve Shopping Stroll, 10 a.m., Nature Center at Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Farther Afield:

December 20 and 27 — Free indoor flea markets, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: Janna @ (773) 375-1514 or janna@jannariley.com

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In Memoriam

Editor's note — Beacher correspondent Jan Van Ausdal contributed to this obituary.

Irene A. Turley, 91, New Buffalo, Mich., passed away Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville, Mich. Sommerfeld Chapel, New Buffalo, handled the arrangements.

She was born Oct. 19, 1923, in Michigan City to Peter and Joanna (Dudeck) Gorski. On May 17, 1947, in Otis, she married Theodore Henry ("Ted") Turley. He preceded her in death on July 25, 2009. From 1958 to 1998, they owned and operated Turley's Sunoco Service Station in New Buffalo.

Irene was a member of St. Mary of the Lake Church, where she was very active in the Rosary and Altar Society.

She is survived by her children, Leonard (Paula) Turley, Dyer, Ind., and Monica (Rodney Van Ausdal) Garrison, Hinsdale, Ill., and grandson, Joshua Lorig, Falls Church, Va. Her parents, Peter and Joanna Gorski, her husband, Ted, and three brothers, Alvin, Ralph and Edward Gorski, preceded her in death.

The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Dec. 4 at St. Mary of the Lake Church in New Buffalo, with the Rev. Dan Hyman officiating. Burial followed at Pine Grove Cemetery in New Buffalo. Flowers were displayed at Sommerfeld Chapel. Memorial contributions can be made to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure (breast cancer).

Friends and neighbors posted many messages of sympathy to the family. Included were thoughts of what a wonderful, sweet lady Irene was, how she was so friendly and had a smile for everyone. Also mentioned were memories of Ted, who was always willing to help people out, and whose eyes twinkled when he smiled. The Turleys celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on May 17, 2009, having renewed their vows at St. Mary of the Lake Church in New Buffalo. A celebratory dinner followed at the former Beechwood Inn, New Buffalo.

I consider myself lucky to be among the friends and family who helped Irene and Ted celebrate the joyous occasions of their lives. We ate many meals together, followed by dessert and conversation in our homes. I often brought Irene a copy of *The Beacher*, which she looked forward to each week.

Irene and Ted —you will be remembered in the days and years to follow!

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Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are available through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• **Holiday Classics with Stephen Kowalczyk at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.**

Kowalczyk, who has played throughout the U.S. and Europe, will perform classical accordion music with a holiday classics theme.

• **Craft for Kids: Happy Holiday Surprise at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 22.**

Make a holiday "cracker" filled with surprises. All materials are provided. Children must be present to receive craft materials. The program is appropriate for children 5-12 accompanied by an adult.

• **American Red Cross bloodmobile from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26.**

Walk-ins are welcome. Call the local chapter at (219) 874-4247 for more information.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

Tri-State Alliance Event

Indiana Michigan Illinois Tri-State Alliance will have its first awards celebration service and dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at New Covenant Outreach Ministries, 419 Grant Ave., Michigan City.

The public is invited. Call (219) 210-6774 or (219) 879-0367 for more information.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:

- **NorthShore Health Center blood pressure screening free to walk-in patrons from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Blood pressure screenings will be offered the third Wednesday of each month.

- **Saturday Movies at Hageman, "Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever," 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Free popcorn will be available during the movie.

- **A mother-daughter tea at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at Hageman Library.**

Register for the event, aimed at girls in kindergarten through third grade, by calling (219) 926-9080.

Ancient Art Focus of Class

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will offer a two-day children's class focused on the ancient art of Egypt, Greece, Rome and Medieval Europe.

Designed for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, the class will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29-30. Students will create two-dimensional mixed-media works while learning historical information. They also will learn drawing techniques to enhance their work.

If students have an art box, they are encouraged to bring it. Otherwise, supplies will be provided. The cost is \$30, with a \$5 discount for members. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

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Art Center Names Executive Director



Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has named Erika Hanner, most recently director of convergent programs at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, as its new executive director.

Hanner has more than 20 years managing program initiatives, including curatorial, education and performance, as well as the library and archive at MCA. She started her new position Dec. 15.

Hanner succeeds Carolyn Saxton, who led LCA for eight years through a major growth period, spearheading several significant community initiatives that promote and/or support arts and culture within Michigan City. During her tenure, attendance at the annual Lakefront Art Festival increased to more than 5,000. She also helped expand LCA's annual reach to 25,000 people.

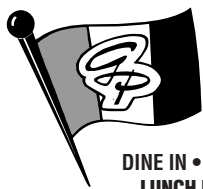
"We are thrilled to have someone who brings a strong museum background and is also familiar with our immediate service area as a resident of Northwest Indiana," Lubeznik Center board president Rachel Saxon said.

At the MCA, Hanner most notably was project director for "David Bowie Is," its most ambitious exhibit to date and runs through Jan. 4. She also oversaw the MCA Library and Archive, raising its profile internally and externally.

