



Volume 30, Number 5 Thursday, February 6, 2014

Pay It Forward

Journey of Photo Taken in 1951 Inspires Local Couple to Share it With Others

by Andrew Tallackson



The Michigan City Rotary Club photo taken on June 7, 1951.

Through a bit of serendipity that led to an act of kindness, a photograph from Michigan City's past not only has returned home, but will be shared with the descendants of those featured in it.

The picture, a group shot of the Michigan City Rotary Club, was taken on June 7, 1951. A quick glance reveals last names key to Michigan City's history and growth, names that still resonate today like Bankoff, Haviland, Tonn, Shaw, Hoodwin, Blank, Albers, Ruby, Hirsch, Carstens, Bartholomew, Richter, Ramage and Kessler.

The catalyst for the photo arriving in the hands of the son of one of the Rotarians pictured is Kate Stellema, a Michigan City native with a heart of gold who just turned 90, yet affectionately shrugs off the milestone as "no big deal."

A little bit about her before resuming the story of the photograph.

Stellema was among five children who lived behind the Royal Blue grocery store that her father, Gerald, ran for about 40 years at Franklin and

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William streets. A St. Mary's School graduate, she worked for Indiana Bell for six years. She married Ted Stellema in 1948, and she left her position with Indiana Bell to raise her family. They had three children.

Kate Stellema now lives in Michigan City's Edgewood Forest. The story of the Rotary Club picture begins with her nephew, John Olvaney, who lives in California and, she says, has made a good life for himself in the garage-door business.

One day a few years back, he went to repair the garage door of a woman in Rancho Bernardo. Midway through fixing it, he noticed a picture on the garage floor. Inching toward it, he saw it was from Michigan City. Upon further examination, the last name Nygren caught his

attention. He knew his aunt, Kate, was friends with Nygrens. He asked the woman if he could have the nicture. She said yes



Kate Stellema (second from left) in a photo from 2004 with Judy Olvaney (left) and John Olvaney (far right).



Kate Stellema appears with the Michigan City Rotary Club photo.

The woman was Lillian (Shenberg) Hirsch, the second wife of Henry Hirsch, who was featured in the picture, and who ran a department store on Franklin Street that was destroyed by a fire on April 24, 1939. Henry passed away in 2007. Lillian, who died at the age of 102 in 2004, was buried at Sinai Temple Cemetery, her memorial service held at Sinai Temple.

Kate Stellema knew nothing of the picture ... until John Olvaney's wife, Judy, came from California to visit her in August 2013. She mentioned that John found a picture from Michigan City's past. Would she like it?

Stellema, of course, said yes.

"I looked to see if there was anyone I recognized," she said.

An understatement, she quickly realized. She knew just about everyone in the picture. Last week, in fact, seated in the comfort of her living room, she pointed to people she knew and relayed stories about them as if they occurred yesterday.

Obituaries

Lillian S. Hirsch Retired store owner

Lillian Shenberg Hirsch died July 29, 2004 at the age of 102. She was born in Massachusetts and lived in Rancho Bernardo for 10 years.

Mrs. Hirsch was a retired retail clothing store owner.

Survivors include her son, Earl Diskin of San Francisco.

Services were held Aug. 5 at Sinai Temple in Michigan City, Ind., followed by burial at Sinai Temple Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to Elizabeth Hospice, 150 W. Crest St., Escondido, CA 92025.

Poway-Bernardo Mortuary handled the arrangements.

"There's Milton Bankoff," she said, pointing to him in the front row. "He went by my house every morning shaving in his car on the way to work.

She points someone else.

And another.

And another.

"There's Henry Carlisle, of course from the funeral home. And Harry Ramage, who ran the Spaulding Hotel."

The picture, Stellema admits, had historical significance to Michi-

gan City, but no personal ties to her or her family. However, the name Thor Nygren jumped out at her. Being friends with Thor's son, Bob, and his wife, Grace, she knew without a doubt who should keep the picture.

"I knew it had to go to Bob," she said.

Bob and Grace Nygren know Stellema from St Mary Immaculate Conception. She works for the church and has a passion for photography. He is a hairdresser in Chicago and South Bend.

When Stellema gave the picture to the Nygrens, they were overwhelmed. It was particularly emotional for Bob.

"It immediately took me back to my childhood, of what he looked like then," he said of his father.

Looking over the picture while seated next to Stellema, he lets out a gentle, affectionate laugh.

"He looks almost ambitious, doesn't he?," he asks Stellema, who replies, a twinkle in her eyes as she points to the picture, "The best looking here."

Bob Nygren has the fondest members of his father, a man he not only loved and respected, but who was admired within the community, particularly through his work with Investors Diversified Services.

"He was very charismatic. I never heard him say anything bad about people," he said.

"When he died in 1998, so many people came up to me and said, 'If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have been financially solid in our businesses."

Seeing the photo inspired him to watch old movies of his family that had been converted to DVD. For Grace, she was struck by Stellema's recollections of everyone featured in it.



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Pay It Forward Continued from Page 3

"She can see the names," Grace said, "and connect them to what they did in the community.

"So many of these men didn't know it at the time that they made such a major contribution to this community."



Kate Stellema appears with Grace and Bob Nygren.

That's why Bob and Grace have decided, through the photograph, to pay it forward, to share the photograph with descendants of the people pictured. They'll make copies for those who want it. They're also interested in knowing more about the picture, specifically where in Michigan City it was taken. Anyone with that information, or who would like to have a copy of the photo, can contact Editor Drew Tallackson at The Beacher at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com. The information and photo requests then will be forwarded to the Nygrens.



Thor Nygren in a photo taken in 1949 or 1950.

What Bob and Grace appreciate most is that, in so many ways, they've had a gift from their past dropped into their laps courtesy of Stellema.

"Kate's spirit of generosity has touched us deeply," Grace said. "To be so thoughtful, especially with this photo's long journey, and for it to end up in our home, we are just so grateful.

"Now, it's time to share it with others."

PNC Class Aids Students in Need

Purdue University-North Central students in the Community Health Nursing class have donated non-perishable food items to PNC students in need.