In her role as MCA's Beatrice C. Mayer director of education, she was responsible for all aspects of its education program activities, including school programs, family programs, docents, lectures, classes and teacher programs.

She earned a Master of Business Administration from Loyola University School of Business-Chicago and a bachelor of arts in art history from Loyola University-Chicago. She lives in Porter.

"The LCA is well-positioned to grow meaningfully in its fourth decade to become even more of a leader and cultural partner in Michigan City," she said. "I am excited to be a part of that."



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Holiday Tea

The British custom of afternoon tea will be celebrated from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square.

Held in the Gothic-style Great Hall, the table will be laid with bite-size sandwiches, holiday scones topped with Devonshire clotted cream and jam and traditional cakes, pastries and chocolates. English-style tea with cream, and the Russian-style tea with lemon and sugar, will be served on the Barker Hall monogrammed china. Hot punch also will be served.

The hall is a 3,600 square-foot oak paneled room, lit by 15-foot tall leaded glass windows and 4 foot wide chandeliers. Entering the lobby, visitors will see the 15-foot tall Christmas tree. Upstairs in the Great Hall will be trees, garlands and wreaths, holiday lights and music. Entertainment will be provided on the Barker Hall Baldwin grand piano.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and younger and free for children 6 and younger.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

First Half Results

First Place – Pin-ette (Tina Sonderby, Kathie Mole and Ann Klosinski).

Second Place – Bowling Goddesses (Tammy Nelmar, Margie Midkiff and Dottie Brinkman).

Third Place – Wine-ettes (Linda Neulieb, Carrie Alexander and Sue Labovitz).

Most Improved Bowlers

Nancy Klausner, June Salmon, Ellie Parkerson.

High Individual Game

Tammy Vouri, Pam Dwight, Margie Midkiff.

High Individual Series

Barb McCorkel, Susan O'Connor, Pam Dwight

Bowling resumes Jan. 6. New bowlers — individuals or teams of three — meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Contact Ed at City Lanes at (219) 872-9930 if interested. Happy Holidays!

Children's Ornament Workshops

Youth ages 5 to 14 can create ornaments using a range of techniques through workshops from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday through Monday, Dec. 20-22, at Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso.

Glass and wooden shapes will be decorated with paint, glitter, feathers, sequins and other decorations.

The \$36 fee includes all supplies and snacks. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnin.com for additional information.



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GREAT 5BR HOUSE. CLOSE TO BEACH AT STOP 20.

CALL PATTY AT 773-401-2966.

Stop 31. Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. WiFi. \$1,850/wk. Fall/Winter rental avail. for \$895/mo +util. Short or long term. W/D. No smoking, no pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful beach. See VRBO #372192. **Call Pat at 708-361-8240.**

SHERIDAN BEACH: Year-round, 1 BR, quiet building, laundry, off-street parking, no smoking, no pets, \$600/month, references required, utilities included.

Call (219) 879-2195.

Luxury 2035 SF Townhome avail. for rent. Hardwood flrs., Master Suite & laundry on 1st flr. Granite, Stainless Steel Appliances, guest bedroom, open loft, fireplace, basement, and 2-car attached garage. \$1,800/mo. Prefer 3 yr. lease. Inquire about Option to Purchase Credit. **Located at Beautiful Briar Leaf Golf Course between La Porte and New Buffalo.** (219) 851-0008.

WATERFRONT APTS for rent in MC. Furnished-utilities, WiFi/TV incl. 1BR \$675/mo., 2BR \$775/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

Sheridan Beach 2 bedroom 1 bath unfurnished apt. with washer/dryer. Lake views from living room & shared rooftop deck. \$750/mo + 1 mo. sec deposit. 1-yr. lease required. One unit avail Oct. 1. Must have references, and employment will be verified. No smoking, no pets.

Call (269) 469-1412.

3 BR/1BA, 1-car garage, 1-YEAR LEASE on Mayfield Way in Long Beach. \$1,100/mo. Call/text Cari @ Merrion (219) 898-5412

Long Beach winter/spring rental, 5BR/3BA, furnished, two fireplaces, 200 ft. to lake, \$875 per month+utilities. C/A, heat.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II by Molly Guptill Manning (hardcover \$25; available online, in bookstores or as an eBook)

As a dyed-in-the-wool bibliophile, I am always attracted by books about books. This week's recommendation was such an eye-catcher, and a subject I certainly never thought about. Could books really help win a war?

"World War II would not be the first time the Army and Navy welcomed books into their ranks. Yet no other war-before or since--has approached the rate at which books were distributed to American forces in World War II."

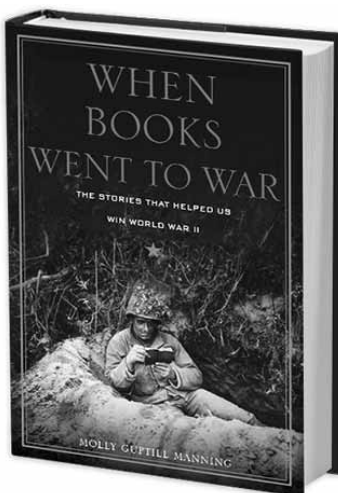
I was interested to learn that books were first distributed to troops during the American Civil War. Veterans of the war said books and other reading material were eagerly received by the men when they could get it. So, the actual distribution of books received by the troops was hit or miss until the 1930s.

It was May 10, 1933, when a giant torchlight march in Berlin ended in a plaza where the Nazis decided to burn books by authors deemed "un-German." Speeches were followed by the names of these unworthy authors, and the burning continued throughout the night. There is an appendix in the back of the book listing some of the authors the Nazis disallowed, names like Thomas Mann, Helen Keller, H.G. Wells and Theodore Dreiser, to name a few. It wasn't a surprise that following the book burnings, Hitler's *Mein Kampf* became state-sanctioned reading. It also was no surprise Americans were incensed and plans began to form.



A poster for the first book collection campaign that started in 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The first attempt to get books to the troops was a nationwide campaign, before World War II started, to get citizens to drop off books at their local libraries, which then would send them on to distribution centers to be sorted for various destinations. While the campaign was successful, with many volumes collected, most were hardcover and many were not of interest to soldiers and sailors--like *How to Knit*. Out of four million books collected, 1.5 million were deemed unsuitable



for the training camps.

In May 1943, the Armed Forces planned to purchase millions of paperbacks each month. The organization heading up this campaign was called the Council on Books in Wartime. Paperback books, not popular at the time, were the council's choice for their cheaper printing price and smaller size, making it more portable for the men in the field.

True to American ingenuity, the program was quickly put together, publishers contacted and the Armed Services Edition books began rolling off the press and into the hands of eager servicemen. *"The therapeutic role*

that books played in allowing men to process their own circumstances by reading stories about others kept them wanting to read more and more."

Manning does an outstanding job of bringing the whole picture of the book campaigns into perspective. Her overview of the early training camps, sadly neglected since World War I, gives the reader an understanding of why the books were a necessary item for soldiers and sailors.

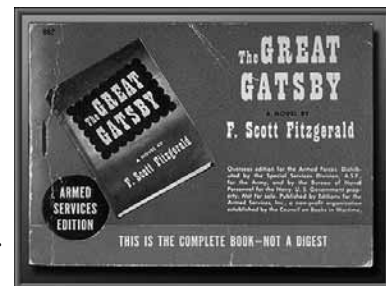
After World War II began, the need became imperative. From the bickering of senators to the fusion of publishing company owners, from the early problems of the printing companies to the grateful letters of servicemen, this book will amaze you with what happens when Americans put their collective minds to a common cause. The back of the book also holds the lists of the paperback editions, listing title and authors and months they were printed.

The most popular Armed Services Edition book? *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Megan Marshall wrote: *"If the pen is mightier than the sword, Manning definitively proves an army of books can go a long way toward winning a war and securing the peace."* Amen to that!

Manning is the author of *The Myth of Ephraim Tutt* and articles written for publications such as the *Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts*. She is an attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, New York City.

Till next time, happy reading!



The Great Gatsby was one of the popular reads by servicemen, shown here in the Armed Services Edition.



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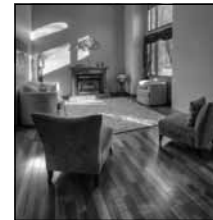
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Offered for \$399,000



2700 Oriole Trail
Long Beach
\$539,000

4 bedrooms, 5 baths. Soaring ceilings, two stone fireplaces, marble, terrazzo & hardwood flooring throughout. Stunning entrance. Updated kitchen. Huge bar area with large windows. Palatial master suite with bathroom spa. Lower level rec room. Two car built-in garage. Short stroll to beach or Long Beach Country Club.



20 Marine Drive #7
Marina Park
\$165,000

2 bedrooms plus loft, 2 baths. Loft features second bedroom, sitting area & bath. Main level master bedroom has dressing area with large closet off bath. New stove & pre-finished wood laminate floor in kitchen. Private laundry room with storage. Beautiful sunsets & views of Trail Creek & Lake Michigan. Unit includes 55ft boat slip & covered parking.



910 Birch Tree Lane
Long Beach Pointe
\$79,900

2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Beautifully updated upper level condo. Large living room with wall of sliders leading to balcony. All appliances remain, including washer & dryer. New furnace. Common area storage in basement. Wonderful association pool area to enjoy in the summertime. This condo is ready for you to enjoy maintenance free living!

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601 Lake Shore Drive

Private, totally remodeled home with spectacular lake views offered with 2 lots on Lake Shore Drive. Property includes direct access to the beach and plenty of private parking. Home has a total of 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Fireplace with wraparound decks and several patios. Walkout guest suite on lower level has a living room, kitchen, bedroom and a full bath. The property is huge and will allow for 2 more building sites. Great investment opportunity. Adjacent lot, Lot 53 is available for added privacy or 2 extra building sites. **\$399,000**



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