Each semester, students in the class taught by Peggy Rose, PNC assistant professor of nursing, collect items for local charities and organizations. Dozens of cans of soup and chili, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce, Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, oatmeal and instant potatoes were collected by the students.

The items were given to Linda Dutlinger, PNC associate professor of developmental studies, who informally collects food and monetary donations and distributes emergency bags of food to students as needed.

Duttlinger is an active volunteer and director of the Sorrowful Mother Catho-

lic Church Food Pantry in Wheatfield, working with more than 200 families a month. It made sense to her to offer assistance to students in need. Duttlinger said she distributed 55 bags of food during fall semester and already has handed out two bags this semester. She stocks them with 20 to 25 items



Purdue University-North Central students helping collect non-perishable food items for students in need included Diana Garcia (from left), Jessica Barnes, Amanda Chavez, Colleen Jones, Michele Castrejon and Jennifer Menard.

that will feed a student for several days. She tries to include some cash for the purchase of some meat, fresh produce, milk or bread.

Duttlinger and the Dean of Students Office help make students in need aware of available community resources. Assistance is confidential.



Continuing the DreamFootlight Revue Celebrates 15 years at Franklin Street Location

by Andrew Tallackson

When it comes to entertainers, Mary Kay Steele is one of the region's most prized possessions.

Whether it be with her band, Me & The Boys, or theater groups such as La Porte Little Theatre Club or Whiting's Marian Theatre Guild, her voice, and her skills as an actress, dazzle audiences.

It is Michigan City's Footlight Theatre, however, that she holds most dear.

"They are my family, my home base. They always welcome me back," she said, relaxing inside the theater, 1705 Franklin St., before a rehearsal.

"They are so encouraging, always trying to have me do something outside my comfort zone, which is good for me."

That's why Steele is part of the ensemble of "The Dream Continues," a revue celebrating 15 years of musicals since Footlight moved into its Franklin Street home in 1998.

Songs from about 30 musicals, including "Godspell," "Cinderella," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Cabaret" and "Side by Side by Sondheim" are included in the production directed by Footlight veteran Robert "Bobby" Komendera, with Donald Beck serving as assistant director and emcee.

For 37 years, Footlight performed shows in the former Coolspring Institute on Johnson Road before switching to the old Central School for two years. Komendera and fellow Footlight veteran Bill Wild were having lunch one day across the street from the former Subway restaurant when they saw the for-sale sign in its window. After Footlight voted to purchase the building and the sale was finalized, volunteers gutted and renovated the building within a month, resulting in no disruption to the season of shows.

"Finally," Komendera said, "Footlight had a face of

its own. Also, we've liked its intimate setting. If you're sitting in the back row, for example, you'll still see everything."

The first musical performed Footatlight's new site was called "A Dream Come True," which Komendera wrote to highlight musicals the theater group had performed up until that point. So, to celebrate its 15th anniversary on Franklin Street, it seemed a given, he said, to create



Mary Kay Steele (left) and Deb Reason await the start of a rehearsal for "The Dream Continues."

"The Dream Continues."

The revue features a cast of Footlight veterans, not only Steele, but also Noel Carlson, Dan Moser and Deb Reason. Each savors the intimacy of the performing space, and the long-lasting friendships, that come with being associated with the theater group.

"Whatever you do, even if you're not a performer, there are ways you can help," Reason says.

"You always feel like you are contributing to something special."

If You Go

Footlight Players will present "The Dream Continues" on Feb. 7-9, 14-16 and 21-23 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. A 2-for-1 admission coupon valid for opening night, Feb. 7, as well as a two for \$20 coupon valid for couples on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, are available at www.footlightplayers.org

Record album and sheet music artwork by Sherry Sweeney, a Footlight actress and director, will be on display and for sale in the lobby during the show. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted to donate to a local food pantry.

Reservations are strongly recommended and may be made online or by calling (219) 874-4035. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by payment or a season gift card.

Also, director Chris Whybrew will have auditions for the April production, "Lost in Yonkers," from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Feb. 9-10. No experience is necessary. The cast requires four males and three females. Call (219) 874-4035 for more information.



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"Family History" Presentation

The La Porte Genealogical Society will host "Family History Through the Eyes of a Videographer" by producer/personal historian Pamela Joy Pulice on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the La Porte Parks & Recreation Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

Pulice met Mike and Lynn Przybylinski of La Porte and discovered his mother, Peggy, was a World War II war bride from England.

Pulice interviewed her, combed through her scrapbooks for pictures and documented her story in the 17-minute film "Peggy's Memoir: Recollections of an English War Bride."



In the film, which will be screened during the presentation, 92-yearold Peggy talks about chance meeting that would chance her life forever. She and her dancing partner, Carol, went to North Africa to entertain the troops as part of a government program called Entertainment National Ser-

vice Association. The first day there, while walking down the street, she met Al, the man with whom she would spend the rest of her life. They immediately hit it off and kept in touch throughout the war. After the war ended, Al asked, "When are you coming to America to marry me?" Peggy decided to follow her heart, becoming part of the largest emigration of young women from 50 countries around the world to America and Canada. They were known as the War Brides.

Pulice will discuss the steps involved in making the memoir, how she chose the material and why she believes video is a great way to preserve family

The free Genealogical Society meeting begins with social time at 7 p.m., followed by the business meeting and program at 7:15 p.m.



First Friday Art Walk

The Uptown Arts District First Friday Art Walk is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, along Michigan City's North End.

Participating businesses and attractions include:

- Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park. Works by retired teacher and photographer Jan Hoeppner will be displayed.
- Darling, 418 Franklin St. Julie Biehl, the artist for the month, will feature her Valentine's Day collection.
- Beach Bum Jewels, 621 Franklin St. Celebrate the one-year anniversary of Bowler Man Confections, which will launch a new line of hand blended chocolate bars.
- The Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Entertainment includes two plays by Jerry Holt and performed by Mary Walton Deboer, Steve Becker and Glenn Silver.
- Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Author Diane Bradley will sign copies of her new novel, "Wilder's Edge," and harpist Debra Sawyer will perform.
- Walnut Ink, 607 Franklin St. Visitors can create mixed-media found object sculptures, while new works by Liz Mares will be on display.
- Urban Soles Inc., 624 Franklin St. Work by local artist Meg Richardson will be on display.
- The Warren outdoor project "Artful Voice," hosted by Deborah Landry in partnership with ArtSpace Projects, will be at 717 Franklin St.
- Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will present the exhibit "Postcards from Home: The Story of a Family in Norway and America."
- Prince Gallery, 726 Franklin St., will highlight its collection of art.
- D'Aprile Properties, in conjunction with the new owner at 731 Franklin St., will host an open house. Appetizers will be served.
- dh2w Inc., 813 Franklin St., will feature a series of photos in February of interiors designed for clients during the last several years.

Entertainment also is planned at Maxine's, 521 Franklin St., and Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Maxine's will feature live blues and jazz by the Marco Trio from 8 to 11 p.m., while the First Friday Open Stage costs \$2 for performers and \$3 for audience members.





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Must be 21 years of age or older with a state or government issued photo ID to attend event.

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-- submitted by Jane Daley of the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Restaurant dining, shopping or visiting an attraction is not just about the food, merchandise or experience, at least from the customer's perspective.

Visit Michigan City La Porte believes customers and visitors are likely to spend more money and patronize a specific destination more often when they feel engaged, if they're greeted warmly and treated with care and respect by the staff.

As the leading experts in the tourism industry in La Porte County, we know customer service is the main factor that makes a business successful, and that is why the Recognition of Service Excellence program was created. Tourism is the largest industry in the county, pumping more than a half a billion dollars into the local economy in 2012.

R.O.S.E. is something we strongly believe is important for La Porte County and for tourism. The program was started in May 1999. Cards are available to everyone — visitor and resident alike — and can be used to thank a person for giving exceptional service. From the nominations received each month, a winner is chosen for the monthly award of \$100. Also, they receive a framed certificate, rose corsage and get their picture in local papers.

Visit Michigan City La Porte distributes R.O.S.E. cards to businesses and other destinations so visitors and guests in our county can use them.







Tim Martin of Bubbles Ice Cream Parlor & Pie Shoppe, 115 W Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.

When a guest visits a La Porte County business, they can use a R.O.S.E. card to make a nomination on the spot by scanning the QR code printed on the card, or they can take the card with them to make nominations on our website at a later date by logging on at http://bit.ly/RoseNomination

Finally, if none of these options works, they can call our toll free number at (800) 634-2650 and one of our staff will be happy to assist. Also, bureau

staff always are available to bring the R.O.S.E. training program to your staff meeting and help them understand the importance of exceptional customer service. We will help your staff understand the need for effective customer service and share with them what we know about these techniques. We will encourage them to think in terms of customer care, which goes beyond basic service.

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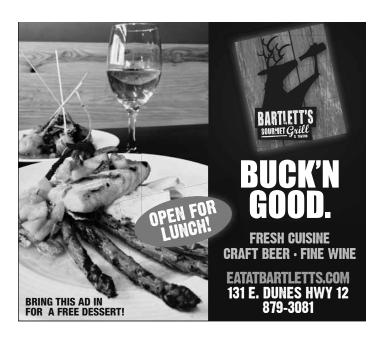
Auditions for "Blithe Spirit"

La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., will have auditions for Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday Feb. 10.

Directed by Susie Richter, the classic comedy marks the final production of the 2013-2014 season. Set in the 1940s, it revolves around Charles Condimine who, while researching a book, somehow calls back the ghost of his first wife.

Besides Charles, the characters include his first wife, Elvira, his second wife, Ruth, a medium, Madame Arcati, the maid, Edith, and houseguests Dr. and Mrs. Bradman.

Anyone interested, or wishing to help out with the production, may attend the auditions or call Richter at (219) 325-3198.





JROTC Conducts Demonstration

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps conducted a demonstration at Barker, Elston and Krueger middle schools on Jan. 22.

The purpose was to encourage eighth-graders to consider enrolling in JROTC as part of their freshman schedule at the high school. The cadets demonstrated basic armed drill, armed exhibition drill and some events cadets would do at a military physical fitness competition.



Maj. Tom McGrath, the Senior Marine instructor, provided an introduction to the demonstration. He emphasized that there is no military obligation associated with the program, nor are there any costs for activities the program provides, including drill team, rifle-shooting team, physical fitness team, community service and parades and ceremonies.

The JROTC also will conduct three week-long summer camps: a basic leadership camp at Ransburg Boy Scout Camp in Bloomington, Ind., a Senior Leadership Camp and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math camp. The latter camps will be held at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy west of Milwaukee. There is no cost to the cadets or Michigan City Area Schools for the camps.



The cadet commanding officer, senior Cadet Capt. Paul Tobalt, addressed the students, saying, "I have come from being a shy freshman to commanding 150 cadets. Anyone of you can do the same thing."

Tobalt has applied for the ROTC scholarship, which is worth \$180,000 in educational benefits. He hopes to attend Purdue University-West Lafayette.



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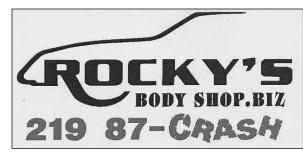




Five Generations



Five generations of one local family include: great-great grandmother Katherine Matie, great-grandmother Sophie Koss and grandmother Shelli O'Brien. Seated are Nichole Novak holding baby Aria Novak.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are through Westchester Public Library:

• "Around the World Dog" for children 6-12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in the children's department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Attendees will watch an episode of "Martha Speaks: Que Pasa, Martha?," read "Who Says a Dog Goes Bow-Wow" and learn how to say "dog" and "bark" in Spanish with Kris Livovich, Japanese with Akiko Tsugawa, German with Cary Knauff and French with Jordan Nelson.

Registration is required. Contact the Children's Department at (219) 926-7696.

• Free Family Films Series, "Despicable Me 2," at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

The movie is rated PG. It also can be checked out at Hageman and Thomas libraries.

 History Discussion Group from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.

Discussion will center on the best and worst presidents of the 20th century. Registration is not necessary. Call Leea at (219) 926-7696 or Serena at (219) 983-9715 for more information.

• New four-session series, "Boosting Mental Math," for children in grades three to six from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26 and March 5, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.

Attendees learn techniques through games and activities that reveal how to more easily work with numbers in their heads. The first week will focus on the importance of the No. 10 and addition. Week Two will focus on subtraction. Week Three will cover multiplication and the final session will center on division. Attendance at each session is necessary.

The instructor is David Rodich, a graduate of the Indiana University School of Education and a certified/licensed teacher.

Registration is necessary because space is limited. Call (219) 926-7696.

 Free Sunday Matinee, the Oscar-nominated "Captain Phillips," at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.

The movie is rated PG-13.

• Free Poetry Appreciation Group from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.

Registration is not necessary. Although not required, those who attend will be asked to try writing a Rondeau poem.

• Selection for this year's One Book, One Community: B.A. Shapiro's "The Art Forger."

Thomas and Hageman libraries will have copies of the book, with activities planned this summer.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following events are planned through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Feb. 8

ullet 2 p.m. — Nature Valentine's Craft and Story Hour.

Join a volunteer at the Nature Center for an hour of storytelling and a chance to make a special Valentine's Day nature craft for mom or dad.

• 2 p.m. — Shelf Ice Exploration.

Meet a naturalist at the beach pavilion for a look at the formation of shelf ice and winter on the beach. Visitors end with a high vantage over the ice from atop the beach pavilion.

Sunday, Feb. 9

• 10 a.m. — "Feed the Birds."

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

• 2 p.m. — "100 Years of Indiana State Parks."

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 50-minute documentary, produced in 2009 by PBS, that captures 100 years of Indiana's state parks.

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.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• "Park in Focus" from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday through Dec. 27 at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

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

The center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1821 for more information.

• "Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. every Sunday through Dec. 28 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.

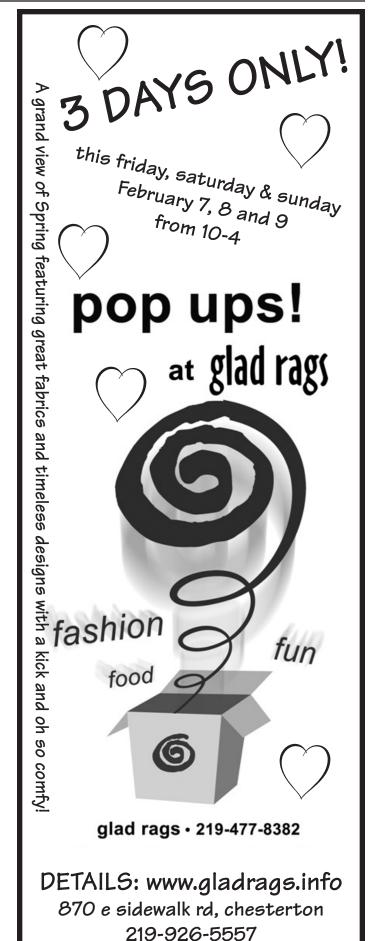
The center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

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MCHS Students in 2014 Scholastic Art Exhibition



Artwork by Michigan City High School seniors Alex Lanier (left) and Michael Dombkowski will be featured in the 2014 Scholastic Art Exhibition. It is a juried middle- and high-school art competition that features work by students from across Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. Lanier's watercolor and Dombkowski's mixed-media works were selected from among more than 2,500 entries. An awards ceremony is at 1:30 p.m. CST Sunday, Feb. 9, at The South Bend Museum of Art, which is in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend.

Go Red for Women Breakfast

National Wear Red Day, which annually encourages Americans to wear red in support of the fight against heart disease in women, is Friday, Feb. 7.

The American Heart Association will honor that day at the La Porte County Go Red for Women Breakfast, which is from 8 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave., Michigan City.

Rachel Saxon, Horizon Trust & Investment Management president & senior trust officer, and an advocate of wellness and community service in Northwest Indiana, is the chair of this year's regional Go Red events.

The breakfast will unite leaders from a variety of industries across the region. It will provide critical heart-health educational resources, and stories from local residents who have faced heart disease personally or through their loved ones. Also planned is highlights of 10 years of Go Red for Women.

Individual tickets cost \$30. Contact Diane Kemp at (219) 996-4958 or visit heart.org/nwindiana for more information.



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Michigan City Public Library

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

• "Lincoln's Birthday Film Showing" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9.

In honor of Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12, the library will show Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film, "Lincoln," starring Daniel Day-Lewis, who won a Best Actor Academy Award. The movie is rated PG-13.

• "Great Decisions" at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10 and 24.

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 16th season. Discussions this month are defense technology and Israel and the U.S. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.

The stamp-collecting club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

• "VITA at the Library."

The library again is serving as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance location. Appointments are available for the schedule, which starts in mid-February. Call (219) 873-3049 to arrange an appointment.

Call Robin Kohn at 873-3049 for more information on library programs.

La Porte County Library

The winter reading program continues through March 1 at all library locations for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Activities, games, reading and other programs help earn rewards. Stop at any library to get started. Thirty participants will win entry into the grand prize event: a Lego Bridge Building Workshop and a ticket to Legoland in Schaumburg, Ill. Preschool-age children complete activities and attend programs with their parents to receive a prize.

Other programs include:

• "Hot Movies and Popcorn": "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at the Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.

The movie is rated PG.

• Teen Advisory Board at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave.

Youth can help on many levels, from offering ideas for new programs to helping pick out new books.

Opera Appreciation Discussion Group

The Opera Appreciation Discussion Group with Dennis Brittain will meet after the showing of "The Metropolitan Opera: Rusalka Live," which is at 11:55 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at AMC Showplace Michigan City 14, 100 Meijer Drive.

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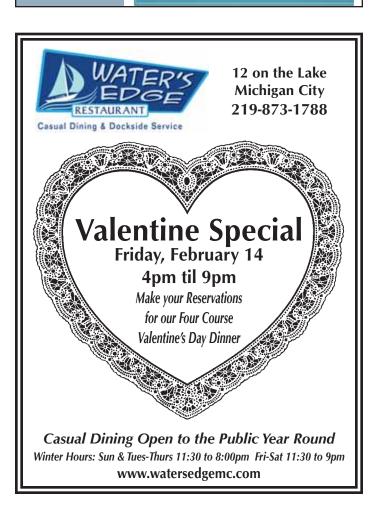
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Miss Duneland Scholarship Pageant

The Miss Duneland Scholarship Pageant, the preliminary to Miss Indiana and Miss America, is March 8-9 at the Queen of All Saints gymnasium, 606 S. Woodland Ave., Michigan City.

The Miss America organization not only provides scholarships for young women, but also prepares them for careers and opportunities to raise awareness for local platforms and the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Scheduled to appear at Miss Duneland is Katie Stam-Irk who, after winning Miss Duneland and Miss Indiana, became Indiana's first Miss America in 2009. Her platform is "Passion for Service," promoting community service and involvement. As Miss America, she became the National Goodwill Ambassador for Children's Miracle Network.

More information about becoming a contestant for Miss Duneland, Miss Duneland's Outstanding Teen, Pre-Teen, Little Miss or Princess Program is available by calling Executive Director Jan Mertl at (219) 879-5649. Additional information is available at www.missduneland.com

"Local Lore: Belle Gunness"

La Porte County Public Library has launched the free monthly series "Local Lore," which focuses on historic elements of La Porte County.

The first in the series, "Local Lore: Genealogy Chat," has been rescheduled for June 3 due to the recent weather conditions.

The next in the series is "Local Lore: Belle Gunness" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave.

Local Belle Gunness expert Bruce Johnson will present major facts and mysteries concerning Gunness, who has been called the first female serial murderess in the United States. A question-andanswer period is planned.

Contact Mary Hedge at (219) 362-6156 or mhedge@laportelibrary.org for more information.

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"More Than a Month"

"More Than a Month," a documentary that explores the question, "Should Black History Month be ended?," marks the next First Friday film at 7 p.m. EST Feb. 7 at The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

African-American filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman embarked on a cross-country quest to end Black History Month in his humorous, provocative look at race in America. He examines what the treatment of history says about race and power in contemporary America.

Part of the award-winning PBS series "Independent Lens," the film takes the form of a road trip that begins in Washington, D.C., crisscrosses the country during Black History Month 2010 and ends with an epilogue one year later.

Combining cinema verité, man-on-the-street interviews and inspired dramatizations, the film is a first-person narrative of the filmmaker's quest to understand Black History Month's implications

Local filmmaker Joseph Chopin will discuss his current film project after the screening.

A \$5 suggested donation will be collected at the door. Visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org for more information.

Marquette Rugby Club

Marquette Catholic High School's rugby club will have signups and workouts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the school's Scholl Center on 10th Street.

Workouts also will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9.

Contact Athletic Director Anthony Mytas at amytas@marquette-hs.org for more information.

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Thriving Uptown Arts District Helps Lure New Businesses

by M.D. Cunningham

The work that has gone into cultivating an arts hub in Michigan City, particularly through the monthly Uptown Arts District First Friday Art Walk, is paying off by drawing new businesses there.

One of the latest ventures is hard to pigeonhole. Near Ninth and Franklin streets, in former retail space, a stark black-and-white sign piques curiosity with playful minimalism.

A Dove's Tail, it reads. Handcrafted Furniture & Home Furnishings

A dove's tail, as avid hunters of household wares may know, is the hourglass or bowtie mark found in quality woodwork. Long before owner and Michigan City native Gary Plunk opened the doors to his gallery, beginning a new chapter in his career,

he adopted the dove's tail as a personal signature to accentuate his creations, rather than hide or mask these fingerprints of woodwork.

"This could be in someone's house 100 years from now and still be used," says Plunk, who caught this writer's gaze wandering the length of a monolithic tabletop. "Anything that I build, I am always looking at it like that. It's a very revealing feeling to know that these pieces are kind of timeless. They're going to be around a long time."

And Plunk, who has participated in First Fridays since 2010, is betting the Uptown Arts District is on the upswing as well. He has a lot of respect for those who took the initial steps to invest in the area.

"They saw the potential and took a risk — and then began making it happen," he said. "It's just awesome to see downtown Michigan City coming back to life like this."



Now, as a gallery owner, he says he's more in tune with the feeling of collaboration that permeates the community.

"We realize that we're all dependent on each other down here, so it alleviates the feeling of competition and has created a feeling of community, a gratitude toward each other for taking a chance and investing in our uptown district," Plunk said. "I've personal-

ly heard several compliments about how refreshing it is to see the whole district collaborating together to make the First Fridays work so well."

Plunk's work is only part of the larger story unfurling at A Dove's Tale. In the spirit of the community itself, Plunk has focused on the possibilities that will be granted by having a space to

> showcase not only his own pieces, but also the works of other artists, which at the moment include vibrant graffiti-like paintings that shimmy between comic book and tattoo art, provocative castiron lawn ornaments, pottery pieces, jewelry cases and other decor. He also is eager to incorporate live exhibits into his gallery as often as he can.



Gary Plunk stands outside A Dove's Tail

If You Go

The Uptown Arts District First Friday Art Walk is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7.

}



New session of Group Tennis Lessons begins the week of Feb 10th and runs 5 weeks. Groups are offered for ages 4-18 and for all skill levels. Call today or stop by to register.



"The Fourth Partition"

"The Fourth Partition," a documentary on Polish immigrants in Chicago and Northwest Indiana, will be shown at about 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, after the noon Polish Mass, at Salvatorian Fathers Millennium Hall, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Starting with the arrival of the first documented Poles in Jamestown in 1608, the documentary explores political and economical reasons for the mass migration at the turn of the 20th century. Featuring rarely shown photographs and films, it highlights old Chicago Polish neighborhoods, and discusses immigrant culture, daily life, their jobs and political activism during World War I.

The film is in English with Polish subtitles. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Advance reservations are requested by calling (219) 884-0714.

Information on the documentary is available at http://www.amerykafilm.com/thefourthpartition/

Third House Session

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce and Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce will present an Indiana Third House Session from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at Purdue University-North Central.

Legislators will discuss important topics in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Room 002.

Reservations must be made to the La Porte chamber at (219) 362-3178 or info@lpchamber.com or the Michigan City chamber at (219) 874-6221 or info@mcachamber.com

Lunch With the League

Sammie Phillips and Donna Harris of the La Porte County Voters Registration Office will speak during Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City.

No reservations are required. Attendees purchase lunch from the menu.

The group meets at noon the second Tuesday of the month. Call Sue Webster at (219) 874-6809 or visitwww.lwvlaporte.org for more information.

Taltree 2014 Class Schedule

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens' 2014 class schedule is available online.

The classes cover a variety of nature, health and recreation topics and are geared toward adults, children and families. Topics include children's science classes, Indiana Master Naturalist, birding, photography, wild edibles, fairy gardening, roses and carnivorous plants.

Taltree's educational hike schedule also is posted online. In addition, there is a discount through April 1 of buy five get the sixth class free.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit Taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for specific class information.

Museum Open During First Friday

The Old Lighthouse Museum and gift shop in Washington Park will be open during the Uptown Arts District First Friday Art Walk, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 7.

The shop contains T-shirts, sweatshirts, books, cards, 2014 Michigan City lakefront calendars, ornaments and photography (framed or matted enlargements of various sizes).

There is no admission fee during First Friday. Email mchistorical@att.net for more information.





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Gift Basket Auction Fundraiser

The public is invited to the annual Chocolate Day and Valentine's Gift Basket Auction Fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 8, at Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St.

In its third year, the center will feature chocolate treats and shed light on chocolate and its place in history. A variety of baked goods will be sold, as well as Spicy Aztec Hot Chocolate, chocolate chili and chocolate-dipped items.

For the silent auction, more than 15 baskets are available for viewing and at www.buchananartcenter.org. Bidding is under way and closes at 3:45 p.m. EST Feb. 8. Winners can take their baskets home immediately afterward.

Call (269) 697-4005 or visit www.buchananart-center.org for more information.



Lost December 3, 2013



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La Porte County Parks



All registrations and questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more information.

Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting).

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Dates are: Feb. 10, March 10 and 24 and April 7 and 28. Call at least one week in advance to sign up.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Luhr County Park Nature Center. Dates are: March 5, April 2 and May 7.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the program topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate.

Programs are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Preregistration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

The early 2014 lineup is:

- Feb. 12 "Where Did They Go?"
- Feb. 26 "Wild Wind."
- March 12 "Bat Basics."
- March 26 "Star Theater."
- April 9 "Flower Power."

Daddy Daughter Dance, "Princess Style"

The dance is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 and March 1, at Red Mill County Park.

Girls can come dressed up for the evening of dancing, refreshments and pictures.

The cost is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance or until the dance is full, whichever comes first. Registration fills up quickly.

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"Eating Well for Living Healthy" Series

Adults interested in learning more about how foods affect our bodies are invited to the "Eating Well for Living Healthy" series at Westchester Public Library.

Unless noted, all programs, led by Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis-Novak, are from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration is not necessary.

Stressing how fad dieting compromises the body's metabolism, DeMartinis-Novak will reveal how to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, and optimal health, on Thursday, Feb. 6.

"Power Immunity: Fighting Seasonal Bugs Naturally" is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20.

The final session, "Diabetes Self Care," is Thursday, March 20.

DeMartinis-Novak earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity Christian College with a biology major and chemistry minor. She also earned an associate's degree in applied nutrition from Central Arizona College. She has worked at Kraft General Foods performing vitamin analysis of foods. She also served a dietetic internship at Methodist Hospitals in Gary and Merrillville and Methodist Cardiac Rehab Center and Outpatient Diabetes Clinic, and worked at Methodist Hospital in Merrillville.

Call the Reference Department at (219) 926-7696 for more information.

ICS Offers Adoption Special

Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, will offer a special in February of \$50 for two cats that are bonded and need to be adopted together.

The fee includes spay or neuter, current vaccinations, flea treatments, nail trims and a free initial visit with one of the shelter's participating veterinarians within two weeks of the adoption.

Also, the shelter is:

- Waiving the adoption fee for cats older than 5. Adoption hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.
- Presenting the annual ICS Sweetheart Contest, with eight cats vying for the title. Visit http://www.catsociety.org/ or the shelter's facebook page for additional details.

In conjunction with the contest is Sweetheart Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at the American Legion, 798 Wabash, Chesterton. Box lunches will be available for \$10. There also will be raffles, home-baked goods and items for sale. All proceeds benefit the ICS.

Call (219) 785-4936 for more information.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are offered through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich:

• "Most Decadent Chocolate Dessert Contest" from 1 to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 8.

Learn about the history and origin of cocoa, see a cocoa tree and bean, sample different kinds of chocolate and make a treat at the chocolate fountain.

For the contest, take a dessert and recipe to Fernwood by Friday, Feb. 7, to be judged by Chef Tim Carrigan.

The activities and contest are free with paid Fernwood admission.

• "Valentine's Day Dinner at Fernwood" from 6 to 8 p.m. EST Friday, Feb. 14.

Carrigan will present a choice of entrees and desserts, topped off with champagne and a rose for each couple. The cost is \$90 per couple. Register by Feb. 5.

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







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WEEK IN HISTORY



On February 6, 1899, the U.S. Senate ratified the peace treaty that ended the Spanish-American War. The treaty provided for the payment of \$20 million to Spain, for which the United States received title to the Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

On February 6, 1943, during World War II, General Dwight Eisenhower was named "Commander of Allied Forces in North Africa."

On February 6, 1959, the United States first successfully test-fired a *Titan* intercontinental ballistic missile.

On February 6, 1971, after a 33-hour stay on the Moon, the *Apollo 14* astronauts prepared to head back to earth.

On February 6, 2005, the New England Patriots won its third Super Bowl in four years, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles, 24-21.

On February 7, 1778, Daniel Boone, along with about 30 other men, was captured by the Indians at a Kentucky crossroads called Blue Licks. All except Daniel Boone were delivered to the British commander in York. Boone was taken to Chilicote. From there he made a daring escape and walked 160 miles to freedom.

On February 7, 1812, English novelist Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England.

On February 7, 1827, the first ballet to be performed in the United States opened at New York's Bowery Theater.

On February 7, 1867, author Laura Ingalls Wilder was born in Lake Pepin, WI.

On February 7, 1984, shuttle astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk.

On February 8, 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots, the last Roman Catholic ruler of Scotland, was beheaded after being implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, England's Queen Elizabeth I.

On February 8, 1837, for the only time in the nation's history, the U.S. Senate chose the vice president. Richard Mentor Johnson was selected after no candidate received a majority of the electoral votes.

On February 8, 1843, Isabella Chambers, a 24-year-old New York girl, took out a \$2,000 life insurance policy on herself. She was the first woman in America to purchase life insurance.

On February 8, 1910, the first charter was issued to the "Boy Scouts of America."

On February 8, 1915, D.W. Griffith's groundbreaking as well as controversial silent movie epic about the Civil War, "The Birth of a Nation," premiered in Los Angeles.

On February 8, 1918, the *Stars and Stripes*, a military newspaper, was published for the first time.

On February 8, 1922, President Warren Harding had the first radio installed in the White House.

On February 8, 2000, Bob Collins, Chicago's popular WGN morning talk-show host, was killed in a plane crash. He was 57.

On February 9, 1870, an Act of Congress established the United States Weather Bureau.

On February 9, 1942, daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

On February 9, 1964, the Beatles made their first live American TV appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" on CBS.

On February 9, 1971, the *Apollo 14* spacecraft returned to Earth after its crew made the third moon landing.

On February 10, 1933, the Postal Telegraph Company introduced the first "singing telegram" in New York.

On February 10, 1949, Arthur Miller's long running play, "Death of a Salesman," opened at New York's Morosco Theater.

On February 10, 2005, Britain's Prince Charles announced he would marry his divorced lover, Camilla Parker Bowles, in April.

On February 11, 1808, in the Pennsylvania town of Wilkes Barre, hard coal was used for the first time as fuel for heating.

On February 11, 1937, a sit-down strike ended at General Motors when the company agreed to recognize the United Automobile Workers as a legitimate union.

On February 11, 1975, Margaret Thatcher was elected to head England's Conservative party, the first woman to head a major British political organization.

On February 11, 1989, in a Boston ceremony, Barbara Harris became the first woman to be installed as a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

On February 11, 1990, South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in prison.

On February 11, 1996, a day after losing to an IBM computer dubbed Deep Blue, world chess champion Garry Kasparov rebounded to defeat the machine and even their six-game series in Philadelphia at one victory apiece.

On February 12, 1849, the Chicago Gas Light and Coke Company (Chicago's first gas company) received its charter from the Illinois legislature.

On February 12, 1940, the radio play "The Adventures of Superman" made its debut on the Mutual network with Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel.



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

February 6 — "Eating Well for Living Healthy," 3:30-5 p.m., Bertha Wood meeting room at Westchester Public Library Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-7696.

February 6-7, 8-9 — Annual Valparaiso University Dance Ensemble concert, 8 p.m. Thur.-Fri., 2 p.m. Sat.-Sun, University Theatre in the VU Center for the Arts. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/seniors and non-VU students, free/VU students, faculty and staff. Info/tickets: (219) 464-5162/http://www.valpo.edu/vuca/ticket.php

February 7 — Uptown Arts District First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Michigan City's North End.

February 7 — Opening reception, Claire Anderson Merrill's exhibit, "Postcards from Home: The Story of a Family in Norway and America," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association Gallery, 724 Franklin St., Michigan City. Info: www.SouthernShore-ArtAssociation.com

February 7 — "Hot Movies and Popcorn" featuring "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," 6 p.m., La Porte County Library Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.

February 7 — La Porte County Symphony Orchestra trivia night/Children's Chorus fundraiser, 7 p.m., La Porte Little Theatre, 218 A St. Cost: Individual players/\$20, teams of six/\$100. Reservations/information: www.lcso.net/(219) 362-9020

February 7-9, 14-16 and 21-23 — "The Dream Continues," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City. Times: 8 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: www.footlightplayers.org/(219) 874-4035.

February 8 — The Ranting Llamas improv show, 8-10 p.m., Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Michigan City. Admission: \$5.

February 8 — Singer-songwriter Peter Nye and The Chicago Bluegrass Band, 10 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St., Michigan City. Info: (219) 879-4677/www.shorelinebrewery.com

February 8 — Free open mic, 7:30 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer check-in: 7 p.m. EST. Email sandra@acorntheater.com to reserve spot. Info: www. acorntheater.com

February 9 — "Lincoln's Birthday Film Showing," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Features Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning "Lincoln." Info: (219) 873-3049.

February 9—"100 Years of Indiana State Parks," 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center auditorium, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

February 9 — Free Sunday Matinee, the Oscarnominated "Captain Phillips," 1:30 p.m., Bertha Wood meeting room at Westchester Public Library Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

February 9 — TiPsY TuNeS (live music), 2-5 p.m. EST, Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: tiffany@journeymandistillery.com

February 10 — "Great Decisions," 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

February 11 — Lunch With the League, noon, Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin Street, Michigan City. Info: (219) 874-6809/www.lwvlaporte.org.

February 11 — "Local Lore: Belle Gunness," 6:30 p.m., La Porte County Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 362-6156/mhedge@laportelibrary. org

February 11 — "Family History Through the Eyes of a Videographer," 7 p.m., La Porte Parks & Recreation Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

February 12 — La Porte County Go Red for Women Breakfast, 8-10 a.m., Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave., Michigan City. Tickets: \$30. Info/reservations: (219) 996-4958/heart. org/nwindiana

February 16 — Free Winter Film Series, "All is Lost," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through February 28 — Valentine display, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Cost: \$3/La Porte County residents, \$6 out-of-county. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through March 10 — Work by artist Joyce Dille on display at Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall.

Farther Afield:

February 7 — First Friday film, Shukree Hassan Tilghman's "More Than a Month," 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$5 suggested donation at door. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

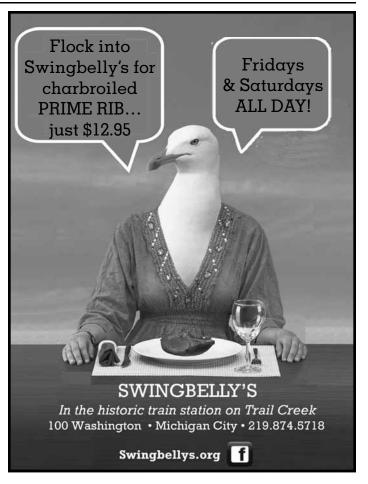
February 8 — "Majesty: The Best of British Music," 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center Mainstage, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info/reservations: (269) 982-4030/www.smso.org for tickets.

February 8 — Fingerstyle guitarist David Youngman, 7:30 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Tickets: www.boxfactory-forthearts.org/calendar/#youngman or at the door.

February 8 — Chocolate Day and Valentine's Gift Basket Auction Fundraiser, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Info: (269) 697-4005/www.buchananartcenter.org

February 9 — Winter birding trip, 10 a.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$15. Info/reservations: (269) 927-4832.

February 9 — "The Fourth Partition," documentary on Polish immigrants, 1:15 p.m. (after the noon Polish Mass), Salvatorian Fathers Millennium Hall, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$6/children. Reservations: (219) 884-0714.





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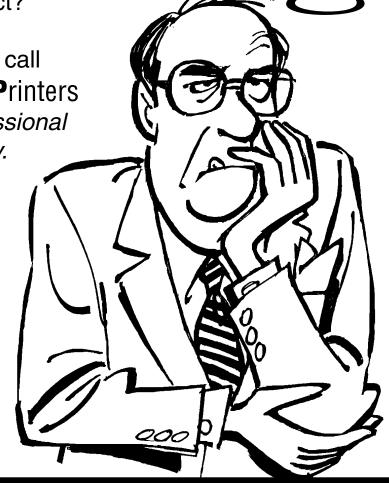
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Long Beach Women's Bowling

Jan. 28, 2014

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	10	2
2. Alley Oops	10	2
3. Incredi-Bowls	7.5	4.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Liz Lutterbach	202
2. Mary Lou McFadden	174
3. Kathy Osborne	177
4. Ann Bogart	165
5. Tammy Vouri	160

SPLITS

1. Heidi Jaffee 5-10

Kathy Osborne had three strikes in a row.

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are offered through Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

• A day-long winter birding trip at 10 a.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 9.

Dress for the weather and take a sack lunch. The cost is \$15. Call (269) 927-4832 to register.

• Adult Education Series, "Love is in the Air," at 2:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 12.

The cost is \$5. Call (269) 927-4832 to register.



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CASA Volunteer Training

Harmony House/CASA Program of La Porte County Inc. will have its next training session Tuesday, March 4.

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CASA has more than 50 cases waiting for volunteers, with more being added weekly.

Training sessions run from 5:30 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday for seven weeks. Anyone interested should contact Harmony House/CASA of La Porte County at (219) 324-3385, email lswanson@lpcasa.com or visit www.lpcasa.com for more information.



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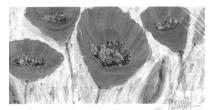
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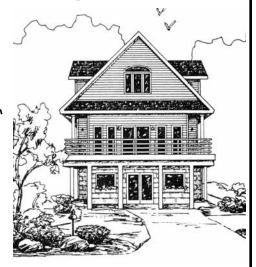
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Every so often, I receive copies of books by local authors. The following selections were passed on to me before Christmas and The Beacher holiday break. The first two books are novels that touched me deeply with their humanity and personal experiences, inspiring joy and pain. Truly, two books for all seasons and all people.

The book of poetry tells of personal journeys and the universality of love and loss, the pain and happiness we all share as human beings.

Time to think outside the box and expand our reading to include new styles and new thoughts.



The Altar Boy: An Irish American Christmas Story by Sean Brennan (paperback \$4.84 through Amazon.com)

Brennan was in fifth grade in 1961 and living in Oak Park, Ill., when the parish priest visited his classroom and announced a search was on for a new altar boy. Any volunteers? This brief moment in Brennan's life is played out to the story of his mother's Irish roots and upbringing. After

all, she was the woman who took his dad away from the seminary and a career in the priesthood. His description of school, life as an altar boy and his exciting night serving at Christmas midnight Mass, which ended not the way he expected, is fun, heartfelt reading.

Brennan is writing another book, "Bridie's Boy: A Memoir." I can't wait!

Smile on Your Brother: A Family Still Hears the Echoes of Vietnam by Austin J. Nicholl (oversize paperback \$17.47 through Amazon.com)

The Vietnam War was years ago, but most of us know a family member or friends who served with the Armed Forces then and was sent to that faraway jungle most of us had to look up on a



map. And some of us know of the lucky ones who came back in one piece. Some of us know those who weren't so lucky.

Timothy Fitzmaurice was a 20-year-old lance corporal in the Marine Corps from Chicago when he died in Vietnam on May 9, 1968. You may not know him, but if you lived during the Vietnam era, his story is all too familiar. He left behind parents, two sisters and a brother. When the author decided to write Timothy's story and began talking to people about him, he was surprised how, after 40 some years, people were ready to talk, to give their thoughts and feelings about Timothy, the war and that time in their lives that shaped their future.

This is a story of the American experience and family love that is constant, non-judgmental and goes to the core of what "family" really means. It is a story we can all relate to in one way or another. And the best way to sum up Timothy's too brief life is in his own words, written to his girlfriend Cindy before signing up with the Marines: "There are many things in this world that I want — a good education, a good job, a family and you. But not if other people have to die for it to be that way."



Up the Road From Tassinong by Mike Bartholomew (oversize paperback, \$15.26 through <u>Amazon.com</u>)

The author calls this a "poetical grab-bag" — great description. From youth on up, he captures the sights, sounds and people he met along the way, with a little philosophizing thrown in.

One of my favorite poems in this collection is "Springtime in Valparaiso." Love it all, but here's one verse:

"Fog, mist, and smoke cover dawn's early light; You step off the curb and you sink out of sight; And there goes a kid being dragged by a kite; It's springtime in Valparaiso!"

Then, there's his take on a career choice called "Undertaking":

"My father had a funeral home.

They were really quite forgiving

When I turned it down to go into news —

It's more fun to embalm the living."

The collection is not all fun and games. There are serious moments well worth your look-see.

Till next time, happy reading!



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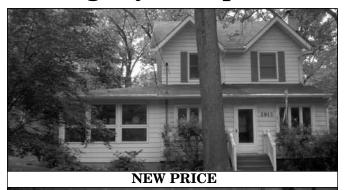
